

Hello EVA,

March 7th, 2019

This is Mike Kershaw, I am writing in response to your letter regarding the WALK for Life at Valley State Prison on January 26th.

So the WALK was organized by me, I talked to numerous prisoners on the (4) different yards at this prison. I explained that on 1/26/19 there would be a WALK in San Francisco for pro-life and tens of thousands of people will be participating while also dealing with protesters. I asked that all who would support to please walk from 1:00 - 3:00 PM continuously and if they had a radio to tune in to the local Catholic radio station to hear speakers share their stories. I also asked that the men on the WALK to share their personal stories of how abortion affected them.

I am on "D" yard at Valley State Prison and our turnout was great we had between 130-150 men willing to walk however we had to become creative as this was all voluntary. We organized groups of 5 to walk the track together in my group we kicked off the walk by holding a sign saying "WALK for Life" and as we started our support I shared my personal story of how abortion has affected my life.

As we walked even on the first lap we had correctional officers

See our sign and acknowledge the event. The following lap not even 10 minutes in to our walk numerous men started asking questions about the event I encouraged them to walk with us to talk about what pro-life means. Some joined, some didn't as the unofficial organizer I spoke too strength and love to these men. My thoughts carried a message of three reasons to walk:

1) I would ask the men if they believed in God or a Higher Power and if so is not all life precious? Even at inception?

2) I would ask if abortion has affected their lives personally or the lives of someone they care about and if "yes" is this not the right venue to show support and solidarity?

3) Lastly I would connect our communities as a string of humanity let us walk with our brothers and sisters in doing what is right no matter ^{where} I am (Prison), committed to standing up for those who lost their voice.

After about 1/2 hour I started to receive funny looks by inmates who were not walking they kept trying to stop me to talk I would just smile and say if you want to have a discussion take a lap let's talk. Some did most didn't however they chose to also be somewhat respectful. The men I walked with that day we

were committed to support life that day by speaking our truth and walking towards the end of abortion and acceptance that all life is precious.

I personally learned about the walk for life in 2010 from Julie (my wife) and it touched my heart as I have lost (3) of my children to abortion when I was young. The impact of my irresponsibility has left a loss in my heart that I needed to acknowledge my loss of my kids and honor them through this walk to share my story, my hurt, my shame to heal, remember and love.

In 2011 I started organizing/inviting men to walk with me during the walk for life to show our solidarity with all of you. I have done this in multiple prisons for the last 9 years and upon my release I will be in San Francisco with my wife and family I will also be encouraging my friends who are men to walk also.

I would love to talk to you more about this so if you have any questions or if ~~more~~ you want to share publicly please do I am ok with it. I am currently serving a life sentence, I have been incarcerated for 20 years and am working on my 5th year as a addiction counselor working as a peer mentor in the substance abuse program. I look forward to hearing back from you and thank

- 4 -

you for your time and for founding
and organizing such a needed and
powerful event. God Bless and you too
are in my prayers.

Michael Hershaw

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Hershaw", written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.