

65 East Wacker Place • Suite 1620
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 368-1066
FAX (312) 368-1090



108 East Cook Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704
(217) 528-9200
FAX (217) 528-7214

January 25, 2010

Dear Pastor:

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. and the Illinois Bishops, along with the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI), are hosting the second *Catholics at the Capitol* on Wednesday, March 3rd in Springfield. We ask that you include the attached announcement about this event in your parish bulletin. The announcement is available in both English and Spanish.

This event is a unique opportunity to come to Springfield to meet with elected officials and enhance the inclusion of our gospel values in the public square. We urge you to send representatives from your parish to this event. The legislative initiatives that will be the focus of *Catholics at the Capitol* include:

- Advocating for funding for programs that help Catholic schools purchase textbooks and meet other mandates.
- Maintaining funding for and supporting English and adult education for immigrants to provide effective opportunities for English proficiency, job readiness, and advanced learning.
- Opposing continued efforts to prevent implementation of the parental notification statute and supporting legislation to require that a woman seeking an abortion be provided the opportunity to view a sonogram of her unborn child.
- Protecting traditional marriage and opposing legislation for same-sex marriage or similarly defined civil unions.
- Maintaining the social services safety net by opposing any funding reductions to human services.
- Supporting efforts for the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

For further information on *Catholics at the Capitol*, including a registration form to complete with information on your parish representatives as well as information on transportation, please go to www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact CCI at 312-368-1066 or 217-528-9200.

Thank you for your participation in *Catholics at the Capitol*.

Sincerely,
Robert Gilligan
Executive Director