

Family & ProLife News Briefs

July 2022

Roe v. Wade Overturned: Behind the Headlines

Why This Decision?

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision on June 24 in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, returned the question of abortion policy to the states and to the people's elected representatives. Here's why:

- **Abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution**, nor, Alito's opinion says, is such a right implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Supreme Court precedent had held that any right not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution must be "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition" and "implicit in the concept of ordered liberty. The right to abortion does not fall within this category."
- Abortion is "fundamentally different" than issues of related court decisions---it involves the **taking of a life**.
- By preventing the people's elected representatives at the state and local levels from regulating abortion, the court argues that women's voices, both pro- and anti-abortion, were silenced under *Roe*.
- *Roe* was egregiously wrong, its reasoning exceptionally weak. "Far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, *Roe* and *Casey* have enflamed debate & deepened division," said the decision.
- State consensus on abortion existed before *Roe*. Three quarters of the States had made abortion a crime at all stages of pregnancy.
- "This Court's inability to end debate on the issue should not have been surprising. This Court cannot bring about the permanent resolution of a **rancorous national controversy** simply by dictating a settlement and telling the people to move on." [Jonah McKeown, Catholic News Agency, 6/25/22]

US Bishops React: Women Need Support

Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, the U.S. Bishops' Conference Pro-Life Committee chair said. "It's a day that many people have worked and prayed very hard for, and it is a day in which we will redouble our efforts to create a just and compassionate society where **no mother has to choose between her child and her future**." In a statement with USCCB president Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, Lori proclaimed that it is a "time for healing wounds and repairing social divisions; it is time for reasoned reflection and civil dialogue and for coming together to build a society and economy that **supports marriages and families**, and where every woman has the support and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love."

Other cardinals and bishops spoke out, many emphasizing the need to make sure the full range of life issues

are adequately addressed, **showing mercy to anyone who has received or participated in an abortion**, and make sure other life needs – healthcare, affordable housing, good jobs and decent housing among them – are taken care of for all people. As Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy of San Diego put it: "In many ways, our work has just begun."

Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver said in a statement: "We must continue to lovingly speak the truth about the God-given **dignity of every unique human life** from conception until natural death, and we must increase our support for archdiocesan and parish ministries that offer authentically compassionate care for women, their babies, and their families."

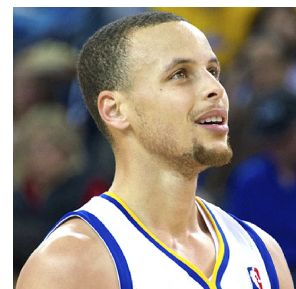
Lori noted that even though abortion law has gone to the states, the bishops conference is still an important national voice because key elected leaders will want to ensure the right to an abortion at the federal level. "We cannot rule out the possibility of renewed attempts at federal legislation, executive orders & other measures, which we may face in the short term," the archbishop said. [John Lavenburg, <https://cruxnow.com>, 6/25/22]

NBA Champ Curry Almost Aborted

Sonya Curry has a reputation for enthusiastically cheering for her son, NBA Golden State Warriors champion Stephen Curry, from the stands. But in her new memoir, *Fierce Love: A Memoir of Family, Faith, and Purpose*, she admitted that she nearly missed out on that joy because she almost aborted her son, according to *The Christian Post*.

Growing up poor, Sonya Curry said she was determined to rise above her circumstances and succeed. In college, she worked hard to make the most of her education and competed with the school volleyball team. Then, she discovered she was pregnant. Curry said she did not want to quit college & fall back into poverty, and she didn't know if baby's father would be supportive.

Curry decided to have an abortion & scheduled an appointment at a Planned Parenthood in Virginia. In the parking lot, she sat in the car, hesitant to walk inside; she said her heart changed about her unborn child and she eventually drove away. But she had to quit college, and, later as a young mother, she continuously doubted her mothering abilities. Curry said her faith in Christ grew during those difficult times, and now she is passionate about sharing it with others. Her son, Stephen, also is widely known for his Christian faith. [Micaiah Bilger, *LifeNews.com*, 6/21/22]



Violence is Not a Solution

Catholic churches, crisis pregnancy centers, and other pro-life groups have been on heightened alert in response to threats of retaliatory attacks by pro-abortion activists.

- Radical, pro-abortion terrorists firebombed a pro-life women's clinic in Buffalo, NY.
- In Gresham, Oregon, a suspicious fire at a Christian pregnancy center is being investigated for arson.
- A suspect was charged for the attempted assassination of Supreme Court justice Brett Kavanaugh.
- In May, a radical abortion group firebombed a pro-life organization in Madison, Wis. Spray painted on the wall was "If abortions aren't safe, then you aren't either."
- An Asheville, North Carolina, pregnancy center was defaced with a similar message.
- In Washington, D.C., a crisis pregnancy center near the U.S. Capitol was hit with vandalism.
- In Lynnwood, Washington, threatening messages were spray-painted at the Next Step Pregnancy Center. The suspects in the attack also threw rocks at the building, shattering several windows.
- A Colorado pregnancy help center, Life Choices, sustained fire and heavy smoke damage on Saturday, June 25. The front of the building also was defaced with pro-abortion slogans.

Gloria Purvis, host of "The Gloria Purvis Podcast" emphasized that Black women "don't want abortion as a solution to a crisis pregnancy, they want help with the things that made it a crisis." She also wants to see the abortion conversation also focus on **young men**, & the responsibility they have towards the women they impregnate & the children that result.

Messaging About Life

In an opinion piece in the *Wall Street Jnl.* (6/28/22), Gerard Baker urges pro-lifers to stay the course: "It will and should take time to persuade a country shaped by half a century of *Roe*. But by reasserting the constitutional order, the court has given them the opportunity, the responsibility, to renew the culture of life."

In the same edition, Rebecca Sugar urges pro-life advocates not to confuse moral & ethical arguments with scientific ones. But she mistakenly thinks that the statement made by Lila Rose of Live Action is not scientific. Readers can judge for themselves: "The science is conclusive. Human life doesn't begin at birth. It begins before birth, at the moment of fertilization."

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States Can Support Kids Attending Religious Schools

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court held that Maine violated the Constitution by preventing families from using state aid to send children to schools that provide a Christian education. Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, explained that Maine's "nonsectarian" requirement violates the **First Amendment Free Exercise Clause**. *Carson v. Makin* is crucially important, not just for families in Maine but for the cause of genuine school choice across America.

No-Aid provisions similar to Maine's are found in 37 state constitutions. Modeled after a failed amendment to the Constitution promoted by Maine Congressman James Blaine, these state **Blaine Amendments** were enacted in the late 1800s, amid a wave of anti-Catholic bigotry, to prevent Catholic schools from receiving any public funds.

Two years ago the court declared unconstitutional Montana's exclusion of religious schools from a state-sponsored tuition-assistance program. Roberts, again writing for the Court, explained that "once a State decides to subsidize private education, it cannot disqualify some private schools solely because they are religious."

Parents across the country are increasingly interested in alternatives to government-run schools that force-feed their children progressive dogma. Lawmakers should wake up to this and advocate for **school-choice** initiatives so that taxpayer funds can travel with students to their family's school of choice. Excluding Catholic and other religious schools from such initiatives, as the court opinion made clear, is a bigoted policy that has no place in our society. [Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, EWTN News, 6/21/22]

Netflix's 'Our Father' Film on Artificial

Insemination Netflix's recently released documentary "Our Father" unravels like a horror flick, but it is all too real. It serves to highlight the **damages that artificial reproductive technologies** can wreak on the children they create, the ethical dilemmas that arise from even straightforward employment of these technologies, and the deeply disturbing ways in which they can go wrong. The film-makers strongly imply that the doctor's perverse motivations arose from his Christian faith, an explanation that is unconvincing.

But the film is powerful, serving to corroborate the ethical teachings of the Catholic Church with compelling emotional force. The Catholic Church has issued warnings against the use of these technologies for human reproduction for decades. In *Donum Vitae* ("Instruction on Respect for Human Life," 1987) and again in *Dignitas Personae* ("Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions," 2008), the Magisterium has reflected on the ways in which the actions of gamete donation and surrogacy violate the bonds of marriage, the foundations of paternal love, and the rights and dignity of the child conceived. [Samantha Stephenson, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 6/8/22]