

The Pending *Dobbs* Decision — *How is a Catholic to Respond?*

The leaked draft of the pending U.S. Supreme Court case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* has returned the abortion debate to center stage in our already polarized culture. Despite the media frenzy and political posturing there are many important things we can do as people of faith by focusing on the needs of women and their children:

✝ **Pray!** Pray for the day when every unborn child is protected and every mother is supported.

✝ **Support Women in Need through Catholic Charities:** The majority of those served by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Youngstown are women and children. For instance, last year Catholic Charities’ *First Step* programs provided formula, diapers, wipes and other essential baby items to 2,971 low-income people who looked to the church in their time of need.

✝ **Act on behalf of Moms in Need:** Parishioners can play a critical role in strengthening the connection between women in need and resources available. One approach to helping pregnant and parenting women is *Walking with Moms in Need*. To learn more, contact 330-744-8451 ext.272 or dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org.

✝ **Healing for Those Suffering After Abortion:** Project Rachel of Northeast Ohio, a ministry of the Diocese of Youngstown, provides help with post-abortion reconciliation and spiritual healing. If you know someone who may benefit from this ministry call or text 330-360-0430.

A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God’s love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

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