



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEMBERS

Jose H. Gomez
ARCHBISHOP OF SAN ANTONIO

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
**ARCHBISHOP
OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON**

Gregory M. Aymond
BISHOP OF AUSTIN

Edmond Carmody
BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Alvaro Corrada del Rio, S.J.
BISHOP OF TYLER

Kevin J. Farrell
BISHOP OF DALLAS

David E. Fellhauer
BISHOP OF VICTORIA

Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D.
BISHOP OF BEAUMONT

Armando X. Ochoa
BISHOP OF EL PASO

Raymundo J. Peña
BISHOP OF BROWNSVILLE

Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I.
BISHOP OF SAN ANGELO

Placido Rodriguez, C.M.F.
BISHOP OF LUBBOCK

James A. Tamayo
BISHOP OF LAREDO

Kevin W. Vann
BISHOP OF FORT WORTH

John W. Yanta
BISHOP OF AMARILLO

CONSULTATIVE MEMBERS

ALL OTHER TEXAS BISHOPS

Andrew D. Rivas, J.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Maria Frederick
Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator
(512) 339-9882
maria@txcatholic.org

Texas Catholic Conference helps lead Texas Rally for Life

AUSTIN, Texas—2008 marks the second year that the Texas Catholic Conference participates in the Texas Rally for Life as a member of the Steering Committee. The Texas Catholic Conference is the statewide association of the Roman Catholic dioceses in Texas. One of the Conference's functions is to be the public policy arm of the Conference's Board of Directors, the bishops of Texas, before the Texas legislature, the Texas delegation in Congress, and state agencies. The public policy issues addressed by the Conference include institutional concerns of the Catholic Church as well as issues related to Catholic social teachings.

Life issues are one of five main priorities on the Bishops' Legislative Agenda. Speaking on the dignity of human life before the Texas House of Representatives Committee on State Affairs, Bishop Kevin Vann of the Diocese of Fort Worth stated:

“It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop. A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. Only respect for life can be the foundation and guarantee of the most precious and essential goods of society, such as democracy and peace.”

-more-



The Legislative priorities of the Texas Catholic Conference include Immigration, Health & Human Services, Education, and Criminal Justice Reform issues in addition to Life Issues. Specific legislative goals include: support for comprehensive immigration reform; adult stem cell research; tax credits or deductions for educational expenses; increased funding for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; and efforts to decrease the number of uninsured Texas children. Additional goals include opposition to the death penalty, abortion, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, as well as opposition to attempts to reduce access to healthcare and education for immigrants or build a fence along the Texas-Mexico border.

The primary purpose of the Conference is to encourage and foster cooperation and communication among the dioceses and the ministries of the Catholic Church of Texas. The Education Department and Catholic Archives of Texas are also components of the Conference. For more information on the Texas Catholic Conference, including our entire Legislative Agenda, visit TXcatholic.org or call 512-339-9882.

###