

Pregnancy Loss & Pastoral Care

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Redeeming a Father's Heart: Men Share Powerful Stories of abortion Loss and Recovery

AuthorHouse, 2007. Presents the powerful stories of 10 courageous men with the common desire to present the truth of their abortion experience and the consequences of this life changing decision. These accounts are inspirational testimonies that journey deep into the heart of male post abortion pain, ultimately revealing the miraculous manifestation of God's transforming power.

Catholic Women and Abortion: Stories of Healing (Book) King, Pat, Sheed & Ward, 1994. The stories of Catholic women who, in the depth of their personal crises, chose abortion.

After Miscarriage: A Catholic Woman's Companion to Healing and Hope (Book) Edmisten, Karen, Servant Books, 2012. A book about grief, healing, and hope after miscarriage. Not afraid to examine the raw emotions that accompany such an experience, the author tells women that they are not alone in reacting strongly, even frighteningly, to their loss and reassures them that hope and healing will come. Having experienced multiple miscarriages herself, Karen shares excerpts from her personal journals, as well as other women's stories, rich quotes about grieving and the healing process, and practical advice. A helpful resource section includes a wide variety of information from both Catholic and secular sources.

Pastoral Care in Pregnancy Loss: A Ministry Long Needed (Book) Moe, Thomas, Haworth Pastoral Press, 1997. Introduces the religious community to the issue of pregnancy loss and describes the ministries that can be helpful to those who experience these tragedies. Effective ministry in pregnancy loss requires that one develop basic life theories in order to prepare for such in-depth care. Thus, the book is more than a "how to" as it explores why there is suffering and why some suffer more than others, how to find grace when God seems far away, how to minister when we don't have answers, and how religious ministry can consistently work with other helping professionals in support of the individual.

Oil On the Wounds: A Response to the Aftermath of Divorce and Abortion (Book) Livio Melina, Carl Anderson Square One Publishers, 2011. The first section of the book deals with the aftermath of divorce, its long-term effects on the social lives of children, and the ways in which the Church can offer compassion and counsel to those affected. The second section addresses the issue of abortion, the pain that results from ending a pregnancy, and what the Church's role should be in the alleviation of that pain. The text relies on sociological and psychological perspectives to illuminate these wounds, and suggests both practical and spiritual methods of healing. Inspired by the biblical story of the Good Samaritan, this volume asks us to recognize the profound torment left in the wake of divorce and abortion. It urges us to act accordingly in the face of these ordeals--to shoulder the burden of the tormented in an attempt to one day alleviate their suffering by the grace of God. Ultimately, this collection of essays is meant to create a dialogue, promote recognition of those psychologically and spiritually harmed by divorce or abortion, and explore our duty to listen to these victims and, like the Good Samaritan, bandage their wounds. This book is for laymen, professionals,

and clergy who seek to understand the issues not only from a religious point of view, but also from a human perspective.

You Aren't Alone: The Voices of Abortion (Book) Kirk, Peggy, Blue Dolphin Pub. Inc., 2003. The author has written this book to help women who are considering an abortion. She relates the honest and emotionally charged stories of women and girls who have had abortions, how they made their decisions, and what the consequences were. In finding a similar story, the reader may gain greater clarity in making the right choice for herself and understanding the long-term consequences of her decision. It gives resources for alternatives to abortion and outlines some of the medical problems associated with abortion. It also gives a brief history of contraceptives and abortion.

Project Rachel Ministry: A Post-Abortion Resource Manual for Priests and Project Rachel Leaders 2009. Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations; Committee on Pro-Life Activities; USCCB, 2009. Assists priests and counselors in their ministry to those suffering from abortion's aftermath.

The Jericho Plan: Breaking Down the Walls Which Prevent Post-Abortion Healing (Book) Reardon, David C., Acorn Books, 1996. Prepared with the help of experienced post-abortion counselors and clergy, this book will teach you how to break through these and many other obstacles which prevent post-abortion healing. You will find in this book comfort and direction for your church, your loved ones, and, perhaps, even for yourself. While useful for anyone interested in post-abortion healing, this book is especially directed toward ministers and clergy. It solves the difficult problem of how to preach on the abortion issue in a compassionate and unifying way. It provides background information on post-abortion issues, compelling testimonies, sample sermons, and an extensive directory of resources.

The Infertility Companion for Catholics: Spiritual and Practical Support for Couples (Book) Ruhi-López, Angelique Ave Maria Press, 2012. Provides a rich spiritual perspective on the emotions and faith involved in embracing the cross of infertility. The authors both experienced periods of being unable to conceive and they walk in solidarity with readers, compassionately coaching them through the challenging landscape of infertility. Includes a variety of spiritual resources: prayers, devotions, wisdom of the saints, helpful suggestions on how to talk about infertility with friends and family, appendixes include suggested further reading, reference materials, Catholic documents, and Catholic blogs about infertility.

Beyond Regret: Entering into Healing and Wholeness After an Abortion (DVD) Paraclete Video Productions, 2002. Few women and men can walk away from the experience of abortion without some emotional impact. Unresolved feelings of guilt, shame, and grief may not surface until months, often years, after an abortion.

Prenatal Diagnosis (DVD) National Catholic Partnership on Disability, 2010. This 1 ½ hour online training is on supporting families who receive a prenatal diagnosis of a disability or lethal condition. As you may know, the abortion rate for these kinds of pregnancies is alarmingly high...up to 90% of

mothers ultimately make a choice against life, including even Catholic women. A recent study showed that when support is provided to the expectant parents, the abortion rate drops significantly. We know from experience that a priest, deacon, or pastoral staff member is generally the first person sought out following such a diagnosis. But oftentimes clergy and staff feel ill equipped to counsel these families and counter the technical and compelling language of the medical community. This webinar will equip them to respond to these needs, and will provide an online toolkit with free downloadable resources with a faith-based framework.

In The Wake Of Choice: Documenting the Effects of Abortion in a Pro-Choice World (DVD) Hidden Padre Productions, 2007. Filmmaker Miguel S. Campbell follows Ann Marie Cosgrove as she talks with people affected by abortion. Women, men, families, and friends bravely share their stories. See the pain of living with a terrible secret. Come to understand the suffering in silence. Experience the journey toward healing.

Websites

Project Rachel-[Hope After Abortion](#)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops-[Post-Abortion Healing](#)

[The National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation & Healing](#)