

Hello, this is Bishop Rice.

As of June 1st, of this year, I have been the Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau for eight years. As Bishop of the diocese, I have the responsibility to teach authentic doctrine and to warn my people of dangerous cultural trends, many of which span a wide variety of issues such as religious freedom, marriage, sexuality, family life, and worship, to name a few, and many of which should be challenged by authentic Church teaching.

Amendment 3 is on the ballot. Missouri is one of the battleground states calling for an amendment that would enshrine abortion in our State Constitution, furthering the so-called “right to reproductive freedom.”

A “yes” vote will enshrine the right to abortion at any time of a pregnancy in the Missouri constitution. Additionally, it will prohibit any regulation of abortion, including present health regulations designed to protect women undergoing abortions, and **it will** prohibit any civil or criminal recourse of those procedures]—malpractice—against anyone who performs an abortion and hurts or kills the pregnant woman.

Despite our opposition’s scare-mongering, Missouri’s present day pro-life laws have a “life of the mother exception,” and allow women to get the health care they need in instances of ectopic pregnancies or miscarriage. However, parental consent, for example, will go away if Amendment 3 passes. Additionally, long standing health and safety standards for women would be repealed is Amendment 3 passes, such as the requirement of an on-site physician to perform an abortion. How is that safe or smart “health care”?

As we plunge toward the National and local elections this November, let us be mindful of the weakest, the most vulnerable, the voiceless of our society, those who have no safety net, no protection.

The position of the Catholic Church is very simple: **life is precious, life is sacred, because life is so fragile and vulnerable it must be respected.** We believe the science that says life begins in the womb at conception. With your Vote of NO on Amendment 3, Life will be victorious!

Thank you and God bless you.

October 28, 2024