

SR. GIUSTINA OLHA HOLUBETS

Experience of assistance and support to families during the poor pregnancy by the Organization "Perinatal Hospice - Imprint of Life" in Ukraine.

Among medics there is a strain of prenatal diagnosis with the prevention of congenital and hereditary defects that often lead to abortion. In spite of this there are couples who decided not to do abortion even when they face congenital and hereditary defects and continue pregnancy to take care for their baby till her last minute of life. Very often such couples have any support and understanding from society even from their families and medical staff.

Over the past decade on the experience of many countries, you can see that the alternative is perinatal hospice as a place of true Love, in which a group of professionals provide support, help in order to prepare parents, relatives until the child is born with fatal defects and death of pre-, intra - or postnatal. Accordingly, at each stage, there is appropriate assistance at different levels: medical, psychological, social and spiritual.

In Ukraine, there is the first proposition of perinatal palliative care Organization "Imprint of Life", which for the past few years is helping parents and their terminally offspring to highly qualified and multidisciplinary care.

In recent years, the Organization has supported over 40 families, giving many children the victims of a fatal diagnosis, to come to this world, some of them feel fine and are in the arms of their mothers, but could not be born. For parents who adopted their children, these small and short life as a meteor, left the richness of Life and the strength that supported them in severe loss and pain, and later, in a short time and in an effort to open up and make a new life. Perinatal palliative care does not stop by the death of a child. Organization provides assistance in the baby's funeral offering the necessary support for their parents, and meetings for families who lost their child.

Organization aims to help parents spend the short and priceless time with their baby in love; to support them both at the moment of saying good-bye to their newborn.

Even in cases when «there is nothing that can be done», something can always be done. To love. Till the end.