



October 10, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you! As bishops and teachers of the Catholic faith, we continually proclaim that all human life is sacred and a gift from God. The teachings of our faith regard the dignity of human life as the foundation of a moral society and the right to life as the fundamental right upon which all other human rights depend.

As citizens and pastors in Michigan, we call your attention to an immense threat to the dignity of human life on this November's ballot: Michigan voters are being asked to consider Proposal 3, the most extreme proposal concerning abortion this state or country has ever seen. We urge you to vote No.

Based on an analysis of the proposal and ballot summary language, it is clear this proposed amendment to the state constitution intends to:

- Repeal existing laws requiring informed consent for abortion and parental consent requirements for teens seeking abortion.
- Repeal existing laws requiring abortion clinics to be licensed and inspected for health and safety reasons.
- Allow *anyone* to perform an abortion and prohibit any legal consequences if a woman is harmed.
- Allow for late-term abortions due to an undefined mental health exemption in the proposal.
- Define viability to apply only to children who can survive without extraordinary medical care.

Last, because the amendment also extends the “right to sterilization” to any individual regardless of age, a minor would be allowed to seek sterilizing drugs or gender-changing procedures, in addition to abortion, without parental knowledge or consent.

Let us be clear: If Proposal 3 passes, there would be no real limits on abortion or sterilization procedures in Michigan, outside of an individual's voluntary consent. And no matter how one feels about abortion, this proposed amendment goes well beyond what was allowed under *Roe vs. Wade*. The proposal would also change our state constitution, which is much more consequential than any law. We urge you to read the proposed amendment and focus on the language. Words matter, particularly as they relate to constitutional amendments. Visit [www.micatholic.org/Proposal3](http://www.micatholic.org/Proposal3) for more information and to read the proposal. For the reasons mentioned here,

### **We strongly urge you to Vote NO on Proposal 3.**

We cannot create a world where abortion is unthinkable without also creating a world in which all families receive the support they need. In addition to opposing Proposal 3, we call for your renewed dedication to supporting women in need who may find themselves involved in difficult pregnancies or crisis situations. With prayer, compassion and material support, the Catholic Church — through its agencies and lay faithful — *must* be willing to walk with women in need to support them, their children, and their families – before, during and after pregnancy.

Let us come together to protect human life and promote the dignity of women and children by **voting NO on Proposal 3**. Please encourage others to do so as well. Thank you for your witness to the sanctity of all life. God bless you and your loved ones.

With you in Christ,

Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron  
Archbishop of Detroit

Most Rev. Earl A. Boyea  
Bishop of Lansing

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo

Most Rev. John F. Doerfler  
Bishop of Marquette

Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Saginaw

Most Rev. Jeffrey J. Walsh  
Bishop of Gaylord

Most Rev. David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids