



Office of the Bishop

# DIocese OF DALLAS

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March 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 1995, the Holy Father Pope John Paul II issued to the entire Church, and to the world, a profound statement on the value of human life, and the threats to this gift, in the landmark encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). As we mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Gospel of Life*, we are called to embrace its challenge with vigor and urgency. Here in Dallas a new late-term abortion center now takes the lives of unborn children up to six months after conception; some 50 babies are aborted in the five abortion centers in our city daily. Abortion on demand remains a “legal right” that endangers children and harms their mothers. This is a tragedy! But we cannot simply throw our hands up in dismay. We must pray, educate, act, and sacrifice.

To lead and equip us as a community to defend life as a sacred gift from our Creator, there is no local organization more effective than the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, the Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas. Through nine active ministries of supportive services, prayer, civic action, public witness and education, the CPLC is fulfilling the call of Christ to help the least of our brothers and sisters each and every day.

I invite you to please join me in giving a very big “North Texas welcome” to the first Cardinal of Texas and the Southwest, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, who is coming to us for a remarkable annual event that celebrates the efforts of the CPLC, and keeps their work going for another year. Cardinal DiNardo, the new Chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, will be the keynote speaker at *The Bishop’s 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Pro-Life Dinner* on April 10, 2010, at the Hilton Anatole Dallas. I hope you will be there to hear his message and to support “the most important work on earth.” The donations you make as part of this dinner are critical for continuing the pro-life effort in our city, the most comprehensive and dynamic of its kind in the country.

Together let us celebrate “*The Splendor of the Gospel of Life*” at this most important occasion! If you cannot attend the dinner, I ask you to please take this opportunity to send a generous donation to the CPLC for their life-saving work. You may also help underwrite dinner scholarships for clergy, seminarians and students, or buy a raffle ticket. Your support for life, especially on behalf of the voiceless unborn, is most deeply appreciated. God bless you.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, D.D.  
Bishop of Dallas