



DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

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April 5, 2019

Dear Brother Priests,

Every day, countless people receive Jesus' forgiveness and healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As you know, through our Project Rachel Ministry offered in conjunction with Catholic Social Services, our diocese offers spiritual and psychological healing and accompaniment to those who suffer from involvement with an abortion. Many people nationwide have come home to God and deepened their relationship with Him through such diocesan abortion healing ministries.

A homily is one of the most effective ways to reach those suffering after an abortion. This may seem surprising, as many homilists may share a concern that mentioning such a painful topic may only intensify the pain and cause more self-reproach for those involved with a past abortion. These women and men are in our pews, and time and again, we hear that they have been yearning for a compassionate message of mercy that would give them the confidence to seek reconciliation and healing. Let us not deny them.

I encourage you to consider the resources provided to help ensure that our parishes are, as Pope Francis says, "islands of mercy in a sea of indifference." Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit might touch the hearts of those despairing of God's mercy after an abortion to seek forgiveness and help.

With gratitude for your continued proclamation of God's unfathomable mercy, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, STD, JCL
Bishop of Marquette