



DIOCESE OF
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Bishop Daniel P. Reilly, Bishop of Worcester

After much discussion, consultation and prayer, I have determined that I will not attend the Commencement Exercises at the College of the Holy Cross on May 23. It is my responsibility as the Bishop of Worcester to teach and preach the Church's position that all human life be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. Holy Cross will confer an honorary degree on a Catholic person who publicly espouses the view that, in some cases, people have a right to terminate a life in the womb. I cannot let my presence imply support for anything less than the protection of all life at all its stages.

I would like to add that, in making this decision, I am not questioning the fidelity of the College of the Holy Cross to its mission as a Catholic College or its dedication to the mission of the Catholic Church.

I make this decision with a heavy heart, as I would have preferred to offer my congratulations and best wishes personally to the members of the Class of 2003 as they embark on their life journeys. May they know that their best interests will remain in my prayers. I also offer my prayers and best wishes to the entire college community which is a great asset to the Diocese of Worcester and to the wider Church.

May 21, 2003, Worcester, MA