



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Jesus said: *"I have come so that they might have life, and have it more abundantly....I am the Good Shepherd; I know mine and mine know Me."*(Jn.10:10,14)

"Do not conform yourselves to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may discern what is the will of God." (Rom.12:2)

September 21, 2022
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As People of Faith, we know first-hand that the "ways of the world" in which we live are not always consistent with the "ways of God"; more often than not, they contradict God's ways. Jesus has come into the world to save the world from sin, and to lead us to *"the more abundant life"* of Eternal Salvation.

In Michigan, we are faced with making a very significant decision as we approach the November elections and must consider what is known as "Proposal 3-Reproductive Freedom for All", a Ballot Initiative to amend the State Constitution. While it is being presented by its proponents as enshrining access to abortion as a constitutional right, which would be immoral, "Proposal 3" would do so much more than that. It would allow for abortions, the killing of an unborn baby in his/her mother's womb, any time (up to the time of delivery), anywhere, for anyone (including minors, since there are no age limitations on "every individual"), by anyone, for any reason. In addition, the proposed amendment defines this constitutional right of "reproductive freedom for all" as "all matters relating to pregnancy, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion care, miscarriage management, and infertility care." It will likely also overturn laws requiring parental consent for medical treatment of a minor, the informed consent of the women having the abortion, clinic safety and health regulations, will remove the requirement that a doctor be the one to perform an abortion, and will allow taxpayer funding of abortions.

If this Constitutional Amendment is successful, Michigan would have the most extreme anti-life position in the country, and, indeed, most of the world. This is not only a contradiction of God's ways; it's an assault on the precious Gift of Human Life which comes from God, Who alone determines when life begins and ends. I want to make very clear that contrary to popular and mass media claims, this is **not a partisan issue; rather, this is clearly the most significant moral issue of our day.**

I have asked our priests and deacons to provide educational information and other helpful resources to you over these next seven weeks leading up to the election on November 8, 2022. I also urge all our Faithful to become as informed as you can be about the grave implications of "Proposal 3", if passed. I urge all of us to pray fervently, so that we can remember the basic tenet of our Faith that God is the Author of all Life, and that His Son Jesus has come to bring us into the *"fullness of Life"*.

At this critical time, let us stand up for Life; let us protect every human life, from the moment of conception until natural death, and at every point in between. Let us unify in prayer and fasting for an end to all misguided efforts to think that we have a right to destroy those whom God has created in His image. Let us pray that God's Holy Spirit will *"renew our minds"*, so that we *"may discern what is the will of God."*

Guided by our Faith, and united in the Truth that every human life is sacred, please **"Vote 'No' on Proposal 3"**.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo