



Office of the Bishop

## Diocese of Rockford

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August 31, 2007

Dear friends in Christ,

I regret to be the bearer of bad news, but our area has suffered a great tragedy. Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area is opening a center for the killing of children before birth in that part of the City of Aurora which lies outside the Rockford Diocese. Although this particular *abattoir* is in the Diocese of Joliet, it will inflict its miseries on all the people of the Aurora area and will, of course, target, as Planned Parenthood always seems to me to do, the poor and the unwary so as to deprive them of the only real hope for the future, their children.

It is important for us to realize that the Catholic Church has always stood firmly against the mission and practices of Planned Parenthood. Since 1916 when its infamous founder opened the first birth control clinic in the United States to set our people on the course of scientific eugenics and racial purity, our people, both native born and immigrant from all races and nations, have instinctively realized the malice of these efforts. However, the number of deaths to which Planned Parenthood in its efforts dedicates itself continues to rise.

Every practicing Catholic who celebrates the infancy and the childhood of Jesus Christ Our Lord recoils in horror at the barbaric practice of abortion and avoids any involvement obtaining services, working, or volunteering with Planned Parenthood, knowing that the Church, and even our secular humanist government, provide acceptable alternatives.

Parents needing help with teaching their children about the truth and meaning of human sexuality may contact the Diocesan Respect Life Office. Married couples who need to avoid or wish to be blessed with a pregnancy may also contact the Respect Life Office for instruction in Natural Family Planning. I encourage teens or women facing untimely pregnancies to contact Catholic Charities or any number of pregnancy care centers for guidance and assistance.

I hope you will join me on Friday, September 14, in a day of prayer and penance for the promotion of a Culture of Life and an end to abortion.

With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D.  
Bishop of Rockford