



June 24, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development.” – Pope Francis, *Evangelií Gaudium*

Respecting the dignity of every human life from conception to natural death is a core tenet of our Catholic faith. This conviction compels us to seek justice and advocate for the vulnerable, the voiceless, and the afflicted. Upholding the dignity of every human person drives us to care for the poor, to welcome immigrants, to seek racial and social justice, and to oppose abortion. I commend the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and give individual states the opportunity to enact laws that respect life. I welcome this opportunity to reduce the number of abortions in the United States and build a culture of life.

Due to laws codified after *Roe*, abortion remains legal in the State of Nevada. Regardless of the legal status of abortion, the Church’s call to respect life remains unchanged. We must continue not only to speak out against abortion, but also to care for mothers who face unplanned or challenging pregnancies. As mothers and families choose life under difficult circumstances, we are called to accompany them on their journey and to do all we can to support them and their children. Advocating for life does not end with the birth of a child. Respecting the dignity of every human person means ensuring that families’ basic needs are met and that they are given the opportunity to thrive.

At this time, I invite all parishes, institutions, organizations, and individuals to redouble efforts to accompany women and couples confronted with unexpected or difficult pregnancies. Many programs throughout the state provide assistance, accompaniment, and mentorship to vulnerable families as they nurture their children from pregnancy through early childhood. Now is the time for the faithful to offer a viable alternative to abortion by increasing efforts to serve families in need.

Much work remains to build a culture of life in our state. I will continue to advocate for public policies that support life and help struggling families thrive. Please join me in praying that all will one day recognize that every human life is sacred and deserving of reverence, protection, and assistance in times of need.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Bishop of Reno