



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

November 5, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are at a critical moment in the effort to foster a Culture of Life and build a Civilization of Love. It is a time of great opportunity to protect both the lives of unborn children as well as mothers and fathers from the inevitable emotional, psychological and spiritual scars of abortion.

Next June, the United States Supreme Court will issue a decision on a Mississippi Law that will hopefully allow States to provide greater protection to unborn children and their mothers from the abortion industry. Sadly, without the passage of the Value Them Both Amendment next August, a favorable decision by the Supreme Court regarding the Mississippi Law will not avail these important protections to Kansans.

Unfortunately, the number of abortions performed in Kansas increased by 9% last year. Pregnant women from other States are coming to Kansas for abortions. More than half of the abortions in Kansas are performed on children and women from other states. Kansas is becoming an abortion destination.

This is a result in large part to a Kansas Supreme Court decision two years ago that claimed to have discovered a right to abortion in the Kansas Constitution. In their 2019 decision, the Kansas Supreme Court actually stated that all current pro-life legislation in Kansas is now presumed unconstitutional. This opens the door for taxpayer funded abortion, the return of late term abortions, teens receiving abortions without parental knowledge – much less consent and women not receiving information about the physical, emotional and psychological risks from abortion.

Fortunately, there is hope. Earlier this year, the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives, by super majorities, approved placing the Value Them Both Amendment on the August 2, 2022 ballot. This amendment simply makes clear that there is no State constitutional right to abortion. The passage of the Value Them Both Amendment, next August, will return to the citizens of Kansas the ability to determine abortion public policy through their elected representatives and allow our current laws that limit and regulate the industry to remain in place.

Of course, the abortion industry is determined to preserve the highly profitable status quo of virtually unlimited and unregulated abortion in Kansas by defeating Value Them Both. The abortion industry will spend millions to fund a disinformation campaign on Value Them Both in an effort to confuse voters on August 2nd. They also have, as their allies, a compliant secular press that will assist them in their efforts to defeat Value Them Both.

Our Archdiocesan Respect Life efforts to educate Kansans about the human tragedy resulting from each and every abortion are more important now than ever. It is crucial for the Archdiocese to increase its educational efforts within the Church as well as to the wider community.

At the same time, our Church needs to increase our efforts to surround every mother experiencing a difficult or untimely pregnancy with material and emotional support. The successful implementation in Kansas of the national initiative, Walking with Moms in Need, is critical. The abortion industry pits the life of a child against the welfare of the mother. In reality, the health and welfare of both mother and child are intimately connected. It is important for the Church to increase and expand our efforts of support for pregnant mothers so that not only will mother and child survive, but thrive. Pope Francis reminds us that our parishes are called to be “islands of mercy” amongst a sea of indifference.

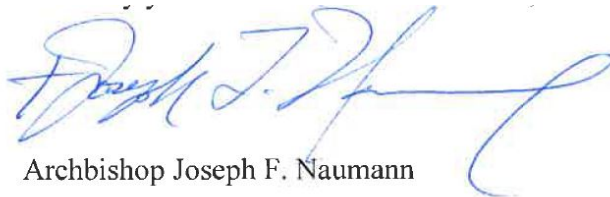
With the issue of abortion prominent in public discourse, the grief and guilt of those who chose abortion, often under enormous pressure from others, but now deeply regret their decision, will likely be intensified. It is critical that we expand our post-abortion ministries, providing hope and healing to those scarred by abortion.

Our concern for children is not just while they are in their mother’s womb or shortly after birth. The need for more foster care parents in Kansas is particularly acute. Our Archdiocesan foster care program is helping connect couples with children in need of a home, as well as providing parish and community support for those accepting the call to be foster parents. We also hope to increase our foster care initiative.

Do we want Kansas to become an abortion haven or a model of a Culture of Life? I ask first for your prayers for our Respect Life efforts. Secondly, I ask you to consider making a donation to our Respect Life ministries. You can make your gift online at archkck.org/respect-life/ or in the enclosed envelope.

Kansas is at a crossroads. With your generous support, we can make Kansas a place of hope where mothers and children are cherished and protected rather than an abortion destination.

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,



Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann