

**STATEMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND JAMES C. TIMLIN, D.D.,  
BISHOP OF SCRANTON**

As the Bishop of Scranton, I have chosen not to attend the graduation ceremony at The University of Scranton because it appears that one of the recipients of an honorary degree, Mr. Chris Matthews, espoused a viewpoint on abortion which Catholics believe to be contrary to the moral law.

Bishop John M. Dougherty has, likewise, chosen not to attend the graduation ceremony at College Misericordia, Dallas, because certain honorees of that institution also espouse views in favor of abortion.

I am certain that The University of Scranton and College Misericordia acted in good faith in this instance, and that they do not see themselves lending support to any pro-abortion or pro-choice position. However, my longstanding public position is that I will not appear when my presence could possibly be seen as supportive of pro-choice or pro-abortion views.

Let it be known that there is neither personal nor institutional animosity between the Bishops and these prestigious institutions. The Presidents and the Bishops respect one another, enjoy an excellent relationship and will continue to work closely together for the good of all concerned.

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