



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

October 1/2, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Catholics, we are called to stand for and create a consistent ethic of life in our communities. This work has never been more important than now. Life is being threatened in our country from the moment of conception to natural death and at many points in between.

Next month Michigan voters have an important decision to make – one that could save the lives of countless unborn children. Proposal 3 would create a new right of abortion in the Michigan Constitution. It would allow abortion throughout pregnancy with no regulations, and with no limitations on who can obtain an abortion. Any person would be able to perform an abortion without any consequences. **You are urged to vote NO on Proposal 3.**

The Church not only opposes legislation that denies the inherent dignity of each person; she also works toward positive solutions. This is why parishes have taken up the “Walking with Moms in Need” initiative, which helps pregnant women choose life by providing education, essential supplies, and emotional and financial support to raise their children. Catholic Charities West Michigan gave away more than 10,000 diapers and provided counseling to 40 pregnant women free of charge in the last fiscal year so these moms could keep their babies. In addition to Catholic Charities, many Catholics support and volunteer at pregnancy resource centers throughout West Michigan.

Life from the moment of conception is inviolable, so we must uphold the dignity and value of every life to its natural end. This past month, we have joined Pope Francis in praying for the abolition of the death penalty. As the Holy Father reminds us, “...The death penalty is morally inadmissible, for it destroys the most important gift we have received: life.” (For the abolition of the death penalty, The Pope Video, September 2022)

During this Respect Life Month, let us reflect more deeply on why every human life is sacred. I invite you to visit the diocesan website (grdiocese.org) for more information on Proposal 3 and Respect Life Month resources to support your efforts. Saint Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids