

October is Respect Life Month. Its purpose is to remind us that every single human being, from conception until natural death, has a dignity or worth that must be respected. This message of Respect Life Month is even more important now as we face emotionally charged debates over abortion. Important decisions should be made based on facts not emotions, and it is a biological fact that human life begins at conception. This is not a matter of opinion, nor is it a religious question. That means when a woman conceives, we are no longer talking about one person but two, both with equal dignity. So, the question before us is this: Will we as a nation respect the dignity of both mother and child or not? Abortion has been legal for a long time now – nearly 50 years. It has become an accepted part of our lives. In that sense, changing how things are done, making abortion illegal, would be very significant. It would alter how we look at things. It would cause many to modify their behavior. Yet, if we want to live in a nation where there is equal justice for all, then the facts demand we make this change. Change is always hard. Our nation once accepted segregation as a way of life. Yet, the fact that segregation was a way of life did not make it right. When laws began to change, there was resistance, sometimes violent resistance. Governor George Wallace of Alabama proclaimed, “Segregation, now. Segregation tomorrow. Segregation forever.” In our times, to deny the humanity and the dignity of the unborn child does not change the fact that the unborn child is still a human being. To deny that fact and to abort that child, to kill that child (even though it is legal) is not right now anymore than legal segregation was right then. That is why we must work to change the laws with regard to abortion. In the end, all of us must decide what kind of nation we want to have. One where the dignity and right to life for all people, born and unborn, is respected, or one where might makes right. If we decide for the second option, then we also need to recognize that only the strongest will be truly safe. Our nation made a mistake in 1973. It is time for us to correct that mistake.