



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 13, 2012

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am joining with my brother Catholic bishops in California to endorse two initiatives proposed for the November 2012 general election:

- Parental Notification Initiative will respect parents' right to be informed about the welfare of their daughters. The initiative will require doctors to notify parents 48 hours prior to an abortion on their minor daughter. This is common sense. It is good social policy.
- The SAFE CALIFORNIA Initiative will replace the use of the death penalty for a capital crime with the penalty of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The use of the death penalty in California is unnecessary, impractical, and expensive.

The Catholic community opposes the practice of abortion. The Parental Notification Initiative helps all parents bring their values to the exercise of their proper responsibility to teach and care for their children.

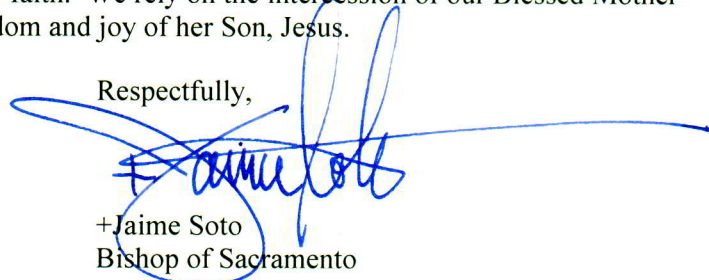
The dignity of the human person is foundational to all morality. As Catholics, we work to ensure this principle permeates all social policy, even in the prosecution of those who have caused grave harm to the community. The SAFE CALIFORNIA Initiative will help bring this vital moral value to the exercise of justice in California giving us prudent and practical means to ensure the safety of our communities.

Both of these initiatives will require the gathering of signatures in order to qualify for the November 2012 general election ballot. Normally, the Catholic Bishops of California do not take a position on an initiative until it qualifies. We are making an exception in the case of these two initiatives.

I am asking that the gathering of signatures for these initiatives take place at parishes on the Sundays of February 19 and 26, 2012. Only parishioners are to be involved in the gathering of these signatures on parish property. Only material approved by my office may be distributed on parish property. More details in this regard will be forthcoming. Besides the two dates I have designated for signature-gathering at Catholic parishes, I encourage the Catholic faithful to actively participate in the collection of signatures at public locations.

The coming year will be filled with much political debate about the future of our nation as well as our state. Catholics have a moral responsibility to bring the good news of the gospel to this public discourse. The two aforementioned initiatives are instances when we can infuse the current political moment with the reason and grace of our faith. We rely on the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary so that we may do so with the wisdom and joy of her Son, Jesus.

Respectfully,



+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento