



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics



December 2021

Highlights of this newsletter:

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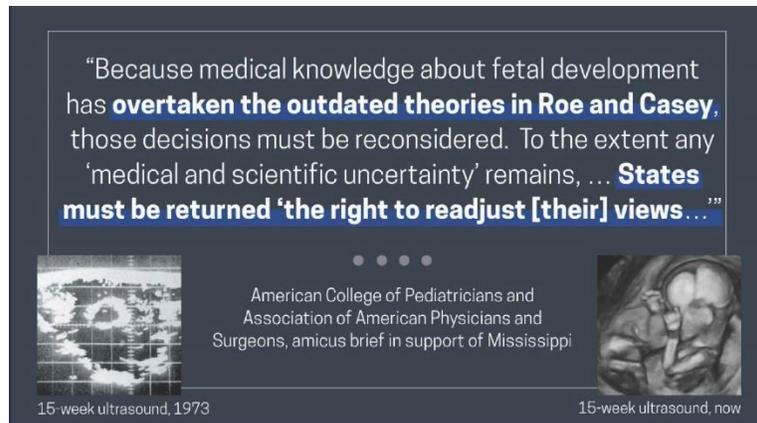
Dear Friends for Life,

ADVENT

As we mark these final days of Advent, we are reminded: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” (Luke 3:4) We are not just tidying up our homes, but more importantly, preparing our hearts and souls as we anticipate the celebration of the coming of our Lord in Bethlehem. And so, we ready ourselves with Confession, prayer and fasting (some individuals still recognize this in the practice of Ember days). As well, this is a time in which we anticipate the Second Coming when He will come to judge the world, with love and mercy, but also in accordance with His Commandments. We cannot separate the Mystery of the Incarnation from the Mystery of the Passion by which our Salvation was purchased—and this should be an integral part of our focus these days.

DOBBS V. JACKSON

A few weeks ago, oral arguments for *Dobbs v. Jackson* were heard by the Supreme Court of the United States. Ed Mechmann, J.D. elaborated on a few legal points from the proceedings [here](#) and Grazie Pozo Christie, M.D. shared her medical insights [here](#). But from a personal, human perspective, the crux of the argument—ending life in the womb—seemed especially incongruous with the start of the Advent season—a time during which we look with fervent anticipation to the birth of the Christ Child. At the same time, it seemed to highlight (and sometimes reject for what could only be ideological reasons) some of the most noteworthy observations that any parent would make—human life is a precious gift and it begins in the womb. Technology today provides undeniable proof for that. To believe “[not much has changed](#)” is just [not defensible](#)!



In 1973, Justice Blackmun wrote in the [majority opinion](#) for *Roe v. Wade*, “If this suggestion of personhood is established, the appellant's case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the [Fourteenth] Amendment.” With advances in Medicine and a truthful acceptance of the science, we can know unequivocally that [life](#) indeed begins at fertilization; although hidden from the naked eye, it is a momentous occasion which moves forward with an orderliness, precision, and purpose that could only be of Divine design. To ignore this truth inevitably leads to contradiction and chaos—exactly where the abortion industry has led us over the past 49 years.

As Catholics, we must defend truth—we must protect human life in the womb, because it is a living creature made by God, in His Image, from the beginning of its being. It is sacred. We cannot be like King Herod who commissioned the slaughter of the Holy Innocents. His competing loyalties to Roman and Jewish law did not work well for him and straddling such conflicts of our own citizenship (living for this world while desiring the next, endorsing a depraved political ideology while claiming an authentic Catholic life) will not work well for us either. We should fear only those things which threaten our claim to Heaven, and I daresay, a denial of embryology, technological advances, our Catholic faith and the inherent duty to defend and protect the sanctity of all life undermine those prospects.

In this light, perhaps it is prophetic that *Dobbs v. Jackson* arguments took place at the start of Advent— calling each of us to be a voice crying out in the desert (Lk3:4). Let us be unafraid in proclaiming the truth that life begins at fertilization and it is beautiful! We can save the life of a child and its mother, we can prevent others from walking down an ill-informed pathway of abortion propaganda, but most of all, in this regard we can prove ourselves to be worthy of the heavenly Kingdom.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” John 3:16.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Please continue to pray and fast every 22nd of the month for a favorable outcome in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* case. Our next Pray for Dobbs commitment is this Wednesday, December 22.

See diocesan media outlets for this year's reflection on the Holy Innocents.

Please visit our virtual March for Life website www.drvcmarchforlife.com for the latest March for Life information at the local and national levels.

Finally, please know that we, in the Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics, wish you and your families a very blessed, Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Holy New Year. Let us enter 2022 with courage, conviction and unceasing prayer!

Sincerely in Christ,

Lisa A. Honkanen, M.D.

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord’ ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’” Lk 2:10-11,14