




## Catholic Diocese of Belleville Respect Life Ministry

2620 Lebanon Avenue Bldg #2  
Belleville, IL 62221  
e-mail: [ledwards@diobelle.org](mailto:ledwards@diobelle.org)  
[www.respectlife.catholicweb.com](http://www.respectlife.catholicweb.com)



Phone: 618-235-9601, x. 1332  
Fax: 618-257-2969

 **Project Rachel:** 1-888-456-HOPE

February 2012

Dear Friends of Respect Life,

First of all, thank you for your prayers and witness when we recalled the anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision of Roe vs. Wade. Despite the concern of icy pathways between homes and cars, and cars and the Cathedral, a good number of you came together joining Bishop Braxton at Mass on Saturday morning. Thank you to the Legion of Mary for leading us in the Rosary and assisting with the refreshments that followed. Thank you to all who attended and those who prayed too from the safety of your homes!

Thank you too to our bus pilgrims, those Althoff and Mater Dei students and family groups traveling with our faithful Bus Captain, Doug Lugge, and the students from Gibault traveling with a group from St Louis, to Washington DC joining the throng of people young and old (though mostly young!) who crowded into the city to March for Life. In addition to the bus trip education components, prayer is the real hallmark for these travelers. I highly recommend that you take the opportunity to read (or better, slow down and listen!) to the [homily from the Youth Mass](#) prior to the March.

Also, a special thank you to every parish who remembered with special thoughts and tributes those victims of abortion, those whose lives were lost and those who are wounded. Thank you for your prayers for our nation, legislators, those with unexpected pregnancies, with adverse prenatal diagnosis (enduring ever increasing pressure from the medical community to terminate), and those who have persevered for decades speaking truth in a culture interested more in comfort and convenience. ***Thank you!***

Now... a reminder that his Saturday there will be a ***Respect Life Gathering with Mass*** and guest speaker, coordinated and hosted by the Belleville West End Respect Life Co-Laborers, that is open to all. [Click here for a flyer](#) with more details. They have requested registration but will welcome walk-ins. If you are able, the suggested donation is \$5 to help cover their expenses. I am very happy to announce this opportunity both because of the encouragement and inspiration I am confident it will be, but also because the example of what passionate people from neighboring parishes can bring about through collaboration. The Respect Life office was happy to assist simply with promotion and minor details and will be happy to help facilitate this kind of activity in the future for other cluster groups to expand the reach of your local initiatives!

Looking ahead what to watch for ...

Please continue to be informed about the issue of the HHS Rule that Bishop Braxton has highlighted in this Monthly Mailing. You might like to [listen to this brief conversation](#) recorded during the comment period focusing in on the concerns. Be alert to the issues of the moral shortcomings of the rule, and especially the assault on religious liberty.

The dioceses of Illinois will have a united effort of prayer and advocacy for life during the upcoming legislative session by committing specific weeks for prayer and a day each for advocacy. Our diocese will focus on the week of March 25-31, with the 28<sup>th</sup> as our advocacy day. [Please save the date](#) and watch for more information.

***On the next page ... the voiceless, the wounded, the numbers - in OUR diocese ... the reasons we continue!***

***Thank you your voice, for you witness, for your prayers and support!***

***May God bless you and those you love and serve,***

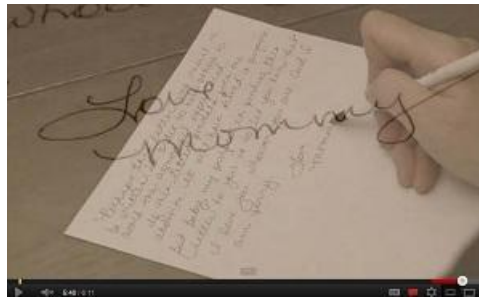
*Laurie Edwards*

## *The Voiceless:*



**At 9 wks ... a week before and a week after ...**

**The baby just needs time to grow! (Keep a picture of a fetal model on your cell phone for quick reference!!)**



## *The Wounded:*

[Click](#) for a powerful love letter video!

## ***The Numbers: Abortion Statistics (counties in the Diocese of Belleville)***

The numbers given below are in a range because of the reporting of the Illinois Department of Public Health. If the count is 50 or fewer, there is no number given for counties that have been reported as the place of residence by a woman procuring an abortion in a facility anywhere in Illinois.

In the range, the low number of the range is the actual reported number of induced abortions. The high number of the range is the top number, assuming all abortions have been reported. .... This is a significant assumption because of the increasing use of medical abortions vs surgical abortions. Furthermore, the term “pregnancy” itself is being used in a changed way in the literature/promotion by abortion providers, masking the potentially abortifacient nature of emergency contraception, which is used up to 5 days after intercourse, and possibly fertilization, has taken place. (<http://www.arhp.org/publications-and-resources/clinical-fact-sheets/mifepristone-ec>)

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Counties Reporting (out of 28)</u>	<u>Number of reported induced abortions</u>
2004	6	1147-2247
2005	5	1025-2175
2006	5	980-2130
2007	5	1074-2224
2008	5	1252-2302
2009	4	1022-2222

(<http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/statshome.htm>)

A perhaps more useful measure is the percentage of abortions for those counties that report. In summary, between the years 2006 – 2009, with the four counties reporting every year:

<u>County</u>	<u>Percentage of abortions</u>	<u>State ranking (out of 102 counties)</u>
Jackson	15.1	5
Marion	7.9	24
Saint Clair	17.1	2
Williamson	9.1	20

(<http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/usac/ab-usac2-IL.html>)