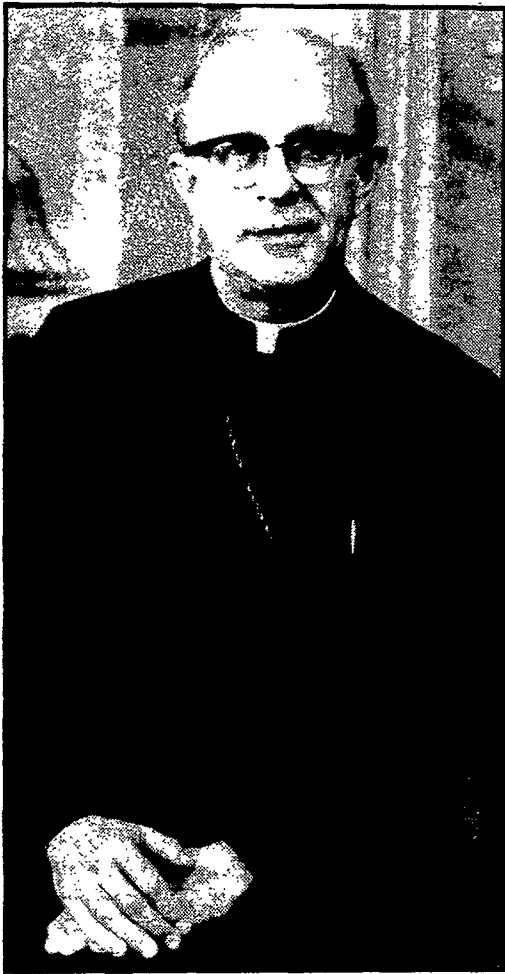


Archbishop states policy on abortion



Catholic News Service
Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk warns Catholics who support abortion that they should consider themselves not "properly disposed" to the Eucharist.

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk said Catholics who promote or assist in abortions "should not consider themselves properly disposed" to receive Communion.

Archbishop Pilarczyk, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, released his "Statement on Certain Matters Related to Abortion" March 7.

The statement came after he met Feb. 21 with pro-life Catholics who reportedly had urged the excommunication of Cincinnati's new Planned Parenthood director, Barbara Rinto.

In a March 7 statement, Rinto said, "My work at Planned Parenthood is rooted in the long tradition of working for social justice and equality to which many Catholics have devoted their lives." Planned Parenthood operates clinics in which abortions are performed.

Ray George, Cincinnati archdiocesan spokesman, told Catholic News Service March 8 that the archbishop's statement did not single out any individual, nor would any subsequent statement identify

specific individuals.

"Some Catholics hold and publicly proclaim views" on abortion "which are not in accord with the church's teaching," Archbishop Pilarczyk said. "Such dissent does not make the church's teaching any less sure or any less binding."

Church teaching on abortion is "so crucial," he said, that "under certain specific conditions, (it) provides for an automatic excommunication of those who are personally and directly involved in the performance of abortions."

Rinto told the *Catholic Telegraph*, Cincinnati's archdiocesan newspaper, "I feel I must live my life according to my own conscience as must all Catholics."

In her statement, Rinto said she respected "the right of each individual to make personal decisions concerning birth control and abortion according to his or her own conscience." She then quoted from Archbishop Pilarczyk's statement: "Obviously no one can judge the state of another's conscience before God."

The archbishop continued in his own statement, "But we can judge that certain

behavior is objectively wrong and that the espousal and practice of such behavior under the guise of Catholicism are a source of scandal and confusion in the church and constitute manifest moral evil."

Daniel Roche, director of pro-life activities for the Cincinnati archdiocese, praised Archbishop Pilarczyk for making his point about abortion without adding fuel to the cause of those calling for excommunication.

Joanne Engel, a member of St. Martin Parish, told the *Catholic Telegraph* that she and several other pro-life activists met with the archbishop and asked him to address the issue of Catholics involved with abortion, but "we did not ask him to excommunicate anyone."

Rinto, 38, was associate director of Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for six years before taking the Cincinnati Planned Parenthood position Feb. 5.

Officials of the Philadelphia archdiocese said the church there took no action against her, nor had any been sought.

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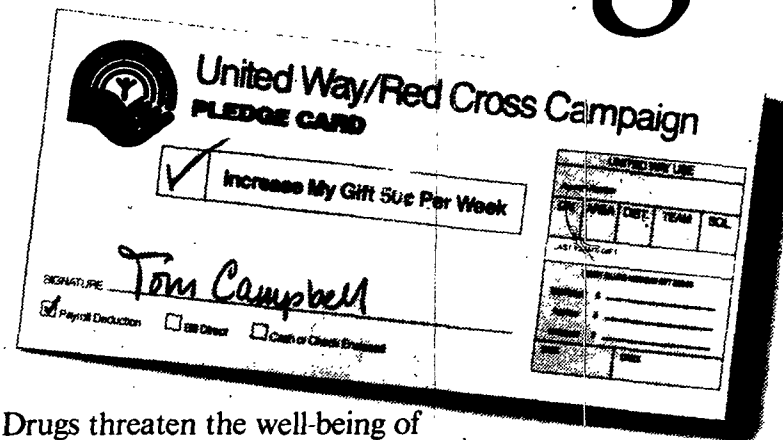
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