



OFFICE of the BISHOP

May 12, 2022

“We are fragile beings, but we know how to pray: this is our greatest dignity and it is also our strength” Pope Francis, [General Audience, Feb. 10, 2021](#).

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may have heard on the news that some abortion advocates are calling for nationwide demonstrations, disruptions of church services, and the personal intimidation of specific Supreme Court justices in response to the leak of a draft opinion in the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, invite the faithful to unite in fasting and prayer.

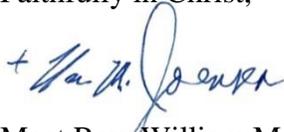
“In the midst of current tensions, we invite Catholics around the country to join us in fasting and praying the Rosary on Friday, May 13, the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima,” they urge. “Let us offer our prayers and fasting for these intentions:

- For our nation, for the integrity of our judicial system, and that all branches of government be dedicated to seeking the common good and protecting the dignity and rights of the human person, from conception to natural death.
- For the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in the Supreme Court’s final decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*.
- For the conversion of the hearts and minds of those who advocate for abortion.
- For a new commitment to building an America where children are welcomed, cherished, and cared for; where mothers and fathers are encouraged and strengthened; and where marriage and the family are recognized and supported as the true foundations of a healthy and flourishing society.
- For Our Blessed Mother’s intercession and guidance as the Church continues to walk with mothers and families in need, and continues to promote alternatives to abortion, and seeks to create a culture of life.”

Archbishops Gomez and Lori continue: “As Catholics, let us witness to the beautiful gift of life with civility and love, and with our peaceful prayers and our compassionate service to all those in need. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.”

I encourage the faithful in the Diocese of Des Moines to join in this nationwide day of fasting and prayer. I also encourage the people of the Diocese to pray that, through the Holy Spirit, there will be conversion of hearts. As Pope Francis said, “Prayer is what opens the door to the Holy Spirit, who inspires progress” ([General Audience, April 14, 2021](#)). Come, Holy Spirit, and enkindle in us the fire of love for all human life!

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wm. M. Joensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.  
Bishop of Des Moines