

CHURCH CONNECTION

JANUARY 2023



PROTECTING THE GIFT OF LIFE

Friday, June 24, 2022. This day will be for many of us one of the memorable days of our lives. On this date the US Supreme Court ended a 50-year reign of terror on unborn children.

Nationally and in our state, we are turning a page on the abortion issue. All you have to do is read the last few lines on the first page of the two-hundred-plus page opinion to know the essence of what the court decided: *“Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.”*¹

Those are thirty powerful, long-awaited words—and we praise God for His goodness and grace in giving us this decision. But let’s be clear. God didn’t owe us this right opinion. It’s not as if nationally we’ve experienced a revival and are at a point where we can say that righteousness is exalting us. That’s just not true. So, we must be careful to acknowledge the goodness of God in this moment—and we also need to be good stewards of what we have been given.

To clarify, overruling *Roe* and the 1992 *Casey* decision that affirmed a woman’s so-called “right to an abortion,” means that each state now must deal with the issue which was the case before the Supreme Court concocted a “right” to abortion in 1973.

Wisconsin has a pre-*Roe* law on the books. Ours dates back to 1849, one year after we became a state. This law criminalizes most abortions in our state, with one exception—

1 https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf (accessed June 26, 2022)

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Mark Your Calendar!

**Monday, January 16,
Religious Freedom Day**

**Sunday, January 22,
Sanctity of Life Sunday**

We encourage everyone to do something this month to celebrate God’s good gift of life and also the wonderful gift of religious liberty afforded us by the First Amendment in our Constitution.

Pro-life resources are readily available on many websites, including our own at wifamilycouncil.org/topical-resources.

For a helpful pdf booklet about Religious Liberty Day, visit gogateways.org/religious-freedom-day.



**STRENGTHENING,
PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...”

|| Timothy 1:7-8a

the “life of the mother,” which isn’t clearly defined in the law. For many years, pro-life citizens and organizations have worked hard to keep this law on the books for such a time as this.



Nothing prevents this law from right now being enforceable. Apparently, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin also believes that because within hours of the decision being released, the state’s largest abortion provider quit doing abortions at its three surgical abortion-providing facilities.

But nothing about this issue is simple, largely because of entrenched worldviews and political aspirations. Months ago, Wisconsin’s Attorney General announced he would not enforce the law if *Roe* were overturned and has reiterated that position. Additionally, a number of county district attorneys have said they won’t bring charges against someone who violates the law. Our governor has also announced that he will give clemency to any doctor charged with breaking the 173-year-old law, which means, in essence, he’s pardoning criminals in advance of their being sentenced. Enforcement of this abortion ban is clearly not a given.

Pro-abortionists used the overturning of *Roe* to energize their base for the mid-term elections. Their goal is to eliminate every abortion regulation we have—24-hour waiting period, woman’s right to know, twenty-week abortion ban, ultrasound requirement, telemed ban and more. The next best opportunity pro-abortion advocates have to overturn existing abortion prohibitions in our state would be to flip the Wisconsin Supreme Court from a conservative majority to a liberal majority. This is just one of the reasons why the upcoming election of a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice in April is being widely watched here and across the country.

We can remain a state where human life is protected. But it will take commitment and work, and we will each have to decide if keeping abortion illegal in our state is worth the effort. We’ve been given a gift; now we must protect it.

THE IMAGO DEI

The Latin phrase *imago Dei* is often used to refer to the image of God. Every human being is an image-bearer. We bear the image of the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (Gen. 1:27). This is what gives every human being inestimable worth and dignity. This is why the taking of human life is such an egregious sin (cf. Gen. 9:6). It is also why every human, regardless of race or birthplace, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect (cf. Acts 17:26-28). May God help us as His people to do our part to promote the dignity of and respect for all human life.

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers, and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God’s plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

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