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CNS documentary service

Homily at National Prayer Vigil for Life

Cardinal O'Malley

Supporters of legal abortion are like the emperor from the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale "The Emperor's New Suit," said Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston. The "proud and vain king" gullibly believed the swindlers who "told the king that those who could not see the (magic) cloth were stupid and unfit for office," said Cardinal O'Malley, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "The king was quite deceived and paraded through the streets of his capital to receive the ovations of his people. The crowds lined the streets and applauded when the king passed by. The crowd shouted compliments and congratulated the king on his magnificent clothing. Suddenly a little child shouted, 'But he has nothing on at all,'"

"The antidote of abortion is solidarity: community where people are willing to care for each and for the most vulnerable."

Cardinal O'Malley said. "The king's new clothes today are called reproduction rights, termination of pregnancy, choice and many other subterfuges that disguise the reality and the brutality that is abortion," he added. "The voice of the church is like the child who declares before the world that the new clothes are a lie, a humbug, a deception. The church, with the candor of a child, must call out the uncomfortable truth. Abortion is wrong. Thou shall not kill." Cardinal O'Malley made his remarks in the homily of the Jan. 21 Mass opening the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the night before the annual March for Life in the nation's capital. The cardinal's homily follows.

almost 200 years ago the Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen wrote a wonderful story called "The Emperor's New Suit." It is the story of a very proud and vain king who thought so much of new clothes that he spent all of his money on his apparel. His only ambition was to be the best dressed.

One day two swindlers arrived in the city and convinced the king to buy a new suit made of a magical material that was invisible. They told the king that those who could not see the cloth were stupid and unfit for office.

The king was quite deceived and paraded through the streets of his capital to receive

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February 6, 2014
Volume 43
Number 35