



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

January 22, 2016

Dear Fellow Pilgrims from the Diocese of Manchester,

Once again I greet you as we begin our journey to Washington, D.C. How appropriate that we do so on the day that the bishops of the United States have designated as a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children!

During the Christmas season just past and during Advent before it, I asked Catholics of the Diocese of Manchester to honor and cherish in a very special way the image of the Christ Child—not as an idol, but as a means of focus, like a photograph of one we always want to remember. By focusing on the Divine Infant, it was my hope that we would see in Him the reality of life's fragile nature, and come to recognize the beauty of the precious gift of life and its fragility at any and every age.

Now we are gathering together with hundreds of thousands of others from around the country to march in protest of the grave evil of legal abortion. The anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision is an opportunity to raise our voices in support of those who cannot speak for themselves, for all those whom our society considers undeserving of life: not just the unborn, but the old, the sick, the poor, and those condemned to die at the hands of our justice system. All are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and therefore deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.

I am glad to be with you today as we go to bear public witness to the sanctity of life. I pray that God may grant us His blessing, that our journey be fruitful. I pray that He, who became one like us in all things but sin, may inspire in us with 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 yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester