

Project Rachel Training



Vicki M. Thorn, national and international expert on post-abortion aftermath, its healing, and post abortion reconciliation, will provide Project Rachel training on Oct. 21, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church, Joseph Hall in Owatonna. The training is designed for priests, deacons, and counseling staff of Catholic Charities.

Vicki Thorn is the foundress of Project Rachel and the executive director of the National Office of Post Abortion Reconciliation and Healing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Project Rachel in the Winona diocese was started in 1989 and is a program service of Catholic Charities. Project Rachel offers an integrated approach to healing through reconciliation and spiritual guidance by priests and psychological help by counselors. Project Rachel is for anyone who is struggling after an abortion loss. Project Rachel can help the post-abort woman, the father of the aborted child, grandparents of the child, and others involved in the abortion decision or hurt by the loss of the child, such as family members, including siblings.

The scriptural vision for Project Rachel is from Jeremiah 31:15-17 "Thus says the LORD: In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children; she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more. Thus says the LORD: Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes...There is hope for your future."

Project Rachel is the merciful love of God. In "A Big Heart Open to God: A conversation with Pope Francis" from *America Magazine*, September 30, 2013, Pope Francis states, "I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle!... You have to heal their wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds...And you have to start from the ground up."

The Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides assistance and resources to our Project Rachel program services.

If you would like to learn more about Project Rachel or if you or someone you know is struggling from the aftermath of abortion, confidential, nonjudgmental help is available. Call 1-800-222-5859 or visit <http://www.ccwinona.org/project-rachel/>

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