



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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***Dobbs* Clergy Resources**

Tools for Clergy and Suggestions for Use in Preparation for the U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization

Word of Life: Special Edition

- **What it is:** The *Word of Life* is a monthly parish resource, available in both English and Spanish, that is accessible online and via an email subscription. Each month’s edition contains a special feature section highlighting resources appropriate for the given month, intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful, links to prayers and educational resources, and quotes and graphics for bulletins, websites, and social media. [This special edition “parish leader kit”](#) is not month-specific and is dedicated to providing resources to use leading up to and after the *Dobbs* decision.
- **What to do with it:** Share it with your parish team (administrative support staff, bulletin editor, liturgical coordinator, and Respect Life ministry volunteers). Ask them to incorporate the various elements in the Prayer of the Faithful, parish bulletin, newsletters, website, social media, etc.

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization: Top-Line Messaging

- **What it is:** Based on recent communications research, [this one-page document](#) contains effective messaging points to reach Catholics “in the pews” with positive themes about the Church’s compassion for moms in need and resources to help them. Coming from a pastoral and right-brain approach, these kinds of messages can be helpful in reaching parishioners who may be less open to the Church’s teaching. The themes and points provide a more accessible point of entry to understanding the sanctity of human life and help raise awareness of the Church’s commitment to authentic, tangible compassion and support.
- **What to do with it:** Use this for your personal reflection. These points can be helpful as reference or to weave into homilies or other pastoral communications. According to your discretion, share this document with the leaders of your parish’s Respect Life ministry for their own formation and personal reflection.

Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization: “What to Say & How to Say It”

- **What it is:** Coming more from a left-brain, factual perspective, [this six-page document](#) offers footnoted answers to the difficult questions that are anticipated leading up to and following the *Dobbs* decision.
- **What to do with it:** Use this for your personal reflection. These points can be helpful as reference or could be woven into daily homilies. According to your discretion, share this

document with the leaders of your parish's Respect Life ministry for their own formation and personal reflection.

“Standing with Moms in Need,” A Joint Statement of USCCB Chairmen

- **What it is:** Informed by recent communications research and jointly issued by Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the USCCB, and chairmen of USCCB committees serving women and families, [this two-page proclamation](#) provides a pastoral vision of the Church's commitment to “Stand with Moms in Need.”
- **What to do with it:** Use this for your personal reflection. These points can be helpful as reference or could be woven into homilies or other pastoral communications. Share this document with the leaders of your parish's Respect Life ministry for their own formation and personal reflection.

Project Rachel Ministry “General Homily Considerations for Healing After Abortion”

- **What it is:** While many parishioners are aware that the Church teaches that abortion is wrong, fewer know of the Church's message that forgiveness and healing are available to every repentant heart. Encouragingly, parishioners welcome hearing of pastoral efforts like Project Rachel Ministry, the diocesan abortion healing ministry of the Church in the United States. When a homilist is considering touching on the issue of abortion, [this two-page document](#) provides approaches to sharing the pastoral message of forgiveness, mercy, and healing. Many in the pews have been longing/waiting to hear such a message.
- **What to do with it:** Use this for your personal reflection and reference for your homilies. Remember that every homily that mentions abortion should include the message that forgiveness, hope and healing after involvement with an abortion are available to every repentant heart.