



Prenatal Diagnoses and Pro-Life Choices

The prevalence and accuracy of prenatal testing brings forth critical life choices for parents, medical professionals, and pastoral ministers. Today's health care practices and laws may lead parents to be misinformed about ALL the options and opportunities available to them when they receive the news that their unborn baby is likely to have disabilities.

Too often parents hear about genetic disorders only in negative terms with predictions for endless pain and suffering for the child and the extended family after birth. Euphemisms for abortion such as, *early induction*, *medical termination*, *interruption of pregnancy* and *saying good-bye early* may be presented as the only reasonable option. Fortunately there are medical professionals and organizations where families can learn about positive outcomes of making pro-life choices.

Prenatal Partners for Life www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org

Offers information and support by matching families who've recently received an adverse prenatal diagnosis with families who've given birth to a child with a similar condition.

Be Not Afraid www.BeNotAfraid.net

Stories, articles, resources and community message boards for families who've been given an adverse prenatal diagnosis.

Elizabeth Ministry www.elizabethministry.com

An international parish-based movement designed to support women and their families during the joys, trials, and sorrows of the childbearing years.

Morning Light Ministry www.morninglightministry.org

Catholic ministry for parents experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, or death of an infant.

American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists www.aaplog.org

A special interest group of the College of Ob-Gyns whose physicians practice and advocate for pro-life reproductive health policy.

What to say when a parent seeks support of pro-life decisions:

- *Every life is created by God and has purpose.*
- *Name your baby, talk to your baby, and love your baby like any parent would.*
- *God hears your pain. He loves you and calls you to embrace the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. He will be with you and never leave your side.*
- *Remember that God can and does perform miracles. Don't be afraid to ask, and don't be afraid to hope.*

Source: *Peter's Story: Discovering Hope and Love after an Adverse Prenatal Diagnosis*, Mary Kellett. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, Washington, D.C. 2007.

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