

We recognize and promote the sanctity of human life in January because, on this month in 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States legalized abortion in the *Roe v. Wade* decision. On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating January 22 as the first National Sanctity of Life Day.

To date, in our country, abortion has taken the lives of over 63 million unborn children, many of them from lower-income and minority families. The unborn are unable to speak, so we as the church are called to defend them, the most vulnerable among us.

Abortion has also hurt the millions of people who have been affected by those abortions. These affects include depression, addictions, broken relationships, and a struggle to find forgiveness. When we recognize this tragedy happening and the value of every human life created in the image of God, we as Christians are compelled to act. Praying for those making a pregnancy decision, supporting local ministries that serve new families and speaking boldly about God's design for abundant life are all ways to do this. This is why we as a church are setting aside one Sunday in January to recognize Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.