



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF DALLAS

December 2013

My Dear Friends in Christ:

This January, we are once again called to stand witness for life and in memory of the millions of innocent unborn children lost to abortion over the last four decades. I urge you to join me on **Saturday, January 18, 2014**, as we mark the 41st anniversary of the tragic *Roe v. Wade* decision at the **2014 Diocesan Roe Memorial Events**, and pray and march for an end to the killing.

Each year, North Texas Catholics have heard the call, and answered by the thousands. To accommodate the ever-growing number of participants, and to ensure that everyone can experience the Roe Memorial Mass *all together*, I have made the decision to move the **Roe Memorial Mass** from the Cathedral to the **Convention Center in Dallas** (650 S. Griffin St.), beginning at **1:00 p.m.** Seating in the convention center arena will accommodate everyone who wants to attend. So I ask you to please join me for this Mass for Life, and please bring your family and friends!

As it is my great hope that many young people will once again participate in the Roe Memorial Events, this year's Mass will be preceded by a **Youth Concert/Rally** (at **12:30 p.m.**) featuring **World Youth Day musician Steve Angrisano**, who will also serve as the lead music minister for the Mass. Following Mass will be the ecumenical **Dallas March for Life, commencing at 3:00 p.m.** (the hour of mercy) from the convention center, a few short blocks to the **Rally for Life** outside the Earle Cabell Federal Courthouse, housing the district court where *Roe v. Wade* was first filed.

The theme of the 2014 Roe Memorial Events is **“Stand4Life”** in recognition of the epic victories for life in 2013 with the passage of the omnibus pro-life law regulating unsafe abortion practices and facilities and prohibiting abortions after 20 weeks in Texas, and the need for all of us to continue to **“Stand4Life”** until every human life is protected.

The passage of the omnibus law was in no small part due to the outpouring of support from Texans standing for life through prayer and advocacy, including many Catholics from this Diocese. Along with my brother Bishops, I supported the 2013 legislation as an incremental effort toward protecting women and in hopes of substantially reducing the number of abortions until the day when every human life is respected and legally protected, from conception until natural death.

As our Holy Father Pope Francis recently reminded us in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), “Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us. ...This defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development. Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, ‘every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offense against the creator of the individual’” (n. 213).

The 2014 Roe Memorial Events on January 18th give us an excellent opportunity to come together to pray and to give witness to the sacredness, inviolable value, and defense of every unborn human life. **Please pray and march with me and thousands more on January 18th in downtown Dallas – the city where *Roe v. Wade* began.** I urge families, and particularly young people, from schools, churches, organizations and youth groups to attend the Youth Rally and Roe Memorial Mass and to bring banners to carry in the family-friendly, ecumenical Dallas March for Life.

For more information on the January 18th 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 cplc@prolifedallas.org or 972-267-LIFE (5433).

I look forward to seeing you on January 18th as, together, we continue to “**Stand4Life**” and against the culture of death. May God bless you!

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Farrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline.

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