



Statement by Bishop Michael F. Olson on Ads by Catholics for Choice

On September 12, 2016 Catholics for Choice, a dissident organization, launched a national and well-financed print-advertising campaign featuring ads in 20 publications across the United States including the Dallas Morning News, the San Antonio Express-News, and the Houston Chronicle. These full-page ads depict Catholics who support public funding for abortion--the direct and intentional killing of unborn children--an act that is always and everywhere a grave moral evil. I support my brothers, the bishops of these dioceses and the Ordinariate of the Chair of Peter in their pastoral responsibility to their local churches.

These ads are evil for several reasons. First, they promote and actively encourage vulnerable women to kill their unborn children with the active and financial cooperation of our federal and local governments. Secondly, these ads are intended to deceive Catholics and others that the deliberate and knowing choice to kill the unborn child (the most vulnerable of human beings) is a basic human right and a “Catholic social justice value” supportive of the common good of society. Thirdly, these ads are intended to divide and to confuse Catholics about the authentic moral teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the responsibility of the Pope and Catholic bishops in unity with him to teach what is true and essential to this Gospel.

As your bishop, I remind Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Worth, that any direct and intentional act of abortion is always a grave moral evil and for others willingly and intentionally to enable and to encourage others to perform or to undergo abortions is objectively a mortal sin that places one’s soul in peril and for which one will be judged by Christ. The funding of abortion services at a social level destroys the common good and facilitates the socially unjust mistreatment of human lives as disposable commodities that can be wasted and abandoned.

I further remind each one of us of our personal and communal responsibility to promote the basic right to life and to help vulnerable mothers of unborn children to maintain the rightful place of their children in their lives and in the life of our community. Each of us must speak and act clearly and lovingly of the dignity of human life and its integral importance to social justice in contradiction to the dishonesty of such ads. For each of us not to do so objectively is to sin by omission against our responsibility towards vulnerable human life, social justice, and the common good of our community.

+ Most Rev. Michael F. Olson
Bishop of Fort Worth