



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE  
OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

## **DioLC Statement on the Wisconsin Supreme Court Decision Striking Down the 1849 Abortion Law**

**La Crosse, WI.** The Diocese of La Crosse grieves today's decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to strike down the 1849 law protecting unborn children from abortion. This ruling is a chilling and horrendous step backward for our state, a grave affront to the inherent dignity of human life.

Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, over 64 million lives have been ended by abortion in the United States alone. In Wisconsin, there were approximately 6,500 abortions per year before the 2022 *Dobbs* decision temporarily reduced those numbers. Each of these lives represents an unrepeatable gift. Each life is a son or daughter created in the image of God.

Rooted in Christ and His Gospel of life, the Catholic Church must speak. We do so definitively and with conviction: abortion is evil. It is not a mere political issue. It is a profound moral failure. A court case was decided today, but with it, thousands of lives in the state of Wisconsin will now be lost every year.

We do not turn away from the real hardships and fears that many mothers face. The Catholic Church stands ready to walk with every woman who feels alone, afraid or pressured. We reject the lie that abortion is an act of empowerment; rather, it is a tragic wound that harms both mother and child. Love and support, not violence, are the answer to crisis pregnancies.

As Catholics, we hold that from the moment of conception to natural death, every human life is sacred and must be protected. Pope Francis warned us against a "throwaway culture," and today, we see the tragic consequences of such a mentality, which discards the smallest and most vulnerable among us as disposable commodities.

This is not the first time we have seen this Wisconsin Supreme Court display a troubling logic that reduces matters of profound moral weight to technical or political questions. Last year, this same court ruled that Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Superior was not providing "religious" services — a decision so wantonly askew that it was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 9-0 vote.

We highlight this pattern not merely to criticize a single court decision, but to illustrate a deeper mindset that underlies such rulings — a mindset that cheapens life, divides faith from moral action and treats truth as a disposable commodity. In both the abortion decision and the case involving Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Superior, we see the consequences of a culture that seeks to confine faith to private sentiment and denies its voice in matters of life and death.

As Catholics, we cannot remain silent or passive in the face of such a grave reduction. This is not merely a diminishment of faith; it is the erasure of the sanctity of life itself, made possible by a society blind to our shared moral calling to protect the most vulnerable among us.

In response, we urge every Catholic to act in ways that directly confront this cultural and judicial erosion: support your local pregnancy resource center, contact your legislators and urge them to enact laws that protect life at every stage, vote for judges and legislators who defend life, pray and fast for an end to abortion, accompany mothers in crisis pregnancies with practical help and friendship and support ministries like Catholic Charities and Birthright.

We encourage women facing difficult pregnancies to reach out to the organizations below—all of which are committed to walking alongside the mother. They provide tangible help (diapers, housing referrals, financial aid), emotional support and community connection, rooted in love and the dignity of every person.

*Pregnant and in distress?*

- Call Catholic Charities 24/7 at (844) 644-7223 or text (715) 600-6391.
- To learn more, visit [cclse.org/i-think-im-pregnant/](https://cclse.org/i-think-im-pregnant/)
- Additional pregnancy support resources and locations: [diolc.org/pregnancy-resources](https://diolc.org/pregnancy-resources).

*For post-abortion assistance and healing*

- Rachel's Vineyard: (877) 467-3463 — [rachelsvineyard.org/](https://rachelsvineyard.org/)
- Project Rachel: (608) 860-6698 — [hopeafterabortion.com/](https://hopeafterabortion.com/)

Visit [diolc.org/respect-life](https://diolc.org/respect-life) for more information or call the Diocese of La Crosse Office for Social Concerns at (608) 791-0161.

We are called not only to speak, but to move—to build a culture of life through concrete, sacrificial love.

For further inquiries, please contact:

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