



Pastor's Pen

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- Fr. Chad VanHoose, Associate Pastor

ARE WE READY?

A few months ago, my friend, Ryan O'Hara, released a viral video on the internet titled, "Are We Ready for the End of Roe V. Wade?" which both challenged and inspired me. O'Hara works as a full-time lay evangelist with Saint Paul's Outreach, and he has unique gifts for public speaking and communicating the truths of the Gospel in a compelling manner. In the now-viral video, he challenges pro-lifers to go further than being simply pro-birth, a common critique that pro-lifers receive. As a father of four adopted children, Ryan speculates that there will be a massive gap to fill in the United States if the landmark Roe v. Wade decision is overturned in the near future, and we pro-lifers will be forced to "put our money where our mouth is." He matter-of-factly predicts that there will be "more families in crisis, not less; more moms in need, not less; more boys and girls in distress, not less; more kids in foster care, not less; more adoptions, not less."

With the hashtag #RevolutionOfCare, O'Hara challenges pro-lifers to consider adoption and foster parenting, as we broaden our commitment to caring for those who experience unplanned pregnancies. O'Hara personally shares that he and his wife have had their "hearts and lives transformed" through the hard work of foster parenting and adoption, calling it the "hardest, best thing I've ever been a part of." He even goes so far as to call their infertility a blessing, because it opened them up to God's plan, which was greater than they could have planned for themselves. As I watched his persuasive video, I was inspired by his courage and vulnerability, both of which are marks of his Christian discipleship. He admits that he was "scared to death" to release the video, but he felt called to do it as part of his Christian commitment to live a life that is fearless and full of faith.

In the face of injustice, Christian disciples throughout the centuries have courageously stepped up to change unjust systems, while loving and serving those in need. We've fought for underprivileged workers, started hospitals and schools, and cared for minorities whom no one else would love. For 46 years, we in the Pro-Life movement have prayed, begged, petitioned, marched, and worked for an end to the scourge of abortion, and now it's time to increase our action. Perhaps families in our parish could become new foster parents or adopt children who are unwanted and unloved; others may be able to support crisis pregnancy centers with a greater sacrifice of their time and finances. Maybe, too, there are other unjust systems in our world that need prophets from our parish who, like Ryan O'Hara, will stand up to lead other Christians by their words and actions. Our service won't look the same, but the love, which will create a revolution of care, will show the world that Christian disciples get going when the going gets tough.

Visit <https://www.ryanohara.org/blog/are-we-ready>

[Ryan O'Hara Video](#)

