

PASTORAL LETTER TO PATIENTS

Dear Friend,

The decision to have an abortion is very personal. Though the reason may be complicated and private, you are not alone. As religious leaders, we hope this letter reassures you of the support that you enjoy from clergy from a number of religious traditions.

Many people wrongly assume that the Bible disapproves of abortion. The truth is that abortion is not even mentioned in the Scriptures – Jewish or Christian. While the beliefs of each person are deserving of respect, no one should be allowed to force their faith teachings on anyone else. We believe this decision is yours, made with your doctor, or nurse, and anyone else you choose to bring into the conversation, such as a spouse, partner, parent or clergy.

We support your right and your ability to choose what is best for you and your loved ones.

Our religious traditions have somewhat different opinions about abortion, but we share some basic understandings.

- No one knows the circumstances of your life as well as you know them; no one knows what is in your heart better than you. Allow yourself to be at peace with your decision.
- Know that God loves you and is with you no matter what you decide. You can find strength, understanding, and comfort in that love.

If you would like to speak to a clergy person, Planned Parenthood can refer you to someone who will be supportive of you and your decision. Your privacy will be protected and all conversations will be completely confidential.

Our hope for you is for peace in your heart.

Clergy Advocacy Board Planned Parenthood Federation of America

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America Clergy Advocacy Board (CAB), dating from 1994, leads a national effort to increase public awareness of the theological and moral basis for advocating reproductive health and justice. CAB members are dedicated pro-choice clergy from different denominations and communities throughout the U.S. who work with Planned Parenthood at the national and state levels to further the goal of full reproductive freedom for all women and men.