

March 2017

## Wade & Bolton: USCC Responses and Plans

Robert V. Monticello

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Robert V. Monticello (1973) "Wade & Bolton: USCC Responses and Plans," *The Catholic Lawyer*. Vol. 19 : No. 4 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl/vol19/iss4/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Catholic Lawyer by an authorized editor of St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [selbyc@stjohns.edu](mailto:selbyc@stjohns.edu).

# WADE AND BOLTON: USCC RESPONSES AND PLANS

ROBERT V. MONTICELLO\*

When the Supreme Court issued its decision on January 22, 1973 we were all shocked. That same day, however, there was a statement issued in the name of the Conference by its President, John Cardinal Krol. On January 24 the Ad Hoc Committee for Population and Pro-Life Activities issued a statement indicating some direction that the Conference would take. On January 26 Bishop Edward Head, Chairman of the Committee of Health Affairs of the United States Catholic Conference, issued a statement on behalf of that Committee. And on February 13 the Pastoral Message of the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops was issued. All the statements are compiled in a little pamphlet which has been made available to you. Most recently the Pastoral guidelines for Catholic hospital and Catholic health care personnel was also issued.

The principal Pro-Life Activities currently in progress involve an intensification of what is already existing within the mandates of the Conference for specific groups. In particular we are concerned with the Division of Family Life, the Division of Health Affairs, the Office of Government Liaison and the Office of General Counsel. My hope today is to provide an up date on what is happening in the other areas of the Conference and to give you some of the rationale behind these activities. First, I wish to provide a bit of information about the spread of responsibility concerning Pro-Life activities. I also hope to plead with you for your continued collaboration; that if there are things happening in your area that you would keep the Conference informed by direct contact with both Msgr. James McHugh and Mr. "Bud" Consedine.

After awhile statements begin to grow stale. The time for moral indignation has occurred. Now we are attempting to design a program that will be both effective and long range in its implication.

On January 24 the Committee on Population and Pro-Life Activities stated:

The Catholic Church pledges all its educational and informational resources to a program that will present the case for the sanctity of the child's life from conception to birth. This will include the scientific information on the hu-

---

\*Associate General Secretary, United States Catholic Conference.

manity of the unborn child, and the progress of human growth and development of the unborn child, and responsibility and necessity for society to safeguard the life of the child at every state of its existence, the problems that may exist for a woman during pregnancy, and more human and morally acceptable solutions to these problems.

The Committee on Population and Pro-Life Activities has the primary responsibility for the policy formulation and recommendation on anti-abortion matters. Under normal circumstances these policies are reviewed by the Administrative Committee and eventually placed before that implementing body of the Conference which is called the Committee for Research Plans and Programs.

In an attempt to provide coordination we hoped to pull together the various aspects of activity within the Conference. And as a result of that hope, the Secretary for Planning was asked to work with me and to provide in conjunction with the various departments and divisions of the Conference, a kind of compendium of activity which might be developed. These developments were to occur in a two-fold way: First, within the current activity or program budget and within the current financial budget to develop programs in each department and division of the Conference which would underscore the importance of human life. And secondly, to make proposals relative to new programs which might be adopted by the Conference in response to the decision of the Supreme Court.

The Family Life Division is to continue its overall program and it was asked to develop the Respect Life Program for 1973.

On March 6 we brought together all of the departments, divisions and offices of the Conference to inform everyone about developments in the matter. Reports were provided by the Family Life Division, Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Government Liaison, the Division of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Communications. In addition, since there had recently been a meeting of the State Catholic Conferences, Father Michael Sheehan of the General Secretariat was asked to report on the activities in the various states.

As a result of that meeting a number of suggestions were made. The majority of the proposals of individuals, divisions and secretariats fall into the following general categories:

- 1) Incorporation of an increased pro-life dimension into Conference publications, newsletters, and other mailings.
- 2) Focus on pro-life issues and institutions, seminars, workshops and other meetings, sponsored by or participated in by the Conference.
- 3) Development and/or dissemination of program models and curriculum materials for use of diocesan or parish (school) level.
- 4) Giving "equal" time to the specific abortion issue in dealing with broader aspects of the entire pro-life area, and with such related concerns as human rights, human dignity, social justice, and population issues in general.
- 5) Provision for a specific pro-life focus in certain elements of the liturgy (votive Mass, intercessions, etc.).

- 6) Compilation and dissemination of bibliographies and other background information in the broad pro-life area.
- 7) Provision for an effective multi-media approach to the Communication aspect of Conference wide approach.

We hope to provide a broad spectrum of activities that dioceses can adopt in pursuing the extremely important goal of preserving, protecting and respect for life.

In conclusion I once again ask you for your continued collaboration. Please keep the Conference informed by direct contact with both Msgr. McHugh and Mr. "Bud" Consedine. We appreciate your assistance and are grateful for your cooperation.