

Abortion
Seminaries
Imperialism

Pope Addresses Variety of Concerns

Vatican City (RNS) - Pope John Paul II has again forcefully spoken out against abortion as he continued to address a wide range of issues at meetings here.

In an address to a group of European Journalists for Children's Rights, the pontiff said the Church wished to inform public opinion on the "essential rights" of children.

"The Holy See," he said, "believes that one can speak of the rights of the child right from the moment of conception onwards, especially of the right to life, because experience shows that the child has need of protection both in fact and in law, even prior to birth."

On Jan. 13 to an audience of some 40,000 in St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul urged local Catholic communities to be aware of their responsibilities to support seminaries to boost the number of priests.

"The whole Christian people ought to be made aware that it is their duty to cooperate in their various ways, both by earnest prayer and by other means available to them, to ensure that the Church will always have those priests who are needed for the fulfillment of her divine mission."

Turning to the world scene in another speech, the Pope spoke out against superpowers which he said seek to take advantage of strife in Lebanon, Iran, Cambodia and elsewhere to insure their domination over the world.

Speaking to world diplomats accredited to the Holy See, he spoke of the Church's concern for universal peace. Its means, he said, were strictly spiritual and could be effective. "There are sure signs of a presence of the spirit in the history of humanity." He spoke of such "contemporaries" with a special understanding for the spiritual "scale of values," mentioning Mahatma Gandhi, Dag Hammarskjold and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Then he warned of the dangers inherent in big power "imperialism." "Humanity is divided in many ways," he pointed out, "above all by ideological divisions linked to various state systems," a reference to communism, socialism and capitalism.

"The search for solutions, allowing human societies to achieve rightful goals, to live in justice, is perhaps the main sign of our times. We must respect everything that can serve this great cause, whatever the regime. We must take advantage of reciprocal experience.

"However," he warned, "one must not transform this multiform search for solutions into a struggle to insure power over the world."



Braving the Cold

Photo by Susan McKinney

Hundreds braved icy, rainy weather to take part in the Choose Life march in downtown Rochester last Saturday, sponsored by the Rochester Right to Life Committee. The parade noted the anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand.

Supreme Court Decision Seen as 'Hard Hearted'

From the U.S. Catholic Conference

Washington - The general secretary of the United States Catholic Conference said the Supreme Court decision in the Pennsylvania abortion case "demonstrates an insensitivity and a hardening of the heart on the abortion issue that I had not previously wished to think possible."

"In my view the court has done more than that," Bishop Kelly said. "It has encouraged the views of those who hold that human life is viable only when someone wants it to be viable. The implications of this philosophy are frightening."



TIMOTHY LEAHY
Leahy Joins Area Bank

"The decision serves only those who are determined that every abortion will result in a dead fetus, even in those cases in which present medical techniques would have spared that innocent human life," Bishop Thomas C. Kelly said.

Bishop Kelly commented on the Supreme Court decision on Jan. 9 which struck down a section of a Pennsylvania law requiring that a person who performs an abortion exercise care to preserve the life and health of a fetus if there is reason to believe the fetus is viable and provided that a different technique is not necessary to preserve the mother's life or health.

"The decision serves only those who are determined that every abortion will result in a dead fetus, even in those cases in which present medical techniques would have spared that innocent human life," Bishop Kelly said.

He noted that Justice Byron White, in his dissent from the 6-3 opinion said the ruling withdraws from the states a substantial measure of the power to protect fetal life that was reserved to them in earlier Supreme Court decisions.

Timothy E. Leahy, superintendent of schools for the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, will join Lincoln First Bank, Rochester division, Feb. 1 as vice president, personnel administration.

As superintendent, Leahy was responsible for the administration and direction of the education programs for the 77 elementary and secondary schools in the diocese. He has been affiliated with the diocesan education system for 12 years.

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