

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: "The spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit. . . . Therefore, never be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord."

Thus wrote St. Paul to Timothy, almost 2,000 years ago; thus speaks the church to American Catholics today. Christian witness takes different forms at different moments in the life of a nation. Sometimes, witnessing to Christ will mean drawing out of a culture the full meaning of its noblest intentions, a fullness that is revealed in Christ. At other times, witnessing to Christ means challenging that culture, especially when the truth about the human person is under assault. America has always wanted to be a land of the free. Today, the challenge facing America is to find freedom's fulfillment in the truth: the truth that is intrinsic to human life created in God's image and likeness, the truth that is written on the human heart, the truth that can be known by reason and can therefore form the basis of a profound and universal dialogue among people about the direction they must give to their lives and their activities.

One hundred thirty years ago, President Abraham Lincoln asked whether a nation "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" could "long endure." President Lincoln's question is no less a question for the present generation of Americans. Democracy cannot be sustained without a shared commitment to certain moral truths about the human person and human community. The basic question before a democratic society is: "How ought we live together?" In seeking an answer to this question, can society exclude moral truth and moral reasoning? Can the Biblical wisdom which played such a formative part in the very founding of your country be excluded from that debate?

Would not doing so mean that tens of millions of Americans could no longer offer the contributions of their deepest convictions to the formation of public policy? Surely it is important for America that the moral truths which make freedom possible should be passed on to each new generation. Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.

How appropriate is St. Paul's charge to Timothy! "Guard the rich deposit of faith with the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us." That charge speaks to parents and teachers; it speaks in a special and urgent way to you, my brother bishops, successors of the apostles. Christ asks us to guard the truth because, as he promised us: "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." *Depositum custodi!* We must guard the truth that is the condition of authentic freedom, the truth that allows freedom to be fulfilled in goodness. We must guard the deposit of divine truth handed down to us in the church, especially in view of the challenges posed by a materialistic culture and by a permissive mentality that reduces freedom to license. But we bishops must do more than guard this truth. We must proclaim it, in season and out of season; we must celebrate it with God's people, in the sacraments; we must live it in charity and service; we must bear public witness to the truth that is Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters: Catholics of America! Always be guided by the truth—by the truth about God who created and redeemed us, and by the truth about the human person, made in the image and likeness of God and destined for a glorious fulfillment in the Kingdom to come. Always be convincing witnesses to the truth. "Stir into a flame the gift of God" that has been bestowed upon you in baptism. Light your nation—light the world—with the power of that flame! Amen.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BOBBY RAY MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow afternoon, several of my fellow Tennesseans will dedicate a new elementary school that honors a very special war hero from McMinnville. I will not be able to join them in this celebration but would like to take a moment to recognize the valor and determination of David Robert Ray and wish the students and faculty at Bobby Ray Memorial Elementary the very best in their new school.

A hospital corpsman second class [HC2c] in the U.S. Navy, Bobby Ray served in South Vietnam as a Marine medic. When this country called, he left his home in McMinnville to help his fellow countrymen who were fighting a foreign people on foreign soil. His life was dedicated to saving others, and he always did it with commitment and courage even as gunshots and mortar shells blasted around him.

On March 19, 1969, at the age of 24, Bobby Ray went above and beyond the call of duty. As enemy troops began a heavy assault on the Marines' Battery D, Ray began working on the serious and heavy casualties that fell from rocket and mortar blasts. As he treated a fallen marine, Ray himself became seriously wounded. Refusing medical help, he continued to provide emergency medical treatment to the other casualties. As the enemy drew closer, Ray was forced to battle oncoming soldiers while he administered medical aid. He did this until he ran out of ammunition and was fatally wounded. But before he died, Bobby Ray performed one more lifesaving act. He threw himself on the last patient he ever treated and saved him from an enemy grenade.

Hospital Corpsman Second Class David Robert Ray gave his own life to save the lives of many others. He became an inspiration to the soldiers in Battery D, who went on to defeat the enemy. For this ultimate sacrifice, the United States awarded Ray the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Tomorrow, Bobby Ray's family and hometown friends will gather in his honor to dedicate the Bobby Ray Memorial Elementary School. The students who attend this school will never know David Robert Ray—they are too young. But they will know of his dedication to serving his country and to saving the lives of others. Without ever meeting him, these children will know who Bobby Ray was, and hopefully, will learn from his incredible act of selflessness.

So, today, Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Bobby Ray, the man, the medic, the soldier, and the hero. And today, I wish to thank him and every American who has given the ultimate sacrifice to serve their country and their countrymen.●

#### LOU PANOS

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to call to the attention of my

colleagues the establishment of a scholarship at Towson State University's School of Communications in honor of my good friend Lou Panos, dean of Maryland's journalistic community. The scholarship marks this distinguished Marylander's 70th birthday and I can think of not more fitting way for him to be honored.

Anyone who has had the good fortune to have worked with Lou in his many public capacities would immediately describe him as a solid professional and an unusually civil practitioner of his craft. He has combined with these sterling personal qualities his thoughtfulness and a sense of fairness which has consistently singled him out among his contemporaries. Lou Panos' long and distinguished career reflects his long-time commitment to public service. He has been involved in a wide range of public service: as a sergeant at arms in the U.S. Army, 1944-46, as a journalist, as press secretary to Gov. Harry Hughes, and as the director of public affairs for the Maryland Shock Trauma Center and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

In view of Lou Panos' commitment to high personal and professional standards, this scholarship represents his dedication to opportunity and education. It is my hope that this scholarship will provide the chance for deserving young people to follow in his path.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were involved in instituting this scholarship, Pautuxent Papers and Towson State University's School of Communications, and the friends and colleagues of this most amiable Marylander. I know that all of those involved in this tribute share in my deep appreciation for Lou's outstanding leadership over the years. On this important occasion, I am pleased to join in saluting Lou Panos for his renowned service and in wishing him the very best in the years ahead.●

#### EDUCATION CUTS JUST AREN'T SMART

SLASHING EDUCATION HURTS PRODUCTIVITY,  
CAUSES LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PAIN

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, we are confronting a crucial point in the history of our Nation. The next few decades could determine whether America has what it takes to adjust to a more competitive world with global markets. And quality education will be the key.

This Nation has enjoyed the greatest education system in the world. We cannot let up now, as the nature of our workforce changes. Global competition is putting greater and greater pressure on our workers, making it more important than ever that Americans have the educational tools they need to stay competitive and become even more productive.