

## Fr. Simon Sez

Bishop DeGrood sent out an email this past Friday, June 24, 2022, to all priests, deacons, and seminarians that also applies to people in our parishes and Catholic institutions regarding the Dobbs vs Jackson U. S. Supreme Court decision that overturned the legalization of surgical abortion across the nation. Due to the “trigger law” in SD, surgical abortion immediately became illegal, which changes the dynamic he is addressing as follows:

*On this Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I want to thank all of you and those in your parishes and Catholic institutions who have labored so hard to promote, protect and defend the sanctity of every human life. Today's Supreme Court decision of Dobbs vs. Jackson is a day to give thanks to God and all of you and so many others who have prayed, sacrificed and worked so hard on the right to life issues.*

*It is also a time for us in pastoral charity to be compassionate with those who will find this ruling difficult. As spiritual leaders it is important we continue to speak and act in humility, charity, patience and truth when sharing the truths of our beloved Catholic faith as revealed by God. With this in mind, I offer these words of encouragement as you prepare for preaching this weekend to be attentive to:*

- *Acknowledge with compassion and understanding that this ruling will be difficult for some, and as Catholics we should compassionately and charitably tend to those who are struggling with the decision.*
- *Stay focused on the importance of the spiritual and moral responsibility we have as Catholics to advocate for life and proactively find new ways to care for moms, children, dads and families since abortion is no longer legal in South Dakota.*
- *Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the new protections for the unborn in our state and offer words of gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much through the years to support life.*
- *Pray and work to promote the protection of rights of the unborn in all states and throughout the world. Our work is not done, and with the help of God He will sustain us in sharing the joy of the Gospel regarding the sanctity of every human life.*

*It is my hope and prayer that these reflections are helpful to you as you tend to your parishioners and those in your communities. A short video will be sent to all of you and laity you are free to use if it is helpful in any way for your parishioners.*

*Know of my prayers for you and your parishioners this momentous day and weekend.*

## Taking the Call: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



1 Kings 19:16–21  
Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–11  
Galatians 5:1, 13–18  
Luke 9:51–62

In this week's First Reading, Elijah's disciple is allowed to kiss his parents goodbye before setting out to follow the prophet's call.

But we are called to follow a “greater than Elijah”, this week's Liturgy wants us to know.

In Baptism, we have put on the cloak of Christ, been called to the house of a new Father, and been given a new family in the kingdom of God. We have been called to leave behind our past lives and never look back—to follow wherever He leads.

Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind and his disciple was given a double portion of his spirit (see 2 Kings 2:9–15).

Jesus too, the Gospel reminds us, was “taken up” (see Acts 1:2, 11, 22), and He gave us His Spirit to live by, to guide us in our journey in His kingdom.

As this week's Epistle tells us, the call of Jesus shatters the yoke of every servitude, sets us free from the rituals of the old Law, and shows us the Law's fulfillment in the following of Jesus, in serving one another through love.

His call sets our hands to a new plow, a new task—to be His messengers, sent ahead to prepare all peoples to meet Him and enter into His Kingdom.

Elijah called down fire to consume those who wouldn't accept God (see 2 Kings 1:1–16). But we have a different Spirit with us.

To live by His Spirit is to face opposition and rejection, as the Apostles do in this week's Gospel. It is to feel like an exile, with no lasting city (see Hebrews 13:14), no place in this world to lay our head or call home.

But we hear the voice of the One we follow in this week's Psalm (see Acts 2:25–32; 13:35–37). He calls us to make His faith our own—to abide in confidence that He will not abandon us, that He will show us “the path to life,” leading us to the fullness of joy in His presence forever.