

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Abortion” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney

Info

In Thick of Pro-Life Fight

Washington Star
1/11/72

Welsh to Lead Arlingtonians

By William F. Willoughby
Washington Star Staff Writer

As he did last year, Arlington Bishop Thomas J. Welsh will lead a contingent of marchers from Lafayette Park to the Capitol and then lead them in prayer as part of his diocese's participation in the third annual March for Life on Jan. 22.

The march, which some planners believe may attract 60,000 or more persons from across the country, is in commemoration of the third anniversary of a U.S. Supreme Court decision covering the rights of a

woman to have an abortion anytime within the first three months of pregnancy without the undue legal and medical limitations.

Welsh, in a pastoral letter to all his churches, said, "We oppose the morality, philosophy and the legalisms from which spring abortion, euthanasia or any other form of human experimentation which violates an individual's right to life."

WELSH LAST year during his first year in office led a contingent of Northern Virginians to the Capitol and in a pastoral letter offered a widely-quoted rationale against abortion which was not dependent on the teachings of the Catholic Church for its support, but which was derived from natural law principles.

In this year's pastoral, he said, "Right-thinking men have a duty to speak on behalf of human life and to demand a just social order which protects basic human rights, especially the right to life.

"Man is created in the image and likeness of God, and that creation takes form at conception. It is this realization which must motivate us to speak and act forcefully on behalf of any person whose right to life is threatened unjustly."

Besides joining in the march, Welsh encouraged parishioners and others to play an integral part in abetting pro-life activities which have been endorsed by the U.S. Catholic bishops and by various Protestant pro-life groups.

HE RECOMMENDED that individuals begin by forming a right conscience on the right to life. "Each of us must make the intellectual and spiritual effort



BISHOP WELSH
For the 'right-thinking'

necessary to recognize clearly the immorality of abortion and euthanasia," he said.

The bishop also urged pro-life supporters to provide charitable assistance or reconciliation to those who already have had an

abortion or who may in the future face abortion or euthanasia. "God's mercy is available to everyone without limit," he said.

"We must help those with 'unwanted pregnancy' or severe illness to recognize God's role in their situation and help them resolve such situations in a way pleasing to Him."

Welsh said Christian citizens should work toward passage of an amendment to the Constitution and toward adoption of laws, regulations and policies which provide "legitimate alternatives" to abortion.

VAL STASIK, coordinator of activities for the diocese, said that for those unable to march, there will be a holy hour-prayer service at 8 p.m. on Jan. 21 at St. Thomas More Cathedral, near Glebe Road and Arlington Boulevard in Arlington.

Pro-life supporters, he said, should drive with their headlights on Jan. 22, to indicate support for the march. Those meeting at Lafayette Park from the diocese should meet at the southeast corner of the park anytime after 9 a.m. or before noon. The event will end at 3:30 p.m.