



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194

202-541-3070 • FAX 202-541-3054 • EMAIL PROLIFE@USCCB.ORG • WEB WWW.USCCB.ORG/PROLIFE

November 20, 2008

My Friends in Christ:

As you may know, many important decisions were made by various committees, task forces and the full body of bishops at our recent annual meeting. We offered our congratulations to those elected and expressed our willingness to work with them where possible. We also discussed the significant possibility that a new Congress and a new Administration could eliminate all the modest pro-life protections we currently have in place. In our affirmed statement from Cardinal George, the President of our Conference, we highlighted the especially grave threat posed by the “Freedom of Choice Act” (FOCA), the most radical pro-abortion legislation that we have ever faced, stating that “Aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans, and would be seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion.”

Of critical importance was a unanimous vote of the full body of bishops to mobilize the resources of the Conference, dioceses and the entire Catholic community to prevent either the passage of FOCA or the elimination of current pro-life laws and policies. As Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, I am so very grateful for the tremendous support which has been offered by my brother bishops from all across the country.

As we have done in the past in response to other significant threats to human life, the Committee on Pro-Life Activities has authorized our moving forward with a massive postcard campaign to communicate to Congress the message outlined above. The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment and the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities will be coordinating these efforts in collaboration with many offices at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. We are looking at a January 2009 effort in the parishes, which will be preceded by educational outreach to Catholics and the public at large on the seriousness of the threat to pro-life policies. We will be getting more details to you soon but I wanted you to know of this development as soon as possible.

Once again, I thank you for your dedication to this effort and express grateful appreciation of your leadership. Please join me in praying for the success of this effort and for true progress in building a Culture of Life in our nation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Chairman
Committee on Pro-Life Activities
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops