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STATEMENT BY ARCHBISHOP DANIEL E. PILARCZYK REGARDING

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

As of this date, I have not been able to see Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*. Given the violence and brutality that reportedly pervades the film, I probably will not see it.

Yet two things are clear to me from the publicity and comment that has preceded the public screening of the film.

The first is that, no matter what the film maker intended, the film is not a full and faithful presentation of the four gospel narratives of the passion of Our Lord. Apparently the film adds some non-gospel material to the narrative and omits other gospel material. Like all works that claim to be worthy of consideration as art, *The Passion of the Christ* is an individual artist's interpretation and must be viewed as such. Some persons who have seen the film have found it profoundly moving. Other have not.