



## DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0200 • Fax 916/733-0215

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 23, 2012

Dear Pastor:

In my January 13, 2012, letter to the clergy and faithful of the diocese (see attached), I indicated that I will allow for signature gathering to help qualify two initiatives for the ballot at the November 2012 General Election:

- The parental notification initiative, called Californians for Parental Rights
- The initiative to end the use of the death penalty, called SAFE California

In the Diocese of Sacramento, this effort will take place at the parishes after the Sunday Masses of February 18/19 and 25/26, 2012. This letter offers directions on how to proceed.

Please send two or three parish representatives to an organizational meeting at the Kavanagh Center at St. Rose parish in South Sacramento on Saturday, February 4, from 1:00 ó 3:00 pm. At this meeting they will receive all the necessary written materials, including flyers and petitions, as well as instructions about how to organize a parish team and how to gather and submit the signatures. This meeting will be divided into English and Spanish speaking sessions.

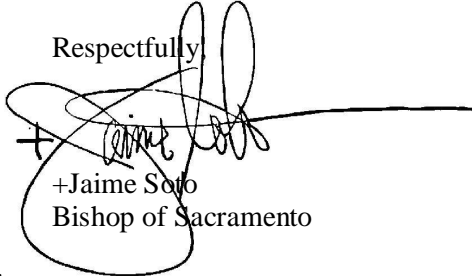
RSVP to [www.collectsignatures.org](http://www.collectsignatures.org) with the names of the parish representatives no later than Friday, January 27, 2012. Only representatives designated by their pastors are asked to attend this meeting. If you have a Spanish-speaking community, be sure to send at least one Spanish-speaking representative.

I am copying this communication to parish respect life representatives, the Knights of Columbus and the Deacon community with my encouragement to them to support this effort at the parish.

While I realize that mobilizing parishes to gather signatures is a considerable undertaking, especially with relatively short notice, I am optimistic that there would be willing volunteers in each of our parishes ready to help with this brief, but vital effort.

I thank you in advance for your help in this effort. May the Lord continue to guide and strengthen this and all endeavors to spread the gospel of life.

Respectfully



+Jaime Soto  
Bishop of Sacramento

cc: Parish Respect Life Representatives  
Knights of Columbus  
Deacons



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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.

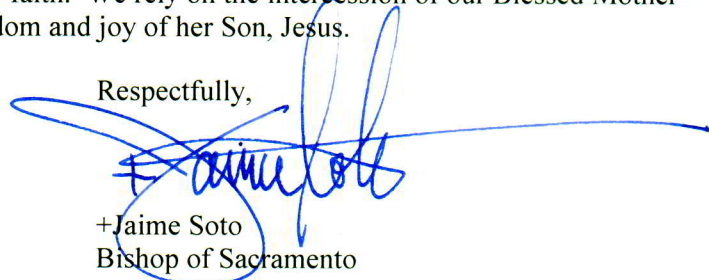
The dignity of the human person is foundational to all morality. As Catholics, we work to ensure this principle permeates all social policy, even in the prosecution of those who have caused grave harm to the community. The SAFE CALIFORNIA Initiative will help bring this vital moral value to the exercise 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



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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

13 de Enero de 2012

Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Me uniré con mis hermanos obispos católicos de California para apoyar dos iniciativas propuestas para la elección general de noviembre de 2012:

- La Iniciativa de la Notificación de los Padres respetará el derecho de los padres de familia a ser informados sobre el bienestar de sus hijas. Esta iniciativa requerirá que los médicos notifiquen a los padres de familia 48 horas antes de practicar un aborto a su hija menor de edad. Esto es de sentido común. Es una política social que sí funciona.
- La Iniciativa SAFE CALIFORNIA reemplazará el uso de la pena de muerte por un crimen capital con la pena de cadena perpetua sin posibilidad de libertad condicional. El uso de la pena de muerte en California es innecesario, poco práctico y costoso.

La comunidad católica se opone a la práctica del aborto. La Iniciativa de Notificación de los Padres apoyará a los papás a inculcar sus valores a sus hijos defendiendo su propia responsabilidad de enseñar y cuidarlos.

La dignidad de la persona humana es el fundamento de toda moral. Como católicos, trabajamos para asegurar que este principio impregne toda política social, incluso en la persecución de aquellos que han causado un grave daño a la comunidad. La Iniciativa SAFE CALIFORNIA ayudará a llevar este valor moral al ejercicio de la justicia en California dándonos los medios más prudentes y formas prácticas para garantizar la seguridad de nuestras comunidades.

Ambas iniciativas requerirán la colecta de firmas para calificar en la boleta electoral de la elección general de noviembre de 2012. Normalmente, los obispos católicos de California no toman ninguna postura sobre una iniciativa hasta que califique para la boleta electoral. Estamos haciendo una excepción en el caso de estas dos iniciativas.

Estoy pidiendo que la colecta de firmas para estas dos iniciativas se lleve a cabo en las parroquias los domingos 19 y 26 de febrero de 2012. Sólo feligreses deben participar en la colecta de estas firmas y en propiedad parroquial. Sólo el material aprobado por mi oficina puede ser distribuido en la propiedad parroquial. Recibirán más detalles en relación a esto. Además de las dos fechas que he designado para la colecta de firmas en las parroquias católicas, animo a los fieles católicos a participar activamente en la colecta de firmas en lugares públicos.

Este año estará saturado con discursos políticos sobre el futuro de nuestra nación, así como nuestro estado. Los católicos tienen la responsabilidad moral de llevar la buena nueva del evangelio al foro público. Las dos iniciativas son una oportunidad en la cual podemos infundir a este momento político con la razón y la gracia de nuestra fe. Contamos con la intercesión de nuestra Santísima Madre María para que esta tarea nuestra sea siempre inspirada con la sabiduría y la alegría de su Hijo, Jesús.

Atentamente,

+Jaime Soto  
Obispo de Sacramento