



**Statement of The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton
Bishop of Belleville
August 1, 2011**

The Catholic Diocese of Belleville acknowledges that the Illinois Supreme Court has declined to hear the appeal of the case of *James Wisniewski v. The Catholic Diocese of Belleville*. The Diocese continues to express regret for any instances of childhood sexual abuse by a member of its clergy. The Diocese is committed to adhering to its Child Protection Policy, and will continue to assist victims and their families in furtherance of that policy and its ministry.