



May 20, 2024

Dear Mr. Hollowell,

Thank you for your letter and continued focus on protecting the dignity of life in the womb. We agree with your conviction that social justice covers every stage and circumstance of life, and we are glad to work together in the Church's mission to spread the Good News and protect the vulnerable.

The Ohio Bishops also received your letter. They recently decided not to create a new "Office of the Little One" at this time. However, this decision should not convey the bishops' lack of intention to protect preborn lives from abortion.

Our pro-life advocacy aligns closely with the priorities you have outlined. The Catholic Conference works with legislators to enhance programs that assist women in need materially, and we work with each diocese to educate Catholics on the integrity of the Church's teaching on the dignity of life in the womb. We also strive to change hearts and minds to see the tragedy of abortion. In many ways, the Catholic Conference and Ohio dioceses lead many of the initiatives you described.

We are all called to be witnesses to the gospel of life. As we discussed when we met earlier this spring, Catholics in Ohio must proclaim the good news that God has made all of us in His image. I hope you will continue to testify to the dignity of children in the womb in your community and that you will join our advocacy efforts by activating our advocacy alerts and participating in diocesan pro-life events and programs with Mary von Carlowitz.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hickey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "H".

Brian Hickey
Executive Director
Catholic Conference of Ohio