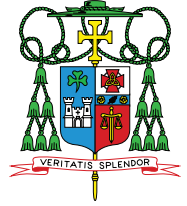




CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Pastoral Letter

To All Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, Religious Men and Women,
and Faithful Laity of the Diocese of Fort Worth

May 31, 2021
The Feast of the Visitation

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to you on this Feast of the Visitation when we remember liturgically the visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pregnant with the unborn Christ Child, to her elderly kinswoman Elizabeth, pregnant with the unborn John the Baptist. The very first human person to rejoice and announce the Incarnation is the unborn John the Baptist—so profound is God's esteem for His creation of human life.

The Hyde Amendment has protected Americans from funding abortion for 45 years. It is credited with saving the lives of over **2.4 million children** to date. Now, powerful members of Congress and President Joe Biden want to take away this law that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century. Without it, billions of taxpayer dollars could go to abortion. That means abortions would be cheaper, easier, promoted, and funded with our taxpayer dollars furthering a violent culture in which vulnerable human life is thrown away.

As Pope Francis stated in his most recent address to the United Nations on September 25, 2020, "Unfortunately, some countries and international institutions are also promoting abortion as one of the so-called 'essential services' provided in the humanitarian response to the pandemic. It is troubling to see how simple and convenient it has become for some to deny the existence of a human life as a solution to problems that can and must be solved for both the mother and her unborn child."

It is critically important for Catholics to send a strong and clear message before Congress moves forward to impose taxpayer-funded abortion. Because of the high stakes Congress needs to hear from an overwhelming number of people.

I invite the people of our parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth to join our response to this nationwide effort promoted by the USCCB, set for this first week of June. The primary goal is for millions of Catholics to sign the petition on [NoTaxpayerAbortion.com](https://www.usccb.org/petition/no-taxpayer-abortion). I ardently implore you to contact your congressional representative and our senators to express your support for the protection of the unborn and their mothers and fathers from the evil of state-funded abortion. With prayers for each of you I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

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