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CHOOSE LIFE

If one of my friends told me that she wanted to have an abortion, I would immediately ask Jesus to help me find the best words to use to communicate my thoughts and feelings in a gentle and loving way. My words need to come from the Holy Spirit.

After lots of prayer, I would sit with my friend and share with her. First, I would explain how sacred human life is. Sacred means that it belongs to God, it is his property. God gives us the gift of life, so only he can take it back from us. God alone is Lord over life and death. Every child from the moment of conception on has a right to life. If my friend chose to have an abortion, not only would she be killing the child, but she would also be killing “herself.” She would suffer significant emotional guilt and stress for the rest of her life. Also, having an abortion would be contributing to society’s sad culture of death and would be breaking the 5th Commandment (Thou shall not kill) . I know it would be very difficult for my friend to hear these things, but abortion is not a topic to tip-toe around. I would need to speak the TRUTH to her and show her the LIGHT.

I would also share with her the many services and options available to help her. Catholic Charities, Birthright, and any Catholic Priest would be great people to talk to. They would help counsel her and provide her with the resources necessary during this uncertain time. I would offer to go with her to these places as a support. If my friend was unable to raise a child emotionally or financially, she could put the child up for adoption. This would make a family who cannot have their own child very joyful.

Finally, I would emphasize the power of prayer. I would tell her that everything in life happens for a reason. And all things work together for good. Praying to Mary, the Mother of Mothers, will help her find the good in all of this. I would pray this prayer with her, “Dearest Mary, I look to you now for the help of your maternal love. You understand my trials as an expectant mother. You bore Jesus in your womb. You know the doubts and anxieties that beset me; you know the bodily suffering I endure. Like you, may I turn all these sorrows into joy. You overcame anxiety by a loving trust in God; you overcame doubt by gentle resignation to his will. Your motherhood lifted your mind above earth and kept it close to God. So speak to Jesus now with me, beloved Mother, as I seek prayerfully to learn to bare the trials of motherhood with joy.” (Mothers’ Manual)

With lots of love and prayer, I am confident that my friend will CHOOSE LIFE.

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