



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

9531 Liberty Road | Randallstown, Maryland 21133

June 26, 2022

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Beloved in the Lord,

This is an historic moment.

The United States Supreme Court's decision on the Dobbs v. Jackson case has overturned the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973, now interpreting that the United States Constitution does not restrict states from making regulations restricting or prohibiting abortions.

This decision does not conclude the matter. It has become an issue for each state to address. Some states have already addressed it in anticipation of this ruling.

We can make it a hopeful moment.

Polarization due to this issue will continue. Polemics will echo in the public square. However, let us keep things in perspective.

This is a human rights issue. A human being has an inherent dignity from the moment of her or his conception. This inherent dignity is not changed by the stage of development. It is not changed by the condition or circumstance that a human being is experiencing. This is a hopeful message.

This principle is grounded in faith and reason. We are not imposing our faith upon others. Reason alone can tell us that a human being has been conceived. Dehumanizing creates a verbal deception that can lead to destructive consequences.

Before I continue, if you have had an abortion or assisted in this tragic action, there is hope for healing. I know from pastoral experience that women and men have benefited from the Project Rachel ministry. Please visit the Archdiocese of Baltimore website for details (www.archbalt.org/project-rachel/) or the national website (www.hopeafterabortion.com). For parishioners and others in this area, I can be available to talk in-person,

Pregnant? Need help? Visit this website for resources (<https://www.archbalt.org/life-post-roe-resources/>).

To encourage making the choice for life is in keeping with the dignity of the mother and the child. To encourage fathers and extended families to support this choice is in keeping with their dignity and the dignity of their loved ones. →

Phone: 410.922.3800

Fax: 410.922.3804

Email: HFRandal@archbalt.org

A parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore

Catholics in the USA continue to provide spiritual, emotional, material, and financial support for women and families in crisis. Share this hopeful message.

The Catholic Church in the USA serves millions of people (Catholics and non-Catholics) in our network of educational, medical, and social service institutions. Many parishes have social service and social justice ministries. See this website for details from the past eight years (<https://www.usccb.org/offices/public-affairs/catholic-health-care-social-services-and-humanitarian-aid>).

Our advocacy begins with defending the rights of unborn children. For every child to have a chance in life, they need to have a chance to live.

Our advocacy in the public square does not end at the beginning stages of life. We address issues about caring for the poor and helping them out of poverty, promoting education, treating immigrants and refugees with dignity, working for racial justice, fostering peace with justice at home and abroad, among other things.

Holy Family Catholic Church contributes to these efforts through prayer; donations to Women's Center West of Catonsville to support life-affirming decisions; poor box and food pantry donations; support for the homeless; supporting Project Rachael; among other things.

We can make this a holy moment.

Our deepest identity is not found in political partisanship. We are beloved children of God. We are disciples of Christ and members of His Church. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

In every circumstance, we are called to live according to the "Great Commandment" (cf. *Matthew 22:36-37*). By the grace of God, we strive to love God wholeheartedly, which is the context in which we love ourselves and others appropriately.

This is our motivation to bear witness to the truth. This is our motivation to support life-affirming choices at every stage, condition, and circumstance of life. The right to life is the fundamental right upon which other rights can be exercised.

In Christ,

Father Raymond Harris
Pastor