



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF DALLAS

December 6, 2012

Dear Friends in Christ:

This January, we will mark a tragic milestone in our country – 40 years of legalized abortion on demand since the January 22, 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. I urge you to join me on Saturday, **January 19, 2013**, in prayer, penance and public witness at the **2013 Diocesan Roe Memorial Events**.

The theme of the 2013 Roe Memorial Events is “**Exodus 20:13**”. The book of Exodus reminds us of the 40-year journey of God’s people through the desert, to the promised land, and the verse Exodus 20:13 states none other than God’s 5th commandment, “Thou Shalt Not Kill.” A most fitting reminder from Almighty God in the year 2013, the 40th year of the legalized killing of the unborn, that life is sacred and *must be* protected and that the killing *must end*.

Sadly, since January 22, 1973, our country has flouted this commandment with over 53 million innocent lives lost by abortion alone, including 14,000 unborn children killed each year in the nine counties comprising the Dallas Diocese. Yet, in the face of this horror, there is reason for hope. Since the last Texas legislative session, several abortion-referral centers have closed, and the number of weekly hours in which the five Dallas abortion centers are committing abortions has reduced by twenty percent. On January 19th, we will come together in large numbers to witness to the city of Dallas our unwavering devotion to continue these efforts, to leave behind us the desert of abortion, usher in its “exodus” from our community, and embrace the promise of life!

I urge you to join me on Saturday, January 19th. I and priests of the Dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth, will be celebrating the annual **Roe Memorial Mass** at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, 2215 Ross Avenue, at 10 a.m. **Fr. Zach Webb** will be this year’s homilist. Before Mass is the **Roe Memorial Rosary** from 7:45-8:45 a.m. at the Routh Street abortion center, 4321 N. Central Expressway. Following Mass at noon will be the ecumenical **Dallas March for Life** from the Cathedral Plaza to the **Rally for Life** outside the Earle

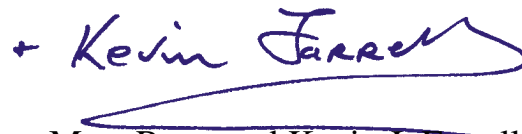
Cabell Federal Courthouse, housing the district court where *Roe v. Wade* was first filed.

Please pray and march with me and thousands more on January 19th in downtown Dallas – the city where *Roe v. Wade* began. What started in Dallas must end in Dallas! In particular, I would like to see as many young people as possible participating in these events for life. Schools, churches, organizations and youth groups are encouraged to bring banners to carry in the family-friendly, ecumenical Dallas March for Life.

For more information on the January 19th Diocesan Roe Memorial Events, please visit www.prolifedallas.org/roe or contact the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas, at 972-267-LIFE (5433) or cplc@prolifedallas.org.

In this Year of Faith, let us answer the “summons to an authentic and renewed conversion,” “radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us” (*Porta Fidei* 6), and affirm Our Lord’s commandment in Exodus 20:13. I hope to see you and your families and friends on Saturday, January 19, 2013, as we pray, march and rally in witness to Christ’s abundant gift of life for all. God bless you.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Kevin Farrell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of the printed name below it.

Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, D.D.
Bishop of Dallas