

## *My Child, My Gift* **A Positive Response to Serious Prenatal Diagnosis**

### **New book addresses the challenges of an adverse prenatal diagnosis**

Hyde Park, New York, May 1, 2008 -- Many women today are tempted to terminate pregnancy when routine prenatal tests indicate an abnormality in the baby. The lack of support felt by these women for carrying the baby to term is born out by statistics. Abortion rates for abnormal fetuses range from 40 percent to nearly 100 percent, depending on the condition detected.

Madeline Pecora Nugent, herself the mother of a child with a disability, has responded to this crisis with *My Child, My Gift: A Positive Response to Serious Prenatal Diagnosis* (New City Press, May 2008). The book provides strategies for coping emotionally, psychologically and spiritually with the situation, as well as for dealing with the mixed messages women will receive from others. Most importantly, the book includes the stories of many women who, in the same situation, chose to deliver their babies.

“Women often receive plenty of cold medical facts when making these decisions,” said Nugent. “The medical facts, however, can't convey the most important factor: the human experience of women who have chosen love over fear. The women and families who shared these experiences with me showed real hope and optimism despite dismal predictions. They are true heroes of love.”

“My prayers have been answered with this book,” said Mark X. Lowney, an obstetrician and former abortionist who has subsequently supported many women with adverse diagnoses through their pregnancies. “It is a comprehensive guide for parents who receive the 'bad news' regarding their pre-born child.”

“*My Child, My Gift* is an important resource for parents who, prior to the birth of their child, receive the news that their child has been diagnosed with serious illness or disability,” said Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston. “Understandably, this can be a time of many questions and uncertainties for parents. For clergy, religious and counselors seeking to provide pastoral care and guidance, this book will be a great help in upholding the dignity of each and every life, and the truth that every child is a gift from God.”

New City Press has a comprehensive catalogue of works on contemporary topics, from ecumenism and interreligious dialogue to marriage and family issues. It also publishes essential writings from innovators in Christian spirituality of both yesterday and today.

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### **Disability Ministry Toolkit Resource**

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