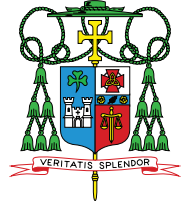




CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Pastoral Letter

To All Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, Religious Men and Women,
and Faithful Laity of the Diocese of Fort Worth

June 24, 2022

The long-awaited decision in the case of *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* has been announced today by the U.S. Supreme Court. This decision overturns the 1973 *Roe v Wade* decision and effectively closes a shameful period in American history that witnessed the evil and legalized killing of 60 million unborn babies throughout the United States of America.

While the Catholic Church in the United States, the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth, other men and women of good will, and I have prayed and worked diligently for this day to arrive, we must thank God and acknowledge that this decision does not end our work for unborn children and their mothers and fathers. We must be mindful that at the heart of our prayers and labor is not the changing of law but the conversion of hearts — including our own — towards greater gratitude, respect, and love for each human person. Human beings are only as safe as the most vulnerable member of our society. If unborn babies are not protected by law and safe from harm, then it follows any injury to any person can be falsely justified by law and society.

The Diocese of Fort Worth through its Respect Life Office, working in concert with our 91 parishes and the many pro-life apostolates in our area, will redouble our efforts to serve expectant mothers who are in duress and to promote the care and support for the pre-natal and early development of their children. It is inherent to the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ entrusted to us as His Church to turn our hearts away from violence and death as the false solutions to our shared problems of poverty and sickness and turn towards solidarity and compassion for all of God's children. This will entail an ongoing promotion of behaviors and policies that foster the safety and flourishing of family life anchored in a loving, healthy, respectful, and fruitful marriage between one man and one woman. The anchor of society is not the individual but the family. The family is indispensable for healing our social anarchy and the trauma experienced by survivors of abortion caused by closing our hearts and minds to God and to the design of His creation.

Let us pray for those men and women who have procured abortion and, in their suffering, now rage in anger. With the release of the *Dobbs* decision by the U. S. Supreme Court, I ask all Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth to remain prayerful, peaceful, and vigilant especially in case of possible intimidation or the outbursts of protesters and social agitators at Mass. Now is a time for perseverance and resilience in faith in Jesus Christ who alone can grant us peace.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

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**Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Respect Life Ministry
Promotes the Dignity of Every Human life**

Through a variety of parish and independent pro-life ministries which serve within the 28 North Texas counties that encompass the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, pregnant and parenting women can find the help and support they need. Many of these ministries have been in place for years and will continue whether or not *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The mission of the Diocese of Fort Worth Respect Life Office is to promote the dignity of every human life from conception to natural death through prayer, education, pastoral care, and civic action.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the approved ministries serving pregnant and parenting women within the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. Contact information and/or websites are also included. Services provided by these agencies include, but are not limited to, free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, material assistance, mother and baby boutiques, parenting classes, and referral assistance.

Choices Clinic and Life Resource Center (Erath, Young, & Hamilton Counties):
<https://choicesinlife.org/>

Flourishing Tree, Aledo: <https://flourishingtree.org/>

Gabriel Project, Catholic Charities, Fort Worth: 1-800-545-5935

Grace House, Weatherford: <https://www.gracehouseministries.net/>

Loreto House, Denton: <https://loretohouse.org/>

Mid Cities Women's Clinic, Euless: <https://mcwomensclinic.com/>

Mother & Unborn Baby Care, Fort Worth: 817-870-2229

Next Step Women's Center, Burleson and Fort Worth: <https://www.nextstepwpc.com/>

The Open Door, Cisco and Breckenridge: <https://www.supportopendoor.org/>

WholeLife Authentic Care, Fort Worth: <https://www.wholelifeac.com/>

Parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth, as well as throughout the country, have been encouraged to participate in Walking with Moms in Need, a USCCB campaign which helps participants to walk in the shoes of local pregnant and parenting women. For more information, visit:
<https://fwdioc.org/walking-with-moms-in-need>

Gabriel Project is a Catholic Charities of Fort Worth parish-based ministry that pairs trained volunteers, or Gabriel Angels, with women in crisis pregnancies. Angels accompany mothers throughout their pregnancy and beyond, with spiritual, emotional, and practical help. Once they are close to delivery, they help provide items for baby. gabrielproject@ccdofw.org

In addition to these ministries, women in need of help and support throughout the State of Texas can find more resources here: <https://www.texaspregnancy.org/>

These resources and other contacts can be found on the diocesan website:
<https://fwdioc.org/respect-life>

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth remains committed to serving pregnant and parenting women in need.