

Dear Friends,

One of the most important things I do every year is show my support for the March for Life in Washington D.C. I am happy to do that again this year when on Thursday and Friday of this week I will be present with thousands of people — young and old — who support every effort to end the tragedy of abortion in our country. We will mark the U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*. Millions of children have been denied life by law ever since that fateful decision in 1973.

I also know that we are in a difficult time in our Church's history. Some who oppose our pro-life position would take this as an opportunity to mute the message of our Church because of the serious past mistakes, sins and crimes of some in our ranks. Yes, we are a church of imperfect people. We do not claim to be otherwise. In fact, we say that Jesus came to save people like us who are sinners.

But we cannot let the fact that we belong to a Church of flawed human beings imperil the Gospel of Life that rings true in our hearts. Every life is a gift from God and must be protected. Every child should be welcomed. Every person in our nation, born and unborn, has a foundational "right to life," liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In fact, the well-publicized reports of past human failures in our Church should make us strive to do better. We want to protect our young with even greater energy. We have been doing just that in the Diocese of Greensburg for the past several decades. We can be proud of our achievements at protecting our young in our schools and parishes. We can also be proud that we are a Pro-Life Church that seeks to protect our unborn children, too!

And so, I will march on Jan. 19 with hundreds of thousands of other people of good will. We have every hope that the message of the Gospel of Life will eventually be the driving force in all aspects of our Church, nation, communities and families. We pray for a time when every life is respected and valued. We have a message that cannot be silenced: God is the author of life who loves us, wants what is best for us, and desires that we reject what is evil and embrace what is good.

This week, let's all reject evil and embrace what is good — and make our voices heard that we will continue to protect our young, both born and unborn, in all that we do.

May God bless all of you, those you love and all of our children, including those still in the womb.

Your brother in Christ,

The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL  
Bishop of Greensburg