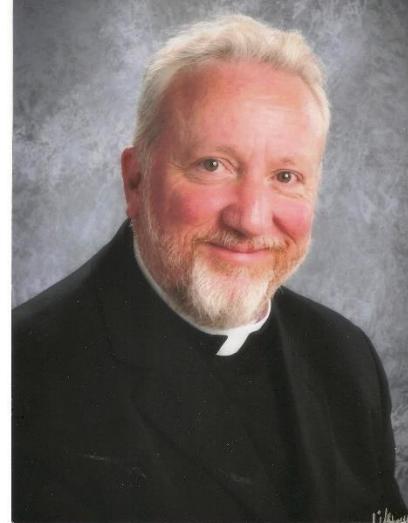


Dear Parishioners,

These are excerpts from Fr Tom Fusco's (Pastor, Our Lady of Victory, Floral Park) homily from July 4, 2022.

Thanks be to God for answering our prayers. 49 plus years prayers have been offered for the overturning of the ill-considered 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*. Thanks be to God the Supreme Court has corrected its previous error. There has never been a right to abortion in our Constitution – and six of the current Supreme Court justices have finally identified what everyone knew to be true. So since it's not in the Constitution, the decision should be left to individual States and the legislative process to decide.

But while we can and should take the time to celebrate this accomplishment and give thanks to those whose commitment and perseverance made this possible – Respect Life committees, those who walked in the Annual March For Life, the Sisters of Life, the front-line pro-lifers, including our own parishioners – the issue is in no way settled.



I would like to offer five very practical things we can do to move forward:

First, continue to pray. In particular I pray for the softening of the hearts of those who are so filled with rage against the Church and those who want to protect unborn life. How sad it is that our Police Department felt it was necessary to have a police car parked outside our church this weekend as a deterrent to potential rage because of general threats against the Churches. I appreciate the Police Department's vigilance – but how sad it is that it was necessary. But we will not be intimidated by threats, those threats are a form of terrorism. And we will never give in to that!

In fact, I actually see their threats as a badge of honor – if the Church becomes the target of abortionists' rage, it means the Church is seen as a defender of unborn life – and that's a good thing, that's a badge of honor – no matter what the pro-abortionists think..

Second, the Supreme Court decision brings the issue of abortion back to the states, instead of the federal government. And while some states will move in the right direction of fostering a Culture of Life by limiting, restricting or forbidding abortion – our state will not.

The governor and the majority of the state legislature that New Yorkers have voted for have a hardened stance against the life of the unborn. They support a Culture of Death in our great State. My earnest request to you is that when you vote – you do so on behalf of those who have no voice about their existence – the unborn. Vote for those candidates who defend the sanctity of life – they are out there, we need to put them in office.

Politicians and others who support abortion – even when they say they are personally opposed to it – if they do anything to support abortion – they are not putting God first – they are putting their politics first, supporting something that is wrong because others want them to – so they sell their souls for political gain. That's tragic.

Third, support pro-life centers here on Long Island. They are committed people who want to help women who find themselves in difficult pregnancy situations. Life and adoption are preferred options to death and abortion – and they make that possible.

Fourth, read Bishop Barres' letter entitled "**Quo Vadis America?**" which means, "**Where are you going America?**" The link can be found on our diocesan and parish websites. It's lengthy, but excellent.

Fifth, real change regarding abortion is only going to happen when we convince the hearts of young people that every life has dignity – even when the situation seems hopeless, God will provide – and God has a unique and unrepeatable plan for each unborn child He has created. Let it unfold.

On Judgment Day it will be much easier to defend your position of having supported all life created by God – than it will be to try to defend cooperation in abortion.

But if abortion has been part of your history, please know that certainly forgiveness is possible simply by going to confession, where God's mercy is abundant. That's it – then be healed.

Today, let's celebrate a victory, no matter what the media and social media is saying, Let's celebrate a victory and get ready to continue the fight!