



**ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

PASTORAL CENTER: BISHOP'S OFFICE

13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

March 26, 2019

Dear Parents, Educators, and Pastors,

As many of you know, we recently screened the movie *Unplanned* at Christ Cathedral Campus. The film tells the story of Abby Johnson, a top performing Planned Parenthood employee, who left the industry after participating directly in an abortion. It was recently previewed to a capacity crowd at the Freed Theatre on the Christ Cathedral Campus.

Some have called this film the *Uncle Tom's Cabin* of the pro-life movement. Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel was published in 1852 and is considered by many to be a catalyst for the abolition of slavery in the United States. Many have been searching for and praying for such a catalyst in the quest to make abortion unthinkable and unwanted. In the experience of those who minister in the pro-life and pregnancy-care area, once people are actually confronted with the reality of abortion, they no longer support it.

You see, abortion becomes a lot harder to defend, or even accept, when we actually know what it is, thanks to the advantages in technology. For decades, the abortion lobby has used all sorts of euphemisms to mask the reality. They use words like "procedure," "pregnancy termination," "products of conception," and so on. While an ultrasound is required to determine the age of the fetus, the abortion industry will not let the mother see the image of her unborn child because they know that the ultrasound unravels all of their attempts to hide the reality that even in the midst of difficult circumstances, that woman is carrying within her a miracle of life.

Unplanned is rated R for mature audiences. This makes sense given the reality of abortion. Still, I urge you to consider taking the teens in your life to see this movie. It will be difficult, and it will be painful. Nevertheless, we must be frankly honest about the so-called choice that many of our young people will make. Undoubtedly, some of them will be faced with unplanned pregnancies, there's no doubt of that. That's been part of the human story since the beginning. But they need to know exactly what choice they're being offered by the dominant narrative, and at the same time, the human and material resources which are available to accompany and assist mothers and families here in our Diocese, which I recently wrote about in the *Orange County Catholic*.

The movie opens this weekend. If you trust your children, your students, take them to see this movie. It is my hope that our Catholic schools and Confirmation classes will make every effort to make sure that students have the opportunity to see this movie. This is a unique opportunity for parents, educators, and pastors, to accompany those who are the future of our society and our Church. Resources are available at UnplannedFilm.com. Help make this the generation that ends abortion! Thank you for your support and witness to the Gospel of Life to your families and to so many others.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, J.C.D., D.D.
Bishop of Orange in California

MOST REVEREND KEVIN W. VANN, J.C.D., D.D.
BISHOP OF ORANGE

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