



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 27, 2017

Dear Pilgrims from the Diocese of Manchester,

Once again I write to greet you as you begin your journey to our nation's capital to bear witness to the beauty of life and to the dignity of each and every human being. I am unable to be with you in person this year but please know that throughout the day I will be joined with you in prayer, that together with the Holy Spirit we may bring about a world in which every human life is valued and protected.

The somber anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision has been marked for many years by the March for Life, in which hundreds of thousands of people from around the country gather to peacefully protest the grave evil of abortion. The anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision provides us an opportunity to come together and raise our voices for all those whom our society undervalues: not only the unborn, but the old, the sick, the poor, those condemned to die at the hands of our justice system, and those who no longer value their own lives.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said so profoundly, "God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness in each one." Let us then remain firm in our belief that all are masterpieces of God's creation, destined to live forever, and therefore deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.

My prayers go with you today as you go to bear public witness to the sanctity of life. I pray that God may grant you His blessing, and I pray that He who became one like us in all things but sin may inspire in us a renewed commitment not only to bear witness, but to protect and advocate for the most vulnerable in our midst.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Protectress of Unborn Children, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D. D.  
Bishop of Manchester