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Presidential Address at the 1980 NFCPG Meeting

Eugene F. Diamond, M.D.

In closing my term as president of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, I would like to state what I hope will be an abiding theme of our group. As a Catholic professional group we proclaim the following:

We used to be a Christian country, but now we are a pagan country. We have taken a giant step backward into darkness to become the only country in the world where abortion on demand is practiced for the full nine months of pregnancy. We have reached this point because of the actions of seven willful men who happen to comprise a majority of the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court likes unwanted children but it only likes them dead.

The Court admires privacy — the privacy of the curette, the salt-syringe and the damp pulp of a murdered fetus.

The Court admonishes viability but, alas, it will not permit it.

The Court lives justice, but on its cruel balance a woman's whim outweighs the flesh and blood of her offspring.

The Court cries peace, but it has declared war — a war not only against our own species but against our own children.

But we will not permit it! In our combined professional judgment, certain facts are inescapable and these are the following:

- It is not possible for any unwanted pregnancy to result in the birth of a child who is unwanted by everybody.
- Society in its institutions has downplayed the positive values of chastity and has condoned sexual irresponsibility among young people. We believe that carrying a pregnancy to term provides, for an irresponsible act, a responsible outcome.
- Pregnancy out of wedlock is more likely to be the result of, rather than the cause of, psychological problems.

- Ninety-nine out of 100 crisis pregnancies occur in women who are sufficiently sophisticated about contraception to avoid pregnancy if they were sufficiently motivated to do so, both consciously and subconsciously.
- No pregnant woman in this society is free from coercion to have an abortion. If this coercion does not come from parents or boy-friends, it comes from an all-pervading societal tendency to regard any child as a pollutant.
- Abortion does not cure any illness. Abortion does not save anyone's life. There is no pregnancy-related problem for which abortion is the only answer.

When a fetus dies in abortion, a unique and irreplaceable person dies. His beauty is discarded as surely as if he were a child killed at play. His dream is ended as surely as if he were a young man killed at war. His fullness is erupted as surely as if he were a public figure shot down by an assassin.

To every woman involved in a crisis pregnancy, we ask that you choose life.

To every pregnant woman on welfare, we ask that you value your child more than your social worker's advice.

To every alienated and isolated unwed mother, we ask you to remember that another person is very much alone within you.

To every mature and preoccupied woman who thought that her baby days were over, we ask you to remember that new life will bring you new youth.

In the Book of Solomon, the story is told of two women who were brought to Solomon, both claiming to be the mother of a certain child. When Solomon offered to cut the baby in half, one woman asked that this not be done but rather that she would give up her claim. And Solomon in his wisdom knew that she was the true mother.

Surely it is agonizing to give up your baby in adoption, but adoption is certainly better than dismemberment. Come to us for medical care and we guarantee to find you a better alternative than abortion. We will help you to help yourself. But more than this, we will help you to help someone who cannot help himself.

He is there, lightless and silent in the quarry of the womb — needing only time — needing only to be left alone. His life should not be available to any person or to any legislature or to any court. We solemnly proclaim that we will not rest until he is safe everywhere.