



Focus on Religious Freedom

Churches and Pro-Life Centers Attacked

Following the June 24, 2022, ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that returns the question of abortion access to the individual states, numerous churches and pro-life centers across the country have been firebombed, attacked, and vandalized. "We should not be surprised by this level of violence and intimidation. The natural progression of advocating for the killing of babies in the womb is to advocate for violence outside the womb as well," said the Texas Right to Life group. ⁽²⁾

Churches and locations around the country have been the victims of hundreds of pro-abortion protests that include smashed and decapitated religious statues, desecration of the Eucharist, stolen tabernacles, churches spray painted with graffiti, satanic symbols, messages and obscenities, arson, molotov-cocktails, property theft, smashed windows, and protestors disrupting Masses.

"The FBI is investigating a series of attacks and threats targeting pregnancy resource centers and faith-based organizations across the country," said a statement from the FBI. "The FBI takes all threats seriously and we continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners and will remain vigilant to protect our communities." ⁽¹⁾

"The President condemns the attacks," said the White House deputy press secretary. "He has always denounced violence, threats, and vandalism committed against anyone, for any purpose. And he explicitly repeated these values in his remarks reacting to the Dobbs (abortion) decision, calling for all protests to be peaceful." ⁽³⁾

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Statement on the U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson, June 24, 2022:

"This is a historic day in the life of our country, one that stirs our thoughts, emotions and prayers. For nearly 50 years, America has enforced an unjust law that has permitted some to decide whether others can live or die; this policy has resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of pre-born children, generations that were denied the right to even be born.

"America was founded on the truth that all men and women are created equal, with God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This truth was grievously denied by the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling, which legalized and normalized the taking of innocent human life. We thank God today that the Court has now overturned this decision." ⁽⁴⁾

(kiowacountypress.net, 6/24/22(1)(2)); catholicnewsagency.com, 6/30/22; washingtonpost.com, 6/24/22; nytimes.com, 6/24/22; foxnews.com, 6/30/22(3); usccb.org, 6/24/22(4)

"As religious leaders, we pledge ourselves to continue our service to God's plan of love for the human person, and to work with our fellow citizens to fulfill America's promise to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people."

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)