

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let us beg the Lord to bring light and life to the darkness that has befallen the State of Michigan.

Darkness and grave evil have descended upon us with the passage of Proposal 3 amending the state constitution to allow abortion up to the moment of birth, nullification of parental notification rights, allowing children to choose sterilization and many more evils.

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus brought hope when he said, "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen." (Matthew 4:16)

Therefore, we turn to the Lord and his cross through which he has defeated evil. Let us not lose hope but let us remember that he is the light that came into the darkness of our world. Let us remember that he came to bring us life and the peace of his presence.

Let us ask the Lord to use us as his instruments to bring light and life to the State of Michigan.

Let us join together in prayer and fasting in reparation for this grave evil.

Let us by the grace of God foster a civilization of life and love where the grave evil of abortion is unthinkable. Let us work together with the many crisis pregnancy centers in the Upper Peninsula and charitable organizations such as Catholic Social Services, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus, Walking with Moms in Need activities at our parishes and more.

This Advent, please join me in focusing on prayer, self-sacrifice and reflection on how we personally, and as a Church by the grace of God can foster a civilization of love.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Most Rev. John F. Doerfler, STD, JCL
Bishop of Marquette