



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 30, 2022

Supreme Court overturns *Roe* in anticipated *Dobbs* decision



In a 5-4 decision June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its nearly 50-year-old decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion in this country.

The court's 213-page ruling in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* was not totally unexpected due to the leak of an opinion draft a month earlier. The ruling emphasizes that there is no constitutional right to abortion in the United States.

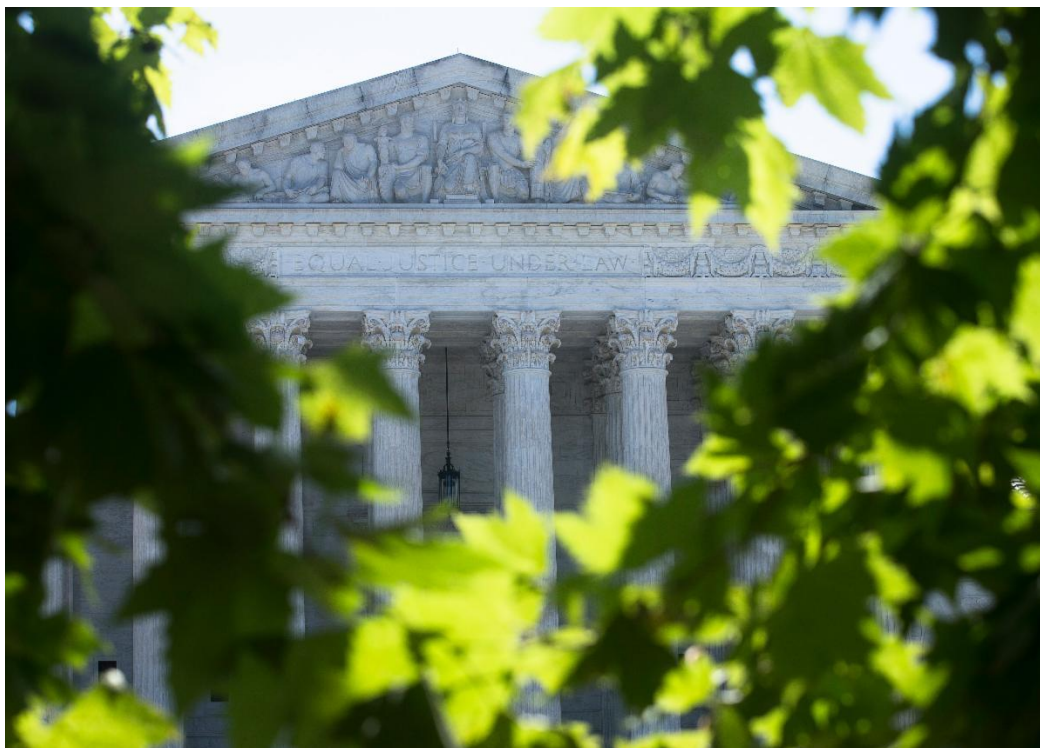
The *Dobbs* case focused on an abortion clinic in Mississippi opposed to the state's law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The court's reversal of its long-standing abortion ruling brings abortion policy decisions to the state level. At least half of states plan to ban or restrict abortions with this decision in place.

"We hold that *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the court's opinion. *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* is the 1992 decision that affirmed *Roe*.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Statement of Bishop Joseph C. Bambera on *Dobbs* decision



"One of the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church is that all human life is sacred – from the moment of conception until natural death – and it must be respected and protected. In its opinion for *Dobbs v.*

Jackson Women's Health Organization, issued on Friday, June 24, 2022, I am thankful that the majority of Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court have recognized and upheld the sanctity of human life.

"For Catholics, respecting life, especially the unborn, is intrinsic to our identity as people of faith. While political and ideological divisions often drive us apart, we must remember that the Sacred Scriptures call us to be one, reverencing every life that comes into our world. It is critical to note, however, that valuing human life is not simply confined to life in the womb. We must never dismiss or ignore our responsibility to care for, protect and defend our brothers and sisters from other serious threats to human life, including poverty, racism and oppression.

"While already the largest private provider of social services in the United States, the Catholic Church must redouble its efforts and always stand ready to assist young women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies. Everyone in our Diocese and parishes should be familiar with ways to help mothers in difficult circumstances. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops recently launched its "Walking with Moms in Need" initiative to continue building relationships with community resources and make sure people in all parish communities know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

"Our diocese is blessed to have many parishes filled with faithful people who regularly donate diapers, clothing, money and other resources to help expectant mothers each year. On the diocesan level, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton provides educational, emotional and material support to expectant parents and operates Shepherd's Maternity House in East Stroudsburg which provides housing, care and assistance for pregnant women and their newborn babies. Along with so many other community agencies and programs, including, but not limited to, Saint Joseph's Center, Rachel's Vineyard and the Pennsylvanians for Human Life, any mother needing assistance can receive life-affirming support.

"As we strive to build a true culture of life in our nation, the Gospel of Matthew reminds us that our welcome into God's eternity will be determined by our willingness to reverence, respect and serve the most vulnerable among us in whom Christ is present: 'Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me'" (Matthew 18:5).

[Read and Share Bishop Bambera's Statement from the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Jubilation greets monumental Supreme Court abortion ruling



It was a win for the ages...and the “pre-ages.”

Pro-life perseverance and patience paid off on June 24, 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* that virtually erased and rendered mute the Court’s landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion on demand in America.

Catholics throughout the Diocese of Scranton were quick to note the high court’s reversal on the abortion issue was the answer to a half-century of prayers, coming— “God-incidentally” — on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the birth date of the late Nellie Gray, foundress of the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., and the first to coin the term “pro-life.”

Maryann Lawhon, president of the Hazleton Area Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL), witnessed firsthand the horrors of legalized abortion in 1977, when as a young nurse working in the obstetrics unit of a West Virginia hospital she stumbled upon an abandoned newborn — completely unaware the Supreme Court’s *Roe* decision made the atrocity lawful.

After being reprimanded for bringing the revelation to the staff's attention, and against instruction to "do nothing," she held the infant, baptized him and declared, "I name you John. I will tell the world what I saw here today. I will be your voice."

[Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Diocesan Office for Parish Life launching new Evangelization effort



If we want to be effective in leading people to a life-giving relationship with Christ, we need to be formed and trained in how to do it.

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life is inviting everyone (both individuals and parish groups) to participate in an exciting program at the end of July.

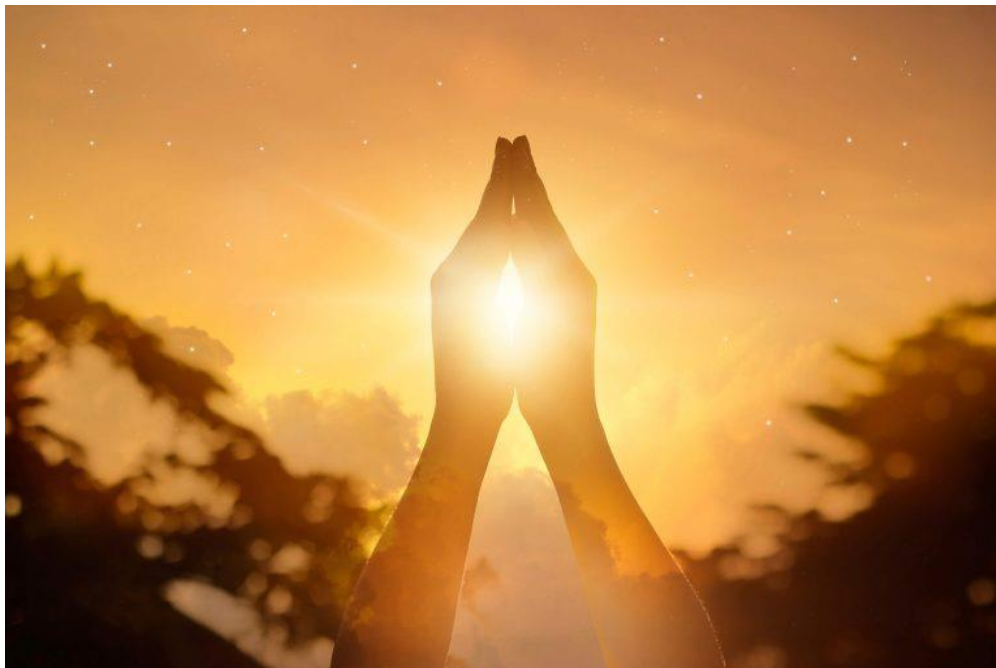
"relit: The Heart of Evangelization" is an integrated set of talks which will form you theologically, spiritually and practically to be an active evangelist in the Church. "relit" will not only renew your personal call as a Catholic but will also equip you to support your parish in leading others to renewal in the Holy Spirit.

Presenter Michael Dopp, founder of Mission of the Redeemer Ministries and the New Evangelization Summit, will teach all who attend practical approaches to effectively lead individuals closer to Christ on July 29-30, 2022 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

Everyone who attends will be invited to unleash their parish's potential by learning how to take the good work that is already being done and discover how to be more effective!

[For More Information on "relit" or to Register Now](#)

Diocese of Scranton's Annual Mass of Remembrance to be held July 28



The Diocese of Scranton's annual Mass of Remembrance will take place on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

This Mass is offered for family and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, accident and from COVID-19.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant of the Mass.

To register the name of your loved one for this liturgy by July 22, please contact the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213, or use the online registration form in the link below.

[To Register the Name of Your Loved One for the Annual Mass of Remembrance](#)

Catholics need better understanding of the Mass, pope says



The “sense of mystery” and awe Catholics should experience at Mass is not one prompted by Latin or by “creative” elements added to the celebration, but by an awareness of sacrifice of Christ and his real presence in the Eucharist, Pope Francis said.

“Beauty, just like truth, always engenders wonder, and when these are referred to the mystery of God, they lead to adoration,” he wrote in an apostolic letter “on the liturgical formation of the people of God.”

Titled “Desiderio Desideravi” (“I have earnestly desired”), the letter was released June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. The title comes from Luke 22:15 when, before the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

In the letter, Pope Francis insisted that Catholics need to better understand the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council and its goal of promoting the “full, conscious, active and fruitful celebration” of the Mass.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Bishop Bambara announces Clergy Appointments



On June 29, 2022, His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambara, announced several clergy appointments, including appointments for some permanent deacons.

[View the Clergy Appointments Announced June 29, 2022](#)

Summer picnics and festivals are underway!



Parishes across the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton are busy holding parish festivals, bazaars and other popular summertime events.

To help parishes publicize their events, the Diocese of Scranton has once again established a dedicated landing page on the Diocesan website to help promote events around the region.

Whether you are looking for delicious ethnic food - or simply crave the community and fellowship that these summertime events bring - this is the perfect place for you to check out all of the fun that is being planned.

The listing is constantly updated as parishes provide information to the Diocese of Scranton Communications Office.

[Visit the 2022 Summer Picnics, Festivals, Bazaars and Events Page](#)

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