



May 11, 2022

Dear Brothers,

There has been much public discourse surrounding the leak of a Supreme Court draft opinion in the matter of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which will be decided sometime before the end of June. Regardless of how the matter is finally decided, we can expect that the issuance of the opinion will draw intense media coverage and widespread attention.

While we have been praying in our parishes and schools ever since *Roe v. Wade* for the reversal of that decision, these next weeks are likely to be trying for many, including the faithful in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Now is a time to be true to the Gospel of Life in a determined yet calm way. While our broader society seems to be characterized by divisiveness and polarization, we must strive to stay above that. Let us try to listen to each other respectfully and be guided by God's will. There is no room for anger or violence. We must continue to cherish all of God's children, and we are called to continue to provide pastoral support to women and couples who experience challenging pregnancies.

I am happy to share a "[Dobbs Parish Leader Kit](#)" and a set of digital "[Dobbs Clergy Resources](#)" in the hope that they may help prepare you to be responsive to the questions and concerns that may arise in the coming months.

The parish leader kit is a *Dobbs*-focused special edition of the USCCB's monthly [Word of Life](#) parish resource which includes:

- Special feature section:
 - Suggested networks that parishioners can join:
 - State Level: [Minnesota Catholic Conference](#)
 - National Level: USCCB *Respect Life Prayer and Action*
 - Sign up link for *Word of Life* (to receive a similar package each month – not specifically focused on *Dobbs*)
 - Relevant websites:
 - *Walking with Moms in Need*
 - *Project Rachel Ministry* (Hope after Abortion)
 - *Respect Life*
 - *Pray for Dobbs*
- Intercessions/prayers

- Bulletin quotes/links to educational tools
- Graphics (for bulletins, websites, and newsletters)

On the local level, our Archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Life is always available to provide additional resources and assist in any way needed. Moreover, you may wish to contact any of the many parishes in our Archdiocese that participate in the *A Community Caring for Life* (ACCL) initiative. The Archdiocesan Office could provide you with a listing of those parishes. The print edition of *The Catholic Spirit* and thecatholicspirit.com are also great sources of local and national news and information.

I encourage you to meet with your leadership team and together decide how to best utilize these resources.

For your personal use, the “[Dobbs Clergy Resources](#)” also contains links to suggested talking points for homilies and other communications:

- Dobbs “[Top-Line Messaging](#)”
- Dobbs “[What to Say and How to Say It](#)”
- Dobbs “[Standing with Moms in Need](#),” A Joint Statement of USCCB Chairmen
- Project Rachel Ministry: “[General Homily Considerations for Healing after Abortion](#)”

I hope that you find this package of resources helpful, and I encourage you to continue to speak clearly and compassionately to the wide range of reactions that may emerge regarding the *Dobbs* decision.

Thank you again for your dedicated leadership. Please join me in praying for all affected by this upcoming court decision in our Church and our country.

With gratitude for your leadership, and with every personal best wish and prayer, I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ Bernard A. Hebda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis