

Dear Belleville Diocesan staff,

I am announcing today that **Project Rachel** is an active ministry in our diocese! I am looking forward to working with you in this critical role to represent Christ and the Church. While we have been home, Planned Parenthood continues to see women every 20 minutes six days a week. It is so vital that we be there for these women to offer free and confidential help in their time of need. The helpline, email and website are all current, confidential and live. It is my hope to continue to foster a sense of compassion in our communities making it a safe place to welcome those who suffer after an abortion and encourage reconciliation and healing in Jesus Christ.

The ministry will be a blessing to those who suffer with ***your help***. I am sending a variety of forms of our images and ask that you upload them to your website at your earliest convenience. The phone is often the first encounter with Project Rachel Ministry, so having the phone number **(618) 722-5068** available is critical. The confidential email is another way men and women feel comfortable reaching out if they aren't free to talk. Our confidential email for Project Rachel is projectrachel@diobelle.org. When we begin printing bulletins again, I ask that you run it weekly. A repeat message encourages people to have the courage to seek healing. Those who need help will often carry a bulletin around for months before they have the courage to call. Let's make it easier for them. I will send suggested bulletin announcements as well.

Please always include a message of reconciliation and mercy when speaking of abortion. I appreciate our priests including a message of mercy when preaching respect life homilies. Mother's Day is a trigger for women who have had an abortion and I am hopeful that each parish can have a "Rachel Presence" in place.

We will formally launch Project Rachel with a Mass of Hope at St. Augustine's of Canterbury in Belleville when we are allowed to gather together again.

I ask that you pray for the Ministry and for those wounded by abortion to find healing. Once we are able to gather, my hope is that we can attend intercessory holy hours for the healing of our culture together. Let's keep in touch to provide God's presence to these women. Peace starts here.

I look forward to hearing from you! Please consult our website for more information:

<https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/project-rachel>

Blessings,

Mrs. Wendy R Fink, Coordinator Respect Life Ministries

Program Director, Project Rachel Diocese of Belleville, Illinois