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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



Working together to spread the Gospel of Life across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Clarity On the Heartbeat Bill

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

The state of Ohio passed what is known as the Heartbeat Bill in 2019, signed by Gov. Mike DeWine, but enforcement of that law has been on hold for nearly three years under a court injunction. But on June 24th, when the US Supreme Court overturned *Roe* and *Casey*, Attorney General Dave Yost petitioned the court to dissolve that injunction, and abortion is now restricted in Ohio upon detection of a fetal heartbeat.

There has been a lot of backlash in the past few days about this and similar bans in other states. There is fear that this bans procedures related to women's health on everything from ectopic pregnancies to natural miscarriage. I wanted to take some time to help everyone understand how to answer if you hear questions like these.

If I reveal to my doctor that I'm late on my period, then visit that doctor again a few months later and am not pregnant, I could be reported as having had an abortion.

This is complete nonsense. The law in no way is going to start having people make assumptions about late periods and questioning women in private matters. This law and every other law I am aware of, specifically exempts the woman seeking

an abortion. The only people being reported are those who perform abortions, not those who receive one.

My doctor will be afraid to take care of my needs if I have an ectopic pregnancy.

This is a very common misconception, especially on social media right now. Pro-life laws do not make illegal the necessary procedures of removing an ectopic pregnancy before it ruptures and endangers the life of the mother. Legally speaking, it falls clearly under the exception of saving the life of the mother. It also, with most definitions of abortion, should not fall in the category of intentionally killing an unborn life. The purpose of the procedure is clearly to save the mother's life, in a situation where the child's life cannot be saved.

A D&C Procedure or Medication to Induce Labor After Miscarriage Is Illegal

Many women are being told that these things following a miscarriage are considered abortions and will therefore be illegal unless the mother can

be proven to be within moments of dying. When a child dies in the mother's womb, this is a tragedy. But removing the child from the mother is not an abortion, whether by medication or surgery.

Early Delivery to Save the Mother's Life

For any number of reasons, it can at times be risky for a woman to gestate her child to term. People sometimes say this is a situation where an abortion is necessary. Killing the child before removing from the mother's body would be an abortion, but that is not necessary. If you need to deliver the child early (whether through induced labor or c-section), you then do what you can to also save the child. If the child dies, that is not an abortion. So while the situation does at times happen that the pregnancy cannot continue because of the mother's health, it is not necessary to have an abortion.

Unlike the abortion industry, the pro-life community actually supports women's health and always supports the life and health of the mother, in addition to the health of her child.





Welcome

Thank you for your openness to God's call to foster respect for human life at all its stages, from conception to natural death. We live in a time when so many in our culture promote values contrary to human life itself. These include life issues such as abortion and euthanasia, and issues of human dignity such as advocacy

for those with disabilities or victims of violent crime. It is a monumental task, but one worth pursuing. What is needed is people of love and humility, devoted to God, immersed in the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, and open to the direction of the Holy Spirit in helping others bring a greater respect for all human life to the lives of all.

May God bless you in this work. Know that I am truly grateful to work with you in this. Together, let us build a culture of life here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati!

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

Pregnancy Center Collection



In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Archbishop Schnurr asks that a second collection be taken up at all Masses July 16-17 to directly benefit more than 30 pregnancy care centers and agencies across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. In his letter of June 24, the Archbishop stated, "I urge everyone in our archdiocese to both pray for and actively assist all expectant mothers.

Together, let us redouble our commitment to caring for women, children and families so that abortion is not only illegal, but unthinkable." Supporting pregnancy care centers and agencies is an important and tangible way to do this.

100% of the funds collected will be distributed to the various organizations without archdiocesan assessment. If you are not able to donate at Mass next weekend, you can give directly by clicking [HERE](#). 100% of the funds collected will be distributed to the various centers. Please be generous! Thank you.

JULY Independence Day

04

Happy Birthday, America! Thank you to all who serve and work to preserve our freedom in this country!

Mary's Pro-Life Bootcamp

07-11

Calling all Catholic youth, ages 14 to 17! Come be inspired and empowered by the Church and the faithful to be soldiers for Life, upholding the dignity of all life from conception until natural death. To register, click [HERE](#).

Coordinator's Corner

This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org.

- 01- Word of Life & Pray for Life
- 02- Dobbs Parish Leader Kit
- 03- For Life Page
- 04- Post-Roe Parish Resources



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

- 01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes intercessions for life, bulletin quotes, information on **WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED**, **RESPECT LIFE PRAYER GUIDES**, information on **NATIONAL NFP AWARENESS WEEK**, and more! Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 02 **DOBBS PARISH LEADER KIT** contains intercessions for life, bulletin quotes, educational materials, and more! This is a special edition that contains information on helping our communities in a post-Roe world. Available in **ENGLISH** and **SPANISH**.
- 03 Check out our **WEBSITE** for women who may be experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Here you can find local pregnancy centers, services for women and families, and other resources for life-affirming assistance. **CATHOLICAOC.ORG/FORLIFE**
- 04 Additional resources for parishes on *Walking with Moms in Need* can be found **HERE**. There are **LOCAL RESOURCES**, **PARISH RESOURCES**, and a list of **PRINTABLE RESOURCES** to use in your parish!

A Victory for Religious Freedom

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

On June 27, the Supreme Court in *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* sided with a public school football coach who was kneeling and praying on the football field after games. While the coach claims he never encouraged anyone to pray with him, his practice over time led many other athletes to join in, turning it into a situation that caught a lot of attention and concern that it may be becoming a coercive event that appears sponsored by the school. The school offered to allow him to pray in a more private place, but he elected to continue praying on the 50-yard line.

The court ruled 6-3 in his favor, with the 3 known liberal judges in dissent. Writing for the majority, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote, "The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect and tolerance, not censorship and suppression, for religious and nonreligious views alike."

Writing for the dissenting opinion, Justice Sotomayor wrote, "Official-led prayer strikes at the core of our constitutional protections for the religious liberty of students and their parents, as embodied in both the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment."

While some argue that it gives people in leadership positions in schools to unduly influence children with their personal religious beliefs, most in favor of religious freedom consider this a victory of allowing people to exercise their religious beliefs in the public square. For more on this story, click [HERE](#)

Beacons of Light

By: Noelle Collis-Devito

A Family of Parishes is best served when the pastor and key collaborators (clergy and lay staff) work together as a team. While there are many groups of people who participate in leadership and governance of a parish or Family of Parishes, the leadership team has the greatest potential to effectively assist the pastor in implementing the mission of the parish.

This model has already been employed by many parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati subsequent to the Amazing Parish conference of 2019. The challenge now will be to take this successful model and apply it to a Family of Parishes, not simply a single parish.

- In the short run, it will be difficult for a Family to have a unified leadership team for a variety of reasons.
- Staff doesn't know one another yet.
- A new pastor is still settling in.
- Representing all parishes may be difficult.
- Key collaborators haven't yet been identified or hired.
- Parishes are still operating mostly independent of one another (which is normal and healthy in the beginning.)

In the long run (by the end of Phase 1, ideally by summer 2023) a Family of Parishes Leadership Team should be formed.

JULY

Boots and Bottles

14

Bust out your boots and bandanas! Pregnancy Center East is celebrating their 40 year anniversary at Big Ash Brewery on Thursday, July 14th from 5 to 9 p.m. There will be craft beer, live music, and food trucks. Space is limited, so [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

16-17

Pregnancy Center Collection

Parishes throughout the Archdiocese will come together in a second collection to help our pregnancy centers so they can continue supporting women and families in need. Click [HERE](#) to give!

The Time is Now to Prepare for a Post-Roe State.

By: Andrew Musgrave

With the long-awaited Supreme Court decision in the *Dobbs* case, we find ourselves now needing to figure out how to much better address the critical needs of pregnant women, children, and new families.

From the Catholic Conference of Ohio's recent statement:

Pope St. John Paul II noted in his encyclical Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) that challenges facing expectant mothers include lack of support from the father, financial strains, concerns about her own health and that of her child, and pressures from family and friends. The many social service ministries of and associated with the Catholic Church – including pregnancy care centers, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul conferences, Catholic healthcare systems, and Catholic parishes – stand ready to support expectant mothers in difficult circumstances, both during pregnancy and after their child is born. This commitment is consistent with Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) in which he calls for the Church to be an evangelizing community of encounter and accompaniment, "standing by people every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be" (EG 24).

[We must] (r)ecognize the sanctity and dignity of human life in all its phases through programs and/or legislative advocacy to assist refugees and overcome the death penalty, euthanasia, racism, poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, climate change, and gun violence.

The time is now to dramatically improve access to prenatal care, paid maternal and paternal leave, childcare support, an expanded child tax credit, educational and transportation needs, and beyond.

We pray that God guides us to continue (and increase!) our work to care for all life, from the moment of conception until the last natural breath, caring especially for the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and forgotten.

Being Pro-Life

Abortion Pill Reversal

With abortion now illegal in Ohio after detection of a Heartbeat, the proliferation of the abortion pill is likely to skyrocket here in the state of Ohio. What many do not know, however, is that if one acts quickly, the effects of taking the first pill of the abortion regimen can often be reversed. Its called **ABORTION PILL REVERSAL**, or APR, and it has saved over 3,000 lives . Knowing about this service network and getting the word out about it will be monumentally important in coming months. Learn more from my 2019 video podcast [HERE](#).



Foster Care in a Post-Roe World

By: Walter and Emily Rothan

Since the early '70s, our country has deemed it legal that parents can end the lives of their children in-utero. In an unbelievable turn of events here in 2022, we now get to celebrate a "Post-Roe" world. Even though we have overturned *Roe*, we still have a large part of our society that still wishes to not keep their pregnancies. Instead of the threat to the unborn, we now have to protect the unwanted. We have a 50 year habit built into our country, and we in the pro-life community still have a lot of work to do.

Now that we have used our voices and prayers to be in this post-*Roe* world, we now need to take action. Our Pro-Choice neighbors are angry, and we need to show them love and understanding. Consider what Jesus says in Matthew 25: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?" Our post-*Roe* world is about to see a lot more unwanted babies that are protected under the law. As Pro-Life Catholics, we need to step up and help these children who would have been put to death. It is not enough to celebrate and do nothing, Jesus asks for your support.

Jesus spoke to our family through Matthew 25. It was a big reason we decided to look into foster care. Foster care is terrifying and will most likely break your hearts as it has ours. Foster care is sad, painful and the system itself is very broken. Foster care is also beautiful and one of the biggest blessings in our lives. We have met some of the most amazing children who are so strong, funny, talented and so beyond loving. These children are perfect and so desperately need and want someone to love them.

If you feel God tugging at your heart strings, I encourage you to follow the Lord's call! Will you foster or adopt children? Will you give and volunteer at your local pregnancy center? Will you understand the needs of your Pro-Choice neighbor and help them in this post-*Roe* world? It won't be easy, but God's calling you for a reason. Please pray and let God lead you to where He wants you!

Something to Celebrate!

By: Ann Poirier



Can I get an Amen?! *Roe vs. Wade* has been overturned! Finally, after nearly 50 years, our government has allowed states to make decisions on abortion instead of it being legal throughout our country. We still have a long way to go before every baby receives 100% protection at conception, but this is a huge step in the right direction.

For families like mine, the decision to overturn *Roe vs. Wade* has a special meaning. My husband and I have four young children and our second child, Alice, has Down syndrome. For babies like her, their worth, dignity and value is questioned even before they are born. In the United States, 67% of women who receive a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome for their child choose to get an abortion. Because of the latest Supreme Court ruling, however, women in so many states won't be able to abort these innocent babies anymore. These women will get to learn that raising a child with Down syndrome—or any other disability—is humbling, eye-opening and absolutely amazing.

My family and I are so happy that *Roe vs. Wade* has been overturned because now that people won't be able to abort children with disabilities, our world is about to get a lot better. A world with more people like Alice is a world with a lot more love. That's something to celebrate.

JULY NFP Awareness Week

24-30

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is a national educational campaign. The Natural Family Planning Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops develops a poster each year with basic supportive materials. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

JULY Feasts of Sts. Ann & Joachim

26

The Feast of Saints Anne and Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated on July 26. They are powerful intercessors for all married couples, expectant mothers, and married couples who are having difficulty conceiving. Prayers can be found [HERE](#).



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Project Rachel

By: Project Rachel Team

Friday, June 24th, 2022 was definitely a day we will all remember as we saw *Roe v Wade* overturned. It was a day that many celebrated after decades of prayer and work, and also a day that brought back many emotions and memories of trauma for post-abortive women. In our homes, parishes, and even social media, we need to be aware of the words and attitude we use when talking about abortion. For the women who are post abortive all the media coverage can bring up buried feelings of guilt and shame. As we talk about *Roe v Wade* we should also mention that the women who are post-abortive need support as well. They did not commit a crime at that time of their abortion, but can feel imprisoned without bars because of the guilt and shame. Hearing the media and community say "abortion is murder" and is "the killing of innocent babies" does not allow her to feel she deserves healing. The post-abortive women in our pews and communities may begin to feel alienated and rejected. She needs to feel there is hope for her emotionally & spiritually. While we are talking about abortion we *must* mention the hope and healing through Project Rachel. Project Rachel offers support groups, weekend retreats, a one day retreat called Day of Reflection, and one-on-one mentoring. We have priests and trained volunteers who help within the ministry. Most of our volunteers are post-abortive and have received hope and healing through the Project Rachel ministry. Consider passing along **INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE** to your parish so that in addition to thanksgiving for the overturn of *Roe*, we can also continue to pray for those who have been affected by abortion. For printable parish resources, click [HERE!](#)

If you would like the Project Rachel Ministry to come and speak at your school or parish, please contact **BECKY SCHOENFELD**. Feel free to contact us at: (513) 784-0531 or visit ProjectRachelOhio.org