

*Telegraph Herald*  
Letters to the Editor  
October 17, 2008

**Dubuque's Catholic priests and deacons oppose PP**

From the Rev. Dan Knepper  
Dubuque, Iowa

October is celebrated as Respect Life Month in the Catholic Church, and, as dean of the Dubuque Deanery and on behalf of the other parish priests and deacons of Dubuque, I share our comments on the recent opening of a Planned Parenthood office in our community.

We do not think the Planned Parenthood office will benefit our community. It will not allow our community to build a culture of life in which life is respected, family life is supported, and women in crisis pregnancies are helped. Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortion in our country, and even though the center that Planned Parenthood opened in Dubuque is not an abortion clinic, it does not prevent the staff at this local center from encouraging and referring women in crisis pregnancies to places that offer abortion in our state. This is something that we feel we cannot be silent on.

Along with this concern, we believe that there are other agencies in our city that offer the same pre-natal services that Planned Parenthood offers, such as pre-natal counseling, ultrasounds and pregnancy tests. In fact, there are Catholic Charities, Birthright and Clarity Clinic offices in Dubuque that offer aid and help to women who are struggling with a crisis pregnancy.

As priests and deacons who are charged by the Lord to preach the Gospel of Life, we pray that the Holy Spirit may renew the faith of all Christians and people of goodwill in the goodness and dignity of life.