

# Separate But Not Equal Gatherings in Washington

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My wife, Mary Jo, and I were in Washington, D.C. on January 22, 2003 for the annual National Right to Life Board meeting. (I am honored to represent you on the Board of National Right to Life as the Texas delegate.) It was a cold and bitter day in Washington, D.C. The temperature was in the low 20's and the wind chill factor hovered near 0—no weather for a Texan. January 22ND marked the thir-tieth anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decisions of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton that together removed all legal barriers to the practice of abortion in America. Despite the terrible weather, over one hundred thousand dedicated Pro-Lifers assembled on the ellipse behind the White House in preparation for the an-nual march down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court, passing the Capitol Building en route.

Every year since 1973, Pro-Lifers from all over the country have gathered in Washington to mourn the deaths of the millions of unborn babies—victims of the cruel abortionists' attacks. Equally important, they gather to demonstrate their unwavering resolve to overturn those monstrous decisions and so to restore legal protections to the most helpless and unprotected members of our society. It is the greatest annual grass-roots demonstration in the history of this country and sends a message to the Congress, to the Administration, and to the Supreme Court that the silent screams of these defenseless innocents have been heard and that millions of Americans cry for justice on their behalf.

It is awe-inspiring to view this vast throng, assembled from every state in the nation. They are of all ages but what is most impressive are the huge numbers of young people—numbers that increase every year. This is a cause that will not fail. The great number of teenagers who participate annually guarantees that respect for the sanctity of all human life will be restored in our land. Their voices are being heard in Washington and across America. This year, while still gathered on the el-lipse, the crowd was greeted with telephoned remarks from the President of the United States, George W. Bush, our great Pro-Life President. His closing remarks echoed the spirit of the day:

"For thirty years the March for Life has been sustained by the constant prayer and abiding hope that one day, every child will be born into a family that loves that child and a nation that protects that child. And when that day arrives, you will have the gratitude of mil-lions—especially those who know the gift of life because you cared and you kept the faith."

In stark contrast to the tens of thousands marching up Constitution Avenue, pro-abortionist defenders held their own rally in order to show their strength and commitment to the preservation of legal abortion in America. News accounts re-ported that up to one hundred (WOW!) shivering pro-aborts gathered on the steps of the Supreme Court to demonstrate their continued support for preserving Roe v. Wade. The national press—as always—gave both events equal coverage.

An even more significant event took place in Washington to mark the thirti-eth anniversary of that fateful Roe v. Wade decision: the National Abortion Rights Action League (or whatever they now [pun intended] call themselves) held a spe-cial dinner to mark the day. Invited VIPs to this celebration of the violent deaths of over forty million unborn baby Americans were all the announced Democratic candidates for the Presidency of the United States. All six then-announced candi-dates responded to the command invitation and each in turn swore his unswerving support for the continued killing of the innocent unborn. Contrast that horrifying scene with the words of President Bush calling for the restoration of legal protec-tion for all unborn Americans.

We must pray that one day all political parties will be Pro-Life, then good men of different beliefs can honestly disagree and in good conscience support dif-ferent parties based on other issues. However, in January, the Pro-Life position of the Republican Party was clearly juxtaposed to the pro-death stranglehold that cur-rently grips the leadership of the Democratic Party.

What the events of January teach above all is that we are winning! Pro-Lifers are not deterred by the hostile elements. The conspiracy of silence on the part of the nation's media has not prevented the Pro-Life message from being heard. The youth of America (our future) flock to our cause and carry our banners. The President of the United States flourishes our standard and stands with us on the ramparts. The tiny gathering of pro-aborts huddled on the steps of the Supreme Court indicate with startling clarity the hollowness of their claim that they repre-sent the majority of Americans who are "pro-choice."

Support the Pro-Life Cause with you time, talent, and treasure. By your contribution you hasten the end of this terrible period in American history. Like those thousands upon thousands of people who marched in Washington, in Austin, and all over this land on January 22ND, you can and you will make America a better land for all. You can make January 22ND just another day. As President George W. Bush stated so eloquently to the marchers in Washington and by extension to all Pro-Lifers across this land: "You will have the gratitude of millions."