



DIOCESE OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 10, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace and hope of Jesus be with you as we begin Holy Week, a time of reflection on the greatness of God's love for each of us as we accompany Jesus on his journey to the cross and resurrection.

The Catholic Church has long been a powerful moral voice proclaiming the truth of Christian morality and the dignity and worth of every human life. As early as this week, legislation (LD 820), which would have Maine taxpayers fund abortion services, could head to a vote by the state legislature. The cost of an abortion that is not covered by federal funds would be paid for with state funds. Any carrier offering a health plan in Maine that provides coverage for maternity services would also be forced to provide abortions.

Catholics, members of other faiths, and many thoughtful people who do not observe any religious tradition find this legislation abhorrent. A test of society is its commitment to protect and care for its most vulnerable members, specifically, the unborn. This proposed legislation dismisses the sacredness of life from conception to natural death and the immorality of the intentional taking of any human life. From the first moment of existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person, among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. This teaching is unchangeable, and LD 820 forces taxpayers to fund an immoral act, one that cannot be justified in conscience or law.

As your bishop, I urge you to pay serious attention to the profoundly challenging moral issue involved in this legislation and the ramifications it would bring. I am only one voice. Therefore, I ask you to call your state senator at (207) 287-1540 and your state representative at (207) 287-1400. State your name, where you live and that you **oppose LD 820**. If you do not know who your senator or representative is, visit www.faithfulcitizenme.org to discover who they are. Speak out against these actions and let your voice be heard before it is too late.

Please join me in praying that our opposition will stir the consciences of our elected officials into a more active promotion of the defense of all human life.

With prayerful wishes for a blessed Holy Week, I am

Sincerely in Jesus, our Merciful Savior

Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley, J.C.D.
Bishop of Portland