

Reflecting the Face of Mercy Leadership Conference 2016 --- Diocese of Toledo

Resources for the Post-Abortive --- Peter Range

The Popes Speak to Women Who Have Had Abortions

The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life.

Saint John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), no. 99 (1995), www.vatican.va

The Church, after the example of her Divine Teacher, always has the people themselves before her, especially the weakest and most innocent who are victims of injustice and sin, and also those other men and women who, having perpetrated these acts, stained by sin and wounded within, are seeking peace and the chance to begin anew. The Church's first duty is to approach these people with love and consideration, with caring and motherly attention, to proclaim the merciful closeness of God in Jesus Christ. Indeed, as the Fathers teach, it is he who is the true Good Samaritan, who has made himself close to us, who pours oil and wine on our wounds and takes us into the inn, the Church, where he has us treated, entrusting us to her ministers and personally paying in advance for our recovery.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to an International Congress on "Oil on the Wounds": A Response to the Ills of Abortion and Divorce" (April 5, 2008), www.vatican.va

One of the serious problems of our time is clearly the changed relationship with respect to life. A widespread and insensitive mentality has led to the loss of the proper personal and social sensitivity to welcome new life. The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails. Many others, on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe they they have no other option. I think in particular of all the women who have resorted to abortion. I am well aware of the pressure that has led them to this decision. I know that it is an existential and moral ordeal. I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision. What has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it can enable one not to lose hope. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father.

Pope Francis, Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis According to Which an Indulgence is Granted to the Faithful on the Occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, (1 September 2015), www.vatican.va

Resources

Websites

- www.hopeafterabortion.org —USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, supports the Project Rachel Ministry
- www.noparh.org —National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing (NOPARH)
- www.menandabortion.info —“Reclaiming Fatherhood,” an educational outreach of NOPARH
- www.afterabortion.org —The Elliot Institute
- www.bethesdahealing.org —The Bethesda Healing Ministry
- www.postabortionhelp.org —Lumina referral network
- www.rachelsvineyard.org —Rachel's Vineyard retreats

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Brochures and Articles

Available from the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities (phone: 866-582-0943). For descriptions, please refer to the Secretariat's catalog at www.usccb.org/prolife/materials/index.shtml.

- After the Abortion, by Sr. Paula Vandegaer (Item #9901-VAN)
- Divine Mercy in My Soul, by Theresa Bonopartis (Item #0001-BON)
- "The Hollow Men": Male Grief and Trauma Following Abortion, by Vincent M. Rue, Ph.D. (Item #0846)
- How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion (Item #0120)
- Neither Do I Condemn You (Item #9906)
- Project Rachel: In the Heart of the Church (Item #0748)
- A Special Word to Women Who Have Had an Abortion, by E. Joanne Angelo, MD (Item #9701-ANG)

Booklets

- Burrin, Angela M. After Abortion: God Offers Forgiveness, Healing and Hope, 2nd ed. Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Partners, 2010.
 - This booklet contains seven guided Scriptural meditations to help women who are suffering in the aftermath of abortion to experience God's merciful love more deeply. Beginning in early 2010, it will be available free through The Word Among Us Partners: www.waupartners.org.
- Coyle, C. T., PhD. Men and Abortion: Finding Healing, Restoring Hope. New Haven, CT: Knights of Columbus, 2009.
 - Cost is \$1.00 each, with discounts for large quantities. Call 203-752-4574, or visit the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information site at www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/about/contact/cis_contact.html.
- Kupferman, Fr. Larry. A Rachel Rosary. Totowa, NJ: Catholic Book Publishing, 1994.
 - A prayer resource for individuals or groups.
- Pable, Martin, OFM Cap. Healing for Your Soul: A Guide for Post-Abortion Fathers. Milwaukee, WI: National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, 2007.
 - This booklet is designed to be put in a parish in a location where men can pick it up. It is a gentle introduction to post-abortion healing for fathers, written by a priest psychologist with many years of experience in post-abortion healing ministry and expertise in the spiritual development of men. Available individually or in bulk: \$4.00 each, including postage and handling, from menandabortion@yahoo.com. For more information or to place an order, call the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing at 800-5WE-CARE.
- Thatcher, Brian, MD, and Fr. Frank Pavone. Rachel, Weep No More. Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2003.
 - Abortion stories, the obstacles to healing, effects of abortion on others, and healing through divine mercy

Prayer Cards

Available from the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities (phone: 866-582-0943). For descriptions, please refer to the Secretariat's catalog at www.usccb.org/prolife/materials/index.shtml.

- Prayer for Healing (Item #9911)
- Trust in God's Mercy (Item #9913)

DVD's

Available from www.lifecyclebooks.com:

- Dear Children
- Beyond Regret

Local Project Rachel Information

Number: 1-888-456-HOPE (4673)

Project Rachel Coordinator: Clarissa Lapinski, clapinski@toledodiocese.org, 419-583-6817

Respect Life Coordinator: Peter Range, prange@toledodiocese.org, 419-244-6711, ext. 4933