



## DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 24, 2022**

**Contact:**

Annalise Laumeier, director of communications  
Phone: 616-551-5629 | 616-307-3474 cell  
Email: [alaumeier@grdiocese.org](mailto:alaumeier@grdiocese.org)

**The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications issues the following statement from Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, bishop of Grand Rapids, regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*:**

"The United States Supreme Court's decision moves America one step closer to protecting human life from its earliest stages of existence. The Catholic Church remains committed to helping women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies. For every pregnant woman who may be unsure of what is next, the Catholic Church is here. We will continue to accompany and care for women in need of emotional, spiritual, or physical support and their child(ren), born and unborn. Support is available through Catholic Churches as well as other local organizations."

**A joint statement from the Catholic Bishops of Michigan follows:**

"Nearly fifty years after the unjust decision in *Roe v. Wade*, our country draws closer to a society that recognizes the God-given right of life for all persons, at any stage or in any condition. While today's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturns *Roe* is a cause for joy, we must remember that life is and always will be a gift from our Creator; it cannot be given or taken by governmental structures, judges, or elected officials.

We are saddened by the fear and anger that has reverberated across our land since a draft of this opinion was leaked to the public. In light of these concerns, we wish to make clear that no woman should face pregnancy alone. With safe-delivery laws, adoption, pregnancy resource centers, and assistance from Catholic and other agencies that provide necessities for mom and baby, every pregnant woman should know there is a community of compassion and support waiting to help her and her unborn or infant child. We empathize with women who struggle with daily challenges that may affect their decision to carry their baby to term: financial insecurity, food insecurity, medical care, lack of relationship and/or family support, coercion, and homelessness, just to name a few.

The pro-life movement must redouble its efforts to ensure every woman has the support she needs throughout her pregnancy and beyond, whether she chooses to parent or create an adoption plan. We affirm that the Church must prioritize this work, through our Catholic Charities and parish-based support networks, to meet the physical needs of mothers and children as well as offer the emotional support and love new mothers need. We also implore men to be respectful of women and responsible when they father a child. We are all called to walk with moms in need, and we encourage all Michiganders to join us in this effort.

Today's momentous decision would not have occurred without fifty years of prayer, action and witness from innumerable women and men who promote the sanctity of human life. These people of goodwill laid the foundation for a future of love, compassion, and support toward women and their unborn or newborn children. Though *Roe* is no longer relevant to abortion policy, we must remain vigilant against future attempts to promote



## DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

abortion as help for women, which in reality are attacks on human life itself. Some of those attacks have already started here in Michigan through the legislative process, at the ballot box and in the court room, signaling that the work to build up a social order that respects human life is not finished.

Let us, as the Body of Christ here on Earth, pray for all pregnant women and continue to proclaim that human life is sacred from conception to natural death and at every point in between, and to commit ourselves to building a society grounded in that essential God-given right.”

- **Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron**  
Archbishop of Detroit
- **Most Rev. Earl A. Boyea**  
Bishop of Lansing
- **Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley**  
Bishop of Kalamazoo
- **Most Rev. John F. Doerfler**  
Bishop of Marquette
- **Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss**  
Bishop of Saginaw
- **Most Rev. David J. Walkowiak**  
Bishop of Grand Rapids
- **Most Rev. Jeffrey J. Walsh**  
Bishop of Gaylord
- **Most Rev. Gerard W. Battersby**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit
- **Most Rev. Arturo Cepeda**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit
- **Most Rev. Robert J. Fisher**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit
- **Most Rev. Donald F. Hanchon**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit

### **Local resources:**

**Catholic Charities West Michigan:** [Pregnancy Support Services](#) | [Resources and support for moms and families](#)

**Pregnancy Support:** [HELP Pregnancy Aid](#) | [Pregnancy Resource Center – Grand Rapids](#) | [Alpha Grand Rapids](#)

**Baby and Toddler Pantries:** [Catholic Charities West Michigan](#) | [The Baby Pantry of Lowell](#)

**St. Mary Parish, Spring Lake:** [Medical/dental-Pregnancy Support-Food and Clothing-Housing](#)

**Infertility Support & Education:** [Franciscan Life Process Center](#)

**Healing after abortion:** [Project Rachel](#)



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 175,114 Catholics, 80 parishes and 31 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan. For additional information visit our website [grdiocese.org](http://grdiocese.org). Connect with the diocese on [Facebook](#) (Diocese of Grand Rapids), [Twitter](#) (@GRDiocese), and [Instagram](#) (@GRDiocese).*

###