

The Lord of Life, and the April 1st Election

It is ironic that this is appearing on the threshold of the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25), the day we recall the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary: “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Immanuel.” Yes, in his Incarnation, Jesus embraced our humanity to the point of spending nine months growing as a dependent, preborn child in the womb of Mary.

The irony is that just days from now, on Tuesday, April 1, a state election will take place which may be decisive for the life or death of thousands of other preborn children in Wisconsin for many years to come. Every one of those babies is a child of God and a brother or sister in Christ.

The situation is this: Two crucial cases are currently waiting to be decided by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. One challenges the 1849 state law that prohibits abortion except to save the life of the mother. The other, filed by Planned Parenthood, seeks to find a right to abortion in the Wisconsin State Constitution.

The reason the April 1 election is so important is that it is predicted to swing the ideological balance of the State Supreme Court one way or the other, making it likely decisive for the life-and-death issue of abortion. The responsibility of Catholics is to learn about the candidates and to vote with well-formed consciences on Tuesday, April 1. The Church’s responsibility is to highlight the moral principles at stake, and to note that without the God-given right to life, all other rights are meaningless – which is why the U.S. Bishops consistently call this the preeminent issue among all others.

Of course, besides defending the lives of children in the womb, the Church also calls us to show love and support to women facing pregnancy in difficult circumstances. Indeed, there are more than eighty pregnancy resource centers throughout Wisconsin, ready to welcome expectant mothers – and fathers – with open arms and compassion, and to assist them with any needs they may have. Visit crisispregnancies.org or 123givelife.com to find one by location, or visit diolc.org/respect-life for a listing of centers in the Diocese of La Crosse. No one needs to face the challenges of a difficult pregnancy alone.

To learn about the Wisconsin Supreme Court candidates, and other candidates for state and local office in this election, visit diolc.org/social-concerns for links to a variety of resources, or scan the QR code below.



Christopher Ruff
Director of the Office for Ministries & Social Concerns
Diocese of La Crosse



The Diocese of La Crosse does not endorse candidates or parties, but wishes to lend its voice in forming consciences for faithful citizenship.