

“The courage and the serenity with which so many of our brothers and sisters suffering from serious disabilities lead their lives when they are shown acceptance and love bears eloquent witness to what gives authentic value to life, and makes it, even in difficult conditions, something precious for them and for others. “

JOHN PAUL II
Evangelium Vitae, 63

For more information, please contact:

Sr. Marie Regina, SV
Family Life / Respect Life Office
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022
212/371-1011 x 3192
www/FLRL.org

ADVERSE PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSIS: A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE



RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

ADVERSE PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSIS A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

“For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” (Ps. 139.13)

Scientific and technological advances in prenatal testing are making it possible to know more about babies before their birth than ever before. When results of such tests are abnormal, parents can suffer a range of conflicting emotions. The loving, parental bonds beginning to develop can be interrupted – and even feel ruptured, as a mother and father may experience pressures, both internally and externally, that challenge the innate dignity of their unborn child’s life.

In these defining moments, the Church emphasizes her solidarity with such parents who face the possibility of bearing a child whose physical and/or mental health may be compromised, and reaffirms that every child is a gift and has profound dignity and a true destiny in the mysterious plan of God.

This guide will provide you with resources and support to help you through this challenging time.

PHYSICIAN REFERRALS

Dr. Mary Marron, M.D.

Director of Neonatology, St. Vincent’s

Office (212) 604-7862

Dr. Bob Scanlon, Ob-Gyn

Office (631) 351-3766

Dr. John Wagner, Ob-Gyn

Office (631) 261-3322

Additionally, the following resources / websites have referrals for Ob-Gyn physicians who share the Church’s teaching on the dignity of human life:

- ♦ **Sisters of Life Visitation Mission:** (212) 737-0211
- ♦ **Family Life Office** (212) 372-1011 Ext. 3195 www.flrl.org
- ♦ **Pro-Life Maternal-Fetal Medicine** www.prolifemfm.org
Physicians who specialize in maternal-fetal medicine
- ♦ **American Association of Pro-life Ob-Gyns** www.aaplog.org

VOICES OF HOPE

♦ **Pre-Natal Partners for Life:** www.prenatalpartnersforlife.com
Connects you directly with other parents of children with special needs as well as medical and legal professionals and clergy for encouragement, guidance, and ongoing support.

♦ **Morning Light Ministry Website & Hope in Turmoil Booklet:**
<http://ca.geocities.com/morninglightministry@rogers.com/>
A faith based website with great resources to help you. The Hope in Turmoil booklet is a favorite guide for decision-making.

♦ **Be Not Afraid:** www.benotafraid.net
Devoted to personal stories of families with children who had non-fatal or fatal conditions, and relevant information on various diagnoses.

If your baby is diagnosed with a fatal / potentially fatal condition, you can contact these mothers (Email on the websites), resource websites and perinatal hospice support.

♦ **Grace Anne Nugent** www.graceannenugent.netfirms.com
A story of a family’s journey with their daughter Grace who had a potentially fatal condition.

♦ **Jonathan Dobkowski** www.angelfire.com/ny5/jonathandobkowski
The story of a family’s journey and their son’s fatal condition.

♦ **Waiting with Love:** www.erichad.com/wwl *Resources & stories from parents (with email for contact).*

♦ **Carrying To Term Pages:** www.geocities.com/tabris02/
A site with many practical tips & support for families; written by a mom who has been there. A great site for sample birth-plans.

♦ **Hospice Care Network:**
Perinatal Hospice Services:
Contact: Mary Gravina, LCSW, Director of Perinatal Hospice Program
631-666-6873 Ext 203 www.hospicecarenetwork.org/support.html

♦ **Perinatal hospice:** www.aaplog.org/perinatalhospice.htm