



June 25, 2009

ICC Leadership Team

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Bishop Gary Wollersheim,
Co-Chair

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Dear Governor Quinn:

Illinois Conference of Churches is asking the elected officials of Illinois to accept the moral imperative of providing adequate care for all our state's citizens and to prevent any potential devastating budget cuts from being imposed upon vital social services. Our faith traditions call upon us to act with mercy, compassion, and justice toward those who are less fortunate. The pursuit of healing and wholeness for those who are marginalized encapsulates not only their spiritual health, but also their physical, mental, and emotional health.

Clergy and congregations from all denominations and faith traditions are working in our communities across the state caring for those who are sick, sheltering those who are homeless, strengthening family networks, and providing vital services for people living in poverty. As our society looks more and more toward faith traditions for assistance, we humbly remind policy makers that charity cannot be a substitute for justice.

Ensuring a strong network of community services that target services such as public health programs, care for seniors, affordable housing, prevention programs of all kinds, after school programs for our children, etc., promotes the common good for all of humankind. Budget cuts that lead to significant reductions in or even elimination of programs and services to the most vulnerable in our state will only add to the ongoing and increasing budget crisis in our state. As leaders from diverse faith traditions, we recognize that to approach a responsible society that truly values human life, investing now to provide for a safety net for social services is not only a moral responsibility, but is the fiscally responsible thing to do. Now more than ever the human care component of our state budget deserves attention from local, state, and federal officials alike.

We will continue to pray for courage, wisdom, and compassion for all of our state leaders as you guide us through this difficult period. We trust that we can count on you to build the bridge that will prevent cuts to critical services to those in need and instead will secure full funding for the human care needs of our state.

Blessings,

Bishop Gary Wollersheim,
ICC Leadership Team Co-chair

Very Reverend Robert Flannery,
ICC Leadership Team Co-chair

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We seek to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. We will do this by: Promoting an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions; and Making public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism.