



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Help for Parents with an Adverse Pre-natal Diagnosis



Education: When ultrasound images show a high likelihood of a major fetal abnormality, many doctors will simply advise abortion in order to “fix” the problem. Send back the defective product and start again. But in order to make a truly informed decision, parents need more than just the doctor’s gloomy prediction of the poor quality of life the child will have. Does the doctor have any experience with children with the problem, beyond perhaps

seeing them in the delivery room? Probably not. Parents need to get information from other parents who have been there, and learn what kinds of support resources are available.

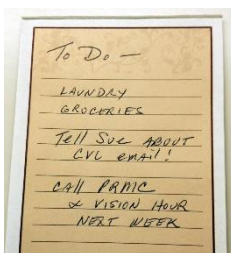
In some cases, the child is not expected to live long after birth. The doctor will very often advise abortion, presumably because they see no point in waiting months for an inevitable death. But is the diagnosis 100% accurate? If a parent had a born child with a terminal illness, would they kill them? Or would they savor every moment they have with their beloved child, and continue to pray for healing? Perinatal hospice programs are now available in many places to support parents who are continuing a pregnancy with a child who is expected to die before or shortly after birth. (1)

In January of 2018, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Office of Pro-Life Activities launched **Jerome’s Hope**, a program to support parents with an adverse pre-natal diagnosis. They want parents to know in advance that help is available, before they are pressured into a decision to abort by their doctor. Volunteers who have experienced the birth of a child with a major abnormality or the loss of a child in the womb or shortly after birth are trained to offer help to parents facing a similar situation. (2)

1. <https://www.perinatalhospice.org/list-of-programs>
2. <https://www.archgh.org/offices-ministries/pastoral-educational-ministries/office-of-pro-life-activities/support-for-prenatal-diagnosis-or-early-infant-death/>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please bless those individuals that are burdened with physical or mental handicaps, and help their families to care for them with love and respect. Help parents who are given an adverse pre-natal diagnosis have faith and hope that You will be with them through whatever the future holds. Help them to find the support they need to know that they are not alone, and that life is always a gift. Help doctors to understand that every child should be welcomed and treated with respect for whatever time he or she has in this world. Let no one be deceived into thinking that abortion is ever a good choice, or the answer to any problem.



Action: Go to the first link above to see if there are perinatal hospice programs close to you or your loved ones. Use the second link or just search for “Jerome’s Hope” to learn about this new program in Houston. Then spread the word! Especially make sure that young couples who are pregnant or planning to have children become aware of this resource.