



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP
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As Mother's Day approaches, we are happy to celebrate all the mothers in our lives. Those who give birth play many important roles in our families. Above all, they work to keep their children safe and happy.

Unfortunately, this is a scary time to be a mother, to be pregnant, or to even contemplate becoming a mother. The rights of those who bear children to make decisions about their bodily autonomy, guided by their conscience and informed by the counsel of their doctor, is under attack in the United States of America. In some states, the law could even force a child or teenager to carry a pregnancy to full term that resulted from a violating act such as rape or incest.

This is also a scary time for mothers of LGBTQ+ children within our own borders and around the world. Some US states have taken steps to criminalize the provision of vital healthcare for transgender or gender-questioning youth. Loving and concerned parents of such young people have suddenly found themselves without options for providing medically necessary, gender-affirming care for their children.

The experience of giving birth is a blessing from God, creating a bond of love like none other. This bond also brings with it the responsibility to manifest that love in action on behalf of those already born. This is a shared responsibility. Sadly, too many people believe that healthcare for women and LGBTQ+ youth should be controlled by a handful of government officials who are not even educated in medicine or science. These leaders--many of whom are white, heterosexual and male--have decided that women should have little to no voice in their own healthcare or that of their children.

The Reformed Catholic Church, guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the truth of the Gospels, affirm the rights of all persons who give

birth to bodily autonomy and to receive healthcare informed by science and approved medical practices in their reproductive choices. Further, we affirm the rights of parents to seek the widest spectrum of health care for their transgender children without socio-economic or political barriers.

We invite all who share a belief in the goodness and creative light of the Divine join us in celebrating all who give birth according to the example of Jesus, who cherished his mother, Mary. May we recognize how God sustains us, provides for us, teaches us, and comforts us through the love of our mothers and the mother figures in our lives.

We invite all to join us in this prayer:

Dear God, we pray for all mothers. Guide them throughout the stages of life. Remind them of Your presence through their children, who have learned at their side, who come to them for assistance, and who may be called to assist them as they age. Give these mothers and their children the wisdom and strength to make sound decisions. Fill their relationships with love, understanding, and compassion. Let loving memories always warm their hearts. Let joy bloom each day of their lives.

Amen!

Sincerely in Christ,

The Bishops and Board of Directors of the Reformed Catholic Church
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