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Bishop McClory Responds to U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Abortion

MERRILLVILLE – Bishop Robert J. McClory of the Diocese of Gary focused on advancing a “culture of life” in his response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.

“This is a landmark decision, answering many prayers in the ongoing effort to protect the sanctity of life from conception to natural death,” said Diocese of Gary Bishop Robert J. McClory in a statement issued just after the ruling was announced on June 24. “We are very encouraged by the decision, as it moves us forward in building a culture that respects and values all life.”

This federal ruling took the position that there is no U.S. Constitutional right to abortion. “This issue will now primarily be decided at the state level, with ongoing federal action as well,” the bishop noted. “Therefore, while we are grateful for this progress, we must remain steadfastly committed to cultivating communities that serve the needs of all people, especially the poor and vulnerable, those on the margins, and those facing extraordinary challenges,” the bishop continued.

“The Catholic Church is the largest private provider of social services in the U.S., with a long history of serving those in need. Local religious communities, pregnancy care centers, and parish social justice ministries collaborate with other agencies to care for those in need. As missionary disciples of Christ, we bear witness in word and deed to the value of every human life.

“A special report that is being produced by the Northwest Indiana Catholic newspaper details the ways our local Church supports women and families in need. You can find the report and additional stories as they become available on the diocesan website (dcgary.org).”

Bishop McClory focused on the diocesan commitment to embrace a culture of life. “In collaboration with local service agencies, we provide women, couples and families with resources to assist them when they are most vulnerable. We must put greater energy into advancing even more resources and alternatives to support women facing challenging pregnancies – both before and after birth.

“In this ongoing work, we must remain a people of peace and love. We will encounter many people who have differing opinions regarding the practice of abortion. Let us keep our focus on the Lord and our mission as disciples of Christ. We can and must respond to adversity with a gentle spirit, while we remain committed to serving others, as Jesus taught us.

“I am asking the faithful to use the momentum of this pivotal court decision to respond vigorously with prayer and action. As we continue to pray for change in our world, I encourage you to also ask, ‘What can I do to support women, couples and families facing challenging situations? What can I do to nurture a culture that respects and supports all life? How do my actions reflect the teachings of Christ, to ‘love one another as I have loved you?’

“We are thankful that the Constitution of the United States is no longer construed to give a right to take the life of an unborn human being. This is a milestone decision that brings great hope. Our challenge now is to redouble our efforts to serve our sisters and brothers in need at all stages of life.”

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The Diocese of Gary is home to an estimated 170,000 Catholics who are served through more than 60 parishes in Lake, Porter, LaPorte and Starke counties. The diocese is home to three high schools and 17 elementary schools.