



**The Catholic Diocese of Jackson**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Mississippi Bishops praise Abortion Ban**

When the angel of the Lord declared unto Mary that she would conceive and bear a son, she did not hesitate to say 'yes.' What a wonderful world we would live in if every parent could feel free to echo that 'yes' when they learn of a new life in the womb.

We, the Catholic bishops of Mississippi, applaud the Legislature for passing and Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant for signing into law the six-week abortion ban. This so-called heartbeat bill protects the tiniest and most vulnerable of our citizens.

We hope the courts will uphold this law and continue to pray for an end to abortion in our nation. Knowing that many face pregnancy with fear; that many must overcome unbelievable obstacles and that the news of a new life can be overwhelming, we encourage women facing an unplanned pregnancy to seek support. There are organizations who can help you.

Birthright statewide, ProLife Mississippi, the Center for Pregnancy Choices in the Jackson area; the Oxford Pregnancy Test Center; Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center in Columbus; Morning Star Pregnancy Care Centers in Harrison and Jackson Counties and St. Gerard Community Outreach in Waveland, just to name a few. The staff at these centers stands ready to accompany you from the fear of the unknown to the joy of new life.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph R. Kopacz".

Joseph R. Kopacz  
Bishop of Jackson

Sincerely yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis F. Kihneman, III".

Louis F. Kihneman, III  
Bishop of Biloxi