



# Diocese of Lafayette

Office of Pro-Life Apostolate  
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**Date:** March 19, 2019  
**To:** Pro-Life Coordinators / Supporters  
**From:** Trista Littell, Program Coordinator  
Office of Pro-Life Apostolate, Diocese of Lafayette  
**RE:** The film, *Unplanned*

The film *Unplanned* is scheduled for release on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and tells the story of a Planned Parenthood abortion director and former Employee of the Year, Abby Johnson, who left Planned Parenthood to become a pro-life advocate. The film may create opportunities to highlight the proclamation of the Gospel of Life in our diocese and parishes, as well as opportunities for dialogue and fruitful conversations.

Viewers will undoubtedly have varying responses to the film. Some may be inspired to rededicate themselves even more to pro-life efforts, while some who have been involved in an abortion may respond by pushing their hurt further down, or potentially experiencing re-traumatization. Those who may be abortion-minded and pregnant might be inspired to give birth to their children. To help you prepare for any responses to the film, we offer the following information.

- The film contains graphic content and emotionally and psychologically intense scenes. There are three to four graphic scenes that we are aware of.
- An area of concern is that there is no trigger warning prior to the film. A trigger can cause a person to experience a flashback and relive the trauma. It is a decision for prayer and discernment as to whether to invite others to a film that could provoke intense reactions. A warning may help prepare viewers for the film and enable them to better receive the film's message.
- Some viewers may leave feeling frustrated, angry, and wondering what they can do about the horror of abortion.  
The end of the film provides a number for people to text if they need help. Once they send the text a list of resources will be texted back to them.
- It is important that we spread the message of forgiveness, hope, and healing to our community. The post-abortion healing ministries and resources offered through the Diocese of Lafayette should be visible in our church parishes and in the community so that those who have seen the film and wish to seek help can find it.  
(Please refer to the attached Document "Resources to Explore after Watching the Movie Unplanned".)
- We want to spread the message that abortion is wrong but healing is possible. During this time of Lent, many opportunities are available to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Those who have experienced a pregnancy loss should undertake a period of discernment before actively engaging in pregnancy support work for their own spiritual and emotional well-being as well as for those they seek to serve.

The link below from Kevin Burke, LSW, with Silent No More Awareness provides information on some of the graphic scenes from the movie and possible reactions from those who have had an abortion in their past. Those who choose not to see the film can still be involved in promoting the film, making viewers aware of healing resources, and praying that the film touches those who most need to encounter this powerful story of Abby Johnson and **Unplanned**.

<http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/shockwaves/november/unplanned.aspx?fbclid=IwAR010Yqe1r0MbQMBB9cGebfrVEHcacUTIzZ5rkl8Oc32J31Zo2GRG8nu-XY>

Be assured of our ongoing prayers for all of your efforts to spread the Gospel of Life.

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