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**A Statement for Parish Bulletins from Bishop Stephen Blaire
regarding the Planned Parenthood videos**

In an early letter of the Church attributed to the Apostle Barnabas, it is written that anyone “who is bent on reaching his (her) appointed goal must be very careful in all he (she) does....Love your creator.... Love your neighbor more than your own life. Do not kill an unborn child through abortion, nor destroy it after birth.....Accept as a blessing whatever comes your way in the knowledge that nothing ever happens without God’s concurrence.”

All human life comes into being with the concurrence of God. To throw away that human life through abortion or to traffic in fetal organs or tissues through abortion not only fails to respect the humanity and dignity of human life but is a direct affront to God.

Pope Francis in the “Joy of the Gospel” says that “among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us.” “A human being,” he says “is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development.”

I ask the people of our diocese to contact their state and federal representatives through the Catholic Legislative Network at <http://cacatholic.org> to ask them not to fund Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood has received an average of \$536 million dollars a year for the past four years, and some of that money goes specifically to pay for abortions.

I also encourage you to support the pro-life pregnancy resource centers in our Diocese. You can get a list of the centers at <http://stocktondiocese.org/community-of-caring>.

Knowing the pain, hurt and trauma that the Planned Parenthood news coverage can bring to those who were involved in an abortion, it is important for us all to know and lift up God’s mercy. Any and all persons will be welcomed with compassion and assistance through the Church’s post-abortion healing ministry, PROJECT RACHEL. If you or someone you know, would like confidential, nonjudgmental help, please visit www.projectrachel.com or call Kim Fuentes at the Diocese of Stockton, 209-465-5433.