



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of
SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Office of the Bishop

June 24, 2022
The Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

With the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v Wade* and the return of the issue to the states, The Catholic Church stands ready to continue providing spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their unborn children at the state and federal level.

We care about every unborn child and every mother. The Church has consistently witnessed in word and deed that life begins at the moment of conception. As the US bishops shared in our statement Standing with Moms in Need: "We pledge 'to redouble our efforts to accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, and during the early years of parenthood, offering them loving and compassionate care through initiatives such as Walking with Moms in Need and countless others.'"

Locally, in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, this means LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield and LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Cape Girardeau and the countless ministries that Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) offer to the most vulnerable among us. The budget for LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home Springfield is \$1.3 million. The cost of construction for the new LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Cape Girardeau, including fundraising costs and architectural fees, comes to a total of \$7.8 million. Once it is up and running in the late summer or fall of 2023, Catholic Charities anticipates an operating budget similar to Springfield, \$1.3 million. The Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Program at CCSOMO has an operating budget totaling \$438,160.38 (in Deaneries 6 & 7 of the diocese). This particular program works with low-income, pregnant women while they're still in their homes, some facing eviction/homelessness. They have varying social circumstances, but typically have many challenges and barriers to overcome. These women receive comprehensive case management, maternal-child education, access to many needed services, and is a service program that has been growing for years. This is an important prevention strategy to help women avoid much of what the women at LifeHouse have already faced.

For those whose lives have been affected by abortion, we have the diocesan Project Rachel, post-abortive healing ministry for men and women. Catholics across southern Missouri are involved in a variety of ministries in care of families: Birthright in Cape Girardeau, Pregnancy Care Center, Springfield, the Diaper Bank, Mother's House in Hayti, MO; Children's Haven in Joplin; Whole Kids Outreach and Casa Guadalupe in Ellington, MO, to name just a few.

We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential.

The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau