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Catholic Bishops Rebuke Maura Healey Over Abortion Law

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Respectfully and passionately disagree"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Massachusetts' four Catholic bishops have rebuked Governor Maura Healey for using her Catholic faith to justify a new law that permits abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. In a joint statement on 7 November 2026, they said they "respectfully and passionately disagree" that abortion can be called health care. The clash began a day earlier, when Healey used an emergency preamble to put the law into effect at once.

Healey signed the bill, Chapter 188 of Massachusetts General Laws, on 10 August. It removed the state's old limit on abortions after 24 weeks. Now an abortion at any point in pregnancy may be performed by a physician based on "the professional judgment of the physician."

That change alone would have been a fight. What turned it into a confrontation was how Healey forced it through, and the whole thing occured in the space of three days.

More than 100,000 registered voters had signed a petition to repeal the law. Under the state constitution, that was more than double the number needed to stop it from taking effect. Healey overrode them on 6 November by attaching an emergency preamble, and the law took effect on 8 November.

She explained herself the same day in a 1,400-word article on Substack titled "Why Massachusetts' new abortion law can't wait." She wrote: "I am Catholic, and my faith is an important part of who I am."

Maura Healey Catholic Faith Abortion Law Defence

Healey's article leaned hard on her faith. "It has shaped my understanding of service, responsibility and our obligation to care for others," she wrote. "My faith teaches me to meet people with compassion, respect their dignity, and approach suffering with humility."

She added that she governs "for people of every faith and belief" and that every family should make "deeply personal medical decisions according to their own circumstances, values and the guidance of their doctors." It was a careful piece of writing, and it was meant to settle the argument before it started.

The bishops heard something else in those words. To them, a Catholic governor was using Catholic language to bless the taking of unborn life, and they were not willing to let it pass without an answer.

Massachusetts Bishops Passionately Disagree With Healey

The statement was signed by Boston Archbishop Richard Henning, Worcester Bishop Robert McManus, Fall River Bishop Edgar da Cunha and Springfield Bishop William Byrne. It was short, and it did not mince words.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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