

## ***Project Rachel Ministry: Forgiveness, Healing, Peace***

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This presentation will cover U.S. statistics on abortion and the individual, familial, and societal consequences of the loss of the child. It will examine the nature of diocesan Project Rachel Ministry as an extension of Jesus' healing ministry and an essential part of the New Evangelization. Mercy and forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel, and so Project Rachel Ministry is at the heart of the Church as the U.S. bishops' assistance offered to those wounded by abortion. The presentation will explain the importance of an "integrated approach to healing" – a vision for diocesan abortion healing ministry that addresses the spiritual, psychological and emotional wounds of abortion. Through the coordination and accompaniment of a diocesan ministry team composed of screened and trained staff and/or volunteers, those seeking help after abortion can avail themselves of healing opportunities that are appropriate to the unique stage of their healing journey. The presentation will emphasize the importance of prayer, the role of the Blessed Mother, and best practices that we've learned over the years of abortion healing ministry in this country. It will also explore new challenges and opportunities as the Church continues to help women who have had abortions seek forgiveness, healing and peace and to return to God as His beloved daughters.