



Diocese of LaCrosse
Office of the chancery
diocesan archives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2005

Contact:

Ben Nguyen

Chancellor /Director of Communications

608-791-2655

PRESS RELEASE

**STATEMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND JEROME E. LISTECKI
ON THE DEATH OF TERRI SCHIAVO**

We are incredibly saddened by the unfolding of the tragic events surrounding the death of Terri Schiavo. Most troubling is the fact that our courts, supported by some, did not make the presumption in favor of the dignity of human life. This is yet another negative step against the culture of life in our society. We stand by the words of the Holy Father Pope John Paul II (who today was also placed on a feeding tube) in his Encyclical Letter *The Gospel of Life* (101):

“...a society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace.”

We pray that all of us in this great nation, whether law makers, officers of the courts, or citizens, will recommit ourselves to the building up of the culture of life and to bearing witness to it in our daily lives.

We also stand in solidarity with those who have courageously sought to defend the dignity of the life of Terri Schiavo. Together with them, we mourn her death and share in their sorrow.

May God grant Terri eternal rest and may He have mercy on us and on our society.

+The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecky
Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse