




Catholic Diocese of Belleville Respect Life Ministry

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Dear Friends of Respect Life,

August 2011

First of all **thank you** for your continuing prayers regarding the adoption program and care of foster children by Catholic Social Services because of the reported news about the state not renewing the contract in light of implications of the "Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act." There is due to be a hearing later this month so prayer is still needed.

Just a few things:

Have you taken the opportunity to get **to Granite City** yet over the summer to pray at the abortion facility? It is also an excellent time for **families and/or youth groups** to go be a very visible **Witness to Life**. On Saturday, August 6, a group will be at St Peter Cathedral in Belleville ready to depart from there with any others who would like to car pool to Granite City, following Mass (Mass begins at 8:00am, and we will depart approximately 8:30). If you would like to join us at Granite City, we will plan on being there from approximately 9:30-10:30.

The annual **National Family Planning Awareness Week** has just past... but any time is a good time to explore the USCCB NFP website [here](#) and our diocesan NFP webpage [here](#)! We are very thankful for Matt and Emily Joost, our NFP Program Managers. They prepared a brief presentation introducing NFP that is available from a link on the NFP page above or by clicking [here](#).

Also, **From the Archdiocese of St Louis July Respect Life Apostolate** e-newsletter:

Project Rachel Weekend Retreat, July 29-31

Project Rachel is hosting its annual Weekend Retreat the last weekend in July, during which women ponder the great gift of God's mercy and love poured out for all in the Person of Jesus. The retreat will be held in a home-like, private setting for a time of prayerful recollection. Mass and the Sacrament of Penance will be available. The weekend retreat is open to any woman who has either: undertaken any type of counseling, even if it was only one time; attended the Project Rachel Day Retreat; or continuously attended the monthly Spiritual Support Group. For more information or to register, please call Marisol at (314) 792-7451. You can [also register online](#).

Project Joseph One Day Retreat, September 24

The Project Joseph one-day healing retreat is open to men of any faith background who have suffered after abortion. Please visit [our website](#) or call (314) 792-7565 to register or to learn more about private spiritual direction and professional counseling. Remember, nothing is too big for God, who loves and forgives all. For more information about Project Joseph, [click here](#).

Finally, ... Please look for the USCCB Respect Life parish kits that are due to be sent later this month!

Thank you all for your Witness to Life! Laurie Edwards