



Office of the Bishop

# DIOCESE OF DALLAS

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December 19, 2011

Dear Friends in Christ:

I invite you to join me for a very special opportunity to pray and witness for life here in Dallas this January. On Saturday, January 21, 2012, we will commemorate the 39th anniversary of the tragic U.S. Supreme Court decisions, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which made abortion available on demand, effectively without limitation, throughout the United States.

The theme of the 2012 Diocesan Roe Memorial Events is “**That they might have life,**” from John 10:10, in which Jesus tells us that He came so that we all might have life and have it in abundance. As Cardinal DiNardo reminded us during this year’s Respect Life Month, “Jesus’ promise of ‘life to the full’ is especially poignant today, when our culture and sometimes our government promote values inimical to the happiness and true good of individuals and society.” There is no starker reality of this great harm to the common good than the legalized killing of God’s precious children in the womb for nearly four decades.

Since January 22, 1973, more than 52 million unborn children have been killed by abortion in the United States. Abortion is taking the lives of 14,000 innocent unborn children each year in the counties comprising the Dallas Diocese. This past year brought several victories over the culture of death that call for celebration, as well as many ongoing challenges that call for our continued dedication as faithful witnesses to the Gospel of Life. On January 21st, we will witness to this renewed dedication to end abortion and restore respect and legal protection for every human life, and it is my fervent hope and prayer that you will be there.

I, along with Bishop Kevin Vann, Bishop Mark Seitz, Bishop Doug Deshotel, 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, on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at 10 a.m. **Father Jason Cargo** will be this year’s homilist.

Please pray and march with me and thousands more in downtown Dallas on January 21st. This anniversary cannot go unmarked; it is our obligation as a People of Life to remember the lives lost and stand up in prayer and witness for the lives to come, until the tragedy ends in the very city where it began – Dallas. In particular, I would like to see as many young people as possible participating in these events. Schools, churches, organizations and youth groups are encouraged to bring banners to carry in the family-friendly, ecumenical Dallas March for Life – which this year will prominently feature thousands of yellow “LIFE” balloons as part of our strong public witness to the sanctity of every human life.

For more information on the January 21st Diocesan Roe Memorial Events, please visit [www.prolifedallas.org/roe](http://www.prolifedallas.org/roe) or contact the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, the Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas, at 972-267-LIFE (5433) or [cplc@prolifedallas.org](mailto:cplc@prolifedallas.org).

I hope to see you and your families and friends on Saturday, January 21, 2012, as we pray, march and rally together for life! Together, let us build a new culture of life! God bless you.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Farrell" with a cross symbol to the left. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, horizontal stroke.

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