

## Building a Culture of Life

The historic overturning of *Roe v. Wade* ushers in a new era in our mission to protect the dignity of human life at all stages. Let's reflect on how we can increase our efforts to make our state and our country more welcoming for expectant women and their babies, and then take action.



"I ask that all our parishes and diocesan charitable agencies renew and expand their services to women and children so that mothers can bring their children into this world with peace and tranquility and always knowing they are never abandoned. I join with my brother bishops of New York State in giving thanks to God for today's decision as we continue to pray and work earnestly for a true culture of life to flourish not only in our state but also all around the world, that the Divine Image in all human life is recognized, respected, and affirmed."

*-Statement from Bishop Matano regarding the Supreme Court Decision Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, June 24, 2022*

We must remember that this is a judicial victory, not a cultural one. The culture remains deeply divided on the issue, which will be evidenced by the patchwork of state statutes pertaining to abortion across the country. To change the culture and build a culture of life, we need to enact family-friendly policies that welcome children, support mothers, cherish families and empower them to thrive...

Building a culture of life is not solely the responsibility of the government or those heroic individuals working on the front lines, in crisis pregnancy centers and other ministries. All of us need to respect the dignity and sanctity of human life in everything we do: in how we treat our children, spouses and parents; in the way we behave in our place of work; in sum, how we live Jesus' two great commandments to love God and love our neighbor. Love, charity and reverence for human life from the moment of conception through natural death - these will build and sustain a culture of life.

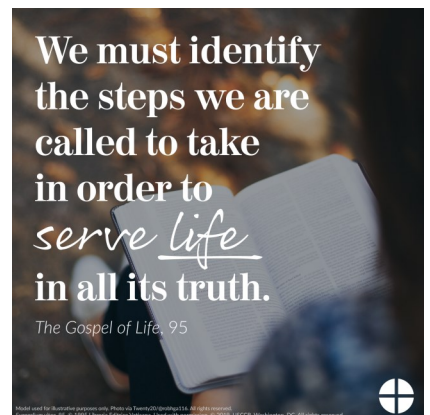
Millions of Americans have worked tirelessly for almost 50 years towards this outcome. We thank them with every fiber of our being. Their vital work continues, and we commit ourselves to it.

*-Statement on the Dobbs decision by the Catholic Bishops of New York State*



Being pro-life means putting our words into action. How can we support women in choosing life for their unborn children?

Walking with Moms in Need is a process through which Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need. See [www.walkingwithmoms.com/](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com/). Contact our Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator at [Shannon.Kilbridge@dor.org](mailto:Shannon.Kilbridge@dor.org) to learn how to bring this life-affirming ministry to your parish.



Respect,  
protect, love  
and serve life,  
*every* human life!

The Gospel of Life, 5

## Prayers of the Faithful for a Culture of Life

Find these and other  
prayers for building a  
culture of life at

[www.liferoc.org/need-support/prayers/](http://www.liferoc.org/need-support/prayers/)  
Ask for them to be used in your parish liturgies.

For our nation:

May we create a society in which  
the legal protection of human life  
is accompanied by profound care  
for mothers and their children;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

For expectant mothers considering abortion:  
May the Lord give them the grace to choose life  
for their children and send them caring people  
to help them meet their needs;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

May the Church better understand  
the challenges facing mothers in need  
and respond with increased care and support;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

May Catholic parishes become islands of mercy  
for women, children, and families  
in need of assistance;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

[respectlife.org](http://respectlife.org)

<http://www.usccb.org/respectlife>

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**Looking for answers to tough questions  
about the Dobbs case? See:**

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/dobbs-fact-sheet.pdf>



**LAUDATO SI'**  
Action Platform

## Join our Diocesan Laudato Si' Action Platform Network

Drought. Floods. Wildfires. Extreme weather caused  
by climate change is destroying human lives and  
livelihoods. Pope Francis is calling us to act to  
protect humanity and the rest of God's creation.

As we put the Laudato Si' Action Platform into  
*action*, we need you to be an ally in your parish!  
Join with other Catholics from around the diocese in  
planning how your parish can educate and activate  
members

To join, contact Marcus Ebenhoe from Catholic  
Charities Family & Community Services in Roches-  
ter at [Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org](mailto:Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org)



**Call Governor Hochul at  
518-474-8390**

Ask her to sign the **cryptocurrency  
moratorium bill**

This legislation, supported by our Diocesan Public  
Policy Committee, places a **two-year moratorium**  
on **crypto-mining operations** housed in  
fossil-fuel burning power plants. This process uses  
an **enormous** amount of electricity and dumps  
heated water into waterways. Before it causes any  
further environmental harm, we need to assess its  
impact on our air and water, and its contribution to  
climate change. Please make the call!

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