

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL 2007”
TO FEATURE CONVERSATION BETWEEN BISHOPS AND POLITICIANS**

On Tuesday March 13, more than 350 Catholics from throughout the state will gather at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison for the fourth biennial *Catholics at the Capitol* event. The event is coordinated by the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) and co-sponsored by many statewide Catholic organizations.

“The Catholic faithful in this state have a great deal to contribute to the public policy discussions taking place in Madison,” stated John Huebscher, WCC Executive Director. “Those joining us in this event reflect the broad Catholic presence in the state, from our parishes to our hospitals to our schools to our religious orders and Catholic charities agencies.”

The Conference begins with registration at 8:30 AM and concludes at 3:00 PM, at which time individuals and groups will visit with legislators at the Capitol.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of Milwaukee and Bishop Robert C. Morlino of the Diocese of Madison will be present to greet Catholics from around the state on behalf of the WCC.

Deirdre McQuade, Pro-Life spokesperson for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, will offer the keynote luncheon address, speaking on how Christians can imitate Jesus’ compassion, respect, and generosity when encountering opposition to the protection of human life from conception to natural death.

Individual breakout sessions will address such public policy issues as health care reform, the 2007 Farm Bill, pro-life advocacy, poverty, predatory lending, criminal justice reform, and immigration.

The day will conclude with a conversation among Archbishop Dolan, Bishop Morlino, former Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow, and former Milwaukee District Atty. E. Michael McCann on the relationship between a person’s faith and his or her vocation as a public servant. Tom Heinen, religion editor for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, will serve as moderator.

“The goal of the session is to help Catholics and others better understand how bishops and politicians can talk to each other about the important question of religion and politics,” Huebscher explained.

Media interviews with Archbishop Dolan, Bishop Morlino, Deirdre McQuade, and other conference presenters may be scheduled throughout the day.