

March 26, 2024

Most Reverend Samuel J.

Archbishop of Denver

Most Reverend Jorge H. Rodriguez

Auxiliary Bishop of Denver

Aquila Most Reverend Stephen J. Berg

Bishop of Pueblo

Most Reverend James R. Golka

Bishop of Colorado Springs

REQUEST FOR CORRECTION AND RETRACTION

Dear Colorado Bishops,

We respectfully request a correction and retraction of your letter dated November 13, 2023. The Colorado Life Initiative is an issues committee registered in Colorado to put forward this initiative this year. This movement of more than three hundred churches of multiple denominations and more than 3,000 volunteers has **never had an initiative on the ballot before**. With enough signatures, this will be **the first life initiative on the Colorado ballot since the overturn of Roe**.

We have requested meetings with you multiple times over the past two and a half years. Brittany Vessely, CEO of the Colorado Conference of Bishops met with us briefly. She informed us she would not support **any prolife measure** and that the bishops would defer to her. She gave us **no reason**. We were not allowed to provide a presentation on the research, groundwork, or strategy for these efforts.

Your letter asking parishioners to oppose a prolife measure provides **arguments from an abortionist's position and contains multiple errors and assumptions**. We will address the letter's most egregious.

1. It does **not** hurt the cause to save the lives of preborn children when we **pray, educate, and mobilize** God's people for life. Not only is that illogical, there is evidence that with every life initiative that has gone forward on the ballot in our state, **more Coloradans have increasingly voted for life**. [1]
2. We are not asking the Catholic Church for resources or money. [2] We are simply asking the bishops to confirm what we already know – that **this initiative agrees 100% with the Catholic Catechism** and doctrine of the Catholic Church. [3]

Given the facts of #1 and #2 above, **there is no reason to oppose a life initiative that puts into action what you say you believe and that only helps the cause of protecting children**.

Our Co-Proponents have been praying weekly for the past three years specifically on a statewide ballot initiative. We have enlisted the advice of multiple attorneys including an attorney with the **St Thomas Moore Society**, medical professionals, and reached out to prolife leaders in the state. Our Task Force has been meeting monthly for more than a year, reaching out to churches, and organizing regional volunteers.

We are asking all Christians to take this time to **fast and pray** for the end of this holocaust; to **educate** those within your spheres of influence on the humanity of preborn children and what God says about child sacrifice, shedding innocent blood, and unjust laws; and then **in an act of repentance and obedience** to God's Word and on the basis of our faith, **collect signatures and encourage others** to Vote For Life.

Every US citizen has the right to petition the government and freedom of speech. In the letter you signed, it doesn't make clear that you do not intend to **infringe upon the rights of Catholics**. Surely, you did not intend to write a letter **diametrically opposed to your own Catechism** and that asks people to act inconsistently with their personal faith.

We are asking you to put your faith in action, your doctrine into practice, and retract the fallacies of your letter that has become a **stumbling block** to the faithful from doing as God Himself has commanded, “Thou shalt not murder” and “rescue those being dragged to slaughter”. [Matt 18:7, Exodus 20:13, Proverbs 24:11]

As for “shrewd as a serpent and innocent as a dove,” let’s not forget the innocent part. **We cannot continue to allow the shedding of innocent blood without ourselves being guilty of it.**

Even if you do not retract your letter, Catholics can be assured **it is not a sin to go against your prudential judgment.** [4] However, because killing the innocent is inherently evil and forbidden by God, abortion is not a prudential matter. Every Christian should make every effort to oppose it or risk sinning against God. [5]

It is unclear the goal of unifying ‘prolife’ groups if they are uniting in opposition to prolife measures. [James 4:4, Psalm 1:1] It seems odd that you would organize a march commemorating the anniversary of abortion law in Colorado that allows the torture of children, rather than organize to change that law, especially since we are only asking you to **organize your own people to sign petitions.** That shouldn’t be too difficult.

There is currently **no other prolife option** outside this initiative to override current law in Colorado. Currently, torturing children to death is legal all nine months of pregnancy by any means, including poisoning, scalding, stabbing, and dismembering. **So, to oppose this initiative, by de facto, you are supporting the status quo of killing these children.** *There is a way that seems right to man but in the end it brings death.* [Proverbs 14:12]

For the more than two thousand children losing their lives every month in Colorado, we believe they would tell you that **now is the right time to save their lives.** We must hold out the banner of truth. **If the leaders of the Catholic Church in Colorado are not willing to do that, we pray that the faithful who know Christ as personal Lord and Savior will choose to please God rather than man.** [Acts 5:29]

Sixty-one percent of adults in Colorado attend church at least several times a year. [6] If just those attending church will vote for what we say we believe in the value of every human life from conception to natural death, **we can pass an initiative in Colorado** with the 50% plus one vote needed. A ballot initiative does not need the legislature or the governor to go into effect.

We have been praying for you that you would **choose life for these children.** We are asking you and every priest and Catholic in the state to **do the right thing by announcing and allowing the collection of signatures** to protect these children. Please do not be a stumbling block to protecting these innocent children. [Matthew 18:7] We can extend the deadline to **April 14th** for the Catholic church to engage in these prolife efforts. With your help, this initiative will be on the ballot to **educate every Colorado voter and provide an opportunity to save these children’s lives.** With your support, this initiative can pass in Colorado.

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.’ (Matthew 25:45)

In Submission to Christ,
Colorado Life Initiative
Gotaheart.org

[1] Deficit of votes decreasing. SJR24-003, January 18, 2024.

These are the percentage **deficits** of votes needed to pass a pro-life resolution in each year an initiative was run: 2008 46%, 2010 41%, 2014 30%, 2020 18% so that we've gotten closer every year to passing.

[2] Proposal to the Catholic Church, gotaheart.org/catholic.

[3] Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2258 and 2270-2274.

[4] Priests For Life, February 26, 2024.

[5] Homily, 2023.

[6] Pewresearch.org