



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 8, 2024
The Annunciation of the Lord

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We know that the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy can seem insurmountable. This is especially true when it feels like there is no support for a pregnant woman struggling to appreciate the precious gift of life she carries and may compel her towards a regrettable decision. But genuine empowerment of women comes only through recognizing the dignity of the human person at every stage of life and this is most poignantly illuminated through the blessings of motherhood.

In this, it is with great joy that I announce the **FIAT Pregnancy Support Program** at Catholic Health. This program, in partnership with the Diocese of Rockville Centre, comprises a dedicated help line designed to assist women access the **counsel, resources, and encouragement needed to choose life** when facing a pregnancy with unexpected or difficult circumstances. **The Pregnancy Support Team is available 24x7, 365 days of the year** to assist callers in accessing the services needed to help them see that every new life is a blessing, even when there are challenges.

Any expectant woman in need of help can call the FIAT Pregnancy Support Program and be confident that, **regardless of age, religion, immigration status or ability to pay**, she will receive compassionate, non-judgmental, and *life-affirming* care. Most of all, she can be assured that she will not be alone through her pregnancy, and she will not be abandoned after she delivers her child. If she is overwhelmed by an unexpected pregnancy, contemplating abortion pills on her college campus, distressed with an adverse prenatal diagnosis, experiencing a miscarriage, worried about feeding her child, regretting a past abortion or other pregnancy-related distress, FIAT is there to help her sort things out and get the care she needs. It only takes the courage of a phone call to find real hope: **631-476-LOVE (5683)**.

It is my prayer that the **FIAT Pregnancy Support Program** be recognized across the Diocese of Rockville Centre as the first step a woman takes when facing challenging circumstances during pregnancy. There are promotional materials available at every parish and on-line, but we ask for your help to make this resource known widely through your prayers, your witness, and your word-of-mouth, for every one of us has an important and serious responsibility to spread the Gospel of Life. Let FIAT lead the way.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre