



Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Missouri has strong pro-life laws protecting preborn children from harm or death, and women and families from the deeply emotional, spiritual, and physical wounds of abortion. On November 5, you will be asked to vote on Amendment 3 which aims to strip away these protections and enshrine an absolute right to abortion in our Missouri state constitution.

There are many alarming consequences to this extreme amendment, including:

- **abortions for any reason before viability** (usually in the sixth month of pregnancy) **even when a preborn child is old enough to feel pain**, resulting in extremely late-term surgical abortions;
- **no parental notification or consent** for any reproductive healthcare decisions;
- **new health risks for women** - any “health care professional” could legally perform an abortion including a nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist, or pharmacist;
- **no civil or criminal recourse** against negligence resulting in harm or death of a mother receiving reproductive healthcare or a wanted child during delivery;
- an open door to **force taxpayer funding of abortion**, as is now happening in Michigan.

The full amendment can be read here: sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Elections/Petitions/2024-086.pdf

So, what can you do?

Pray

I believe the magnitude and gravity of the current moment requires a fervent spiritual response. For, to be honest, the present odds appear to favor the culture of death. Go to Mass and pray that God will save Missouri; pray the Rosary daily through November 5; invoke the intercession of St. Joseph who protected the infant Christ against the wickedness of Herod, and if you're able, practice fasting on Fridays.

Vote

I am urging you to **vote “no” on Amendment 3** so that women and preborn babies continue to be protected in Missouri from the trauma of abortion and that Missourians will not surrender their rights. Share the facts about this alarming amendment with others.

Safeguard Them Both

Join these ministries and programs to redouble efforts to give women control and real choices.

- If you have lost a child to abortion, come for mercy and healing. hopeafterabortion.org
- Share your maternal experience by mentoring a young mother through Gabriel Project. gabrielprojectkc.org
- Share your time, talent and treasure with a pregnancy resource center. Find one near you at lifeandjusticekcsj.org.
- Support Catholic Charities' Mom's Empowerment Program. Learn more at catholiccharities-kcsj.org.

As Catholics we must renew and add to the ways we support women and families experiencing an unexpected pregnancy or difficult diagnosis and their preborn babies through supportive care and love. This is the best response to what Pope Francis has called the “throwaway culture.” I hope we can all respond to this gathering storm with prayer and action, aided by the help of Our Lady and the grace of Our Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph at The Catholic Center

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