



Diocese of Colorado Springs

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Lent 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During this penitential season of Lent, we call to mind the horrific action the Colorado legislature took last year enshrining abortion into Colorado law. As people of faith, we are deeply saddened by this grave assault on the sanctity of unborn innocent life. We grieve for the many women who continue to be harmed by abortion, and we mourn the young lives lost due to the unjust and perverse Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA).

Governor Jared Polis signed this law on April 4th last year, just 13 days before Easter. In doing so, he made our state a destination for abortion tourism through all nine months of pregnancy. We must pray and ask God for His mercy. For this reason, I invite all the faithful to join me during the remainder of Lent in doing penance, giving alms, praying, and fasting. We must use these spiritual practices to make reparations for the great sin of abortion in our state.

We also renew our commitment to accompanying women and families in need. This work is more critical now, as the unborn have been stripped of their right to life and their mothers face the harmful lie that the death of their children is a solution to their struggles. In response to the passing of RHEA, we must step forward with open arms and effective resources to help women reject the “solution” of death and empower them to choose life for their children.

In the Diocese of Colorado Springs, we do this through the support provided by Catholic Charities of Central Colorado and pro-life pregnancy resource centers. In addition, our diocesan Respect Life Apostolate sponsors *Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN)* - a ministry to help parishioners identify and create local resources that provide assistance to pregnant and parenting moms in need. Project Rachel is another important ministry for individuals who have been harmed by abortion. I urge you to please consider joining a WWMIN ministry at your parish or getting involved in other pro-life works of mercy in our diocese. For more information, please visit <https://www.diocs.org/Pastoral-Services/Respect-Life-Apostolate>.

We will continue our efforts to build a culture of life in which abortion is unthinkable, all families receive the support they need, and the dignity of all people is recognized. We do this with confidence in the ultimate victory of Christ, whose resurrection has defeated the powers of death.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, who carried the Savior in your womb, Patroness of our diocese and the pro-life movement, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ James R. Golka

Most Reverend James R. Golka
Bishop of Colorado Springs