

BECAUSE of GRACIA

SESSION II-2

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

WHO ARE THEY?

Question: What do these seven people have in common?

Pope John Paul II
Justin Bieber
Celine Dion
Nick Cannon
Cher
Marlin Stutzman
Tim Tebow

Answer: As unborn children, they were exposed to the possibility of abortion

Pope John Paul II's mother had damaged heart valves due to rheumatic fever. Her doctor advised her to abort her child to safeguard her own life. She refused. As pope, John Paul II took a strong stand for the sanctity of life.

Justin Bieber's mother Pattie Mallette experienced sexual abuse as a child and drug and alcohol addiction as a teenager. Pregnant at 18 and kicked out of her house, she was pressured by those around her to have an abortion but she decided against it, strengthened in part by newfound Christian faith.

Singer Celine Dion's older brother and sister were coming of age to attend school when her mother became pregnant with what would be her 14th child. Distraught, she went to her priest to ask about terminating the pregnancy. The priest advised her to have the baby. Dion says, "I owe my life to that priest."

The mother of rapper, comedian, and television personality Nick Cannon was pregnant at 17 and considered abortion. In his song, "Can I Live?" he thanks her for choosing to keep him.

Singer Cher's mother Georgia Holt was pregnant at 19 and had recently left her truck driver husband. Her own mother gave her the choice of going back to him or having an abortion. She describes the clinic they went to: "I can remember the chairs were chrome, and I was sweating. The sweat was just coming of me on this chrome, and when the door opened and it was my turn, I said, 'Mother I can't do it.' So that's how she's here." In spite of this, Cher vocally defends the practice of abortion.

US Representative Marlin Stutzman's 17-year-old mother experienced a house fire in December 1975, shortly after she discovered she was pregnant. She decided to go to a nearby city in order to terminate the pregnancy, but didn't make it out of fear of driving the 40 miles alone.

The family of professional football and baseball player Tim Tebow, the first college sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy, was living in the Philippines when his mother became seriously ill while pregnant. Doctors believed that medical treatment she received for her condition had damaged the child she was carrying and recommended that she abort in order to save her own life. She refused.