

Vision Statement

Be a Voice for Life & Dignity in California

Our Catholic faith calls us to participate in our communities. That same faith calls us to protect life, promote dignity and respect for all human beings from conception to natural death. And in *Faithful Citizenship*, the U.S. Bishops challenge us to be more involved: “In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation.” (Page 4, par. 13)



In response, the Bishops of California have established the *Catholic Legislative Network* to help us be better informed about state and national policy issues and make it easier for us to become more engaged in the political process. On the weekend of June 25/26, 2011, every parish in the Diocese of San Jose will hold a *Life & Dignity Sunday*. During each Mass, the Network will be explained and parishioners encouraged to register. Cards will be forwarded to the California Catholic Conference for inclusion in the statewide database. All registrations will be returned to the Bishop for us on public policy issues.

The Catholic Legislative Network provides a brief, yet thorough, weekly e-newsletter called *Public Policy Insights*, in which network members learn about issues and actions being taken on certain priority issues. Occasional *Action Alerts* are sent to members asking them to contact their elected representative and providing a suggested text. A representative who received a dozen of emails on an issue may pay attention, but the Senator or Assembly member that receives hundreds of emails on one issue takes immediate notice. A strong *voice for life and dignity* will make a difference!

There could not be a more important time for this network to emerge. California is in crisis morally and economically. Staggering budget deficits have shredded the safety net that once protected vulnerable children and aging adults. But while funding for life-giving programs is eliminated, financial resources for abortion clinics have not been similarly reduced, and each year proposals to allow doctors to assist their patients in committing suicide gain momentum in the legislature. As Catholics we care deeply about all these “life and dignity” issues and more. The state needs a strong, clear, moral voice for life and dignity now!

Your willingness to participate within this network will help the Catholic Church become a influence *Voice for Life and Dignity in California*.

Join now at www.catholic.org