

To: Bishop Dendinger, Priests & Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Grand Island
From: Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt
Re: Bishop's response to the United States Supreme Court Decision in the Case of
Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

Bishop Hanefeldt issued this statement on Friday and has asked that it be read at all Masses in the Diocese this weekend.

Today there is new hope for the unborn in this country. There is new hope for their mothers and fathers, that they might accept the amazing gift of life they have created. Today there is new hope for humanity, that each unborn person may be given the chance to enrich our lives with their unique gifts. Today the Supreme Court has taken an important step in bringing respect for all human life back to this country.

The generous work of all who believe in the sanctity of human life must continue, as before, with ever greater mercy and compassion. While there are numerous pregnancy care centers throughout this country – and parishes, organizations and individuals who serve them – we must become ever more responsive to the practical needs of those who find themselves with an unwanted pregnancy. In this way, the choice for life can be made more confidently, and the trauma of an abortion experience and its aftermath can be avoided.

Every baptized person must be a true servant of life! As disciples of Jesus, who came “that we might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10), we must always be generous servants of life! Serve the lives of others right where you are! Support the choice for life not only before birth, but after the birth of a child, as well!

In a particular way, let us pray for the conversion of those who believe that destroying life through abortion should ever be an option. Likewise, let us pray for the ongoing healing of those whose lives have been destroyed because of an abortion experience. To them, let us be ambassadors of hope in God, who is rich mercy.

Let us mark this historic day by renewing our esteem for *all* human life: embryos already created in labs, the unborn in the womb, those with special needs, the abandoned or marginalized, the mentally ill, the terminally ill and all those who live with great suffering. Let us remember the words of Jesus who said, “*whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.*” (Matthew 25:40)