

## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2011

#### **“CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL” FEATURES ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI, PANEL ON WITNESSING TO HOPE**

On Tuesday, April 5, 2011, several hundred Catholics from throughout the state will gather at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison for the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 theme for this year’s event is “Living Faith in the Public Square.” Archbishop Jerome ListECKI of Milwaukee will deliver the morning keynote address on how faith and religious perspectives elevate public policy debate.

“The Catholic voice in the public square is a voice that speaks for the vulnerable in society,” WCC Executive Director John Huebscher observed. “That voice, and the message of hope it expresses, is badly needed in these difficult times. Those Catholics joining us in this event reflect the broad Catholic presence in the state, from our parishes, hospitals, schools, religious orders, charitable societies, and Catholic charities agencies – all will take that message of hope to their legislators.”

Bishop Robert Morlino of the Madison diocese and Bishop David Ricken of the Green Bay diocese will also be present to greet Catholics from around the state and take part in the day’s events. Registration starts at 8:15am and the day concludes at 3:30pm. At that time, individuals and groups will travel to the Capitol to visit with legislators and staff.

Individual breakout sessions will address public policy issues such as fostering effective advocacy, protecting human life, state budgeting, implementing health care reform, immigration and human trafficking, the politics of food, parental choice, and serving the poor and vulnerable through partnerships with the public sector. Professor Tom Thibodeau of Viterbo University will again present his popular “Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching.”

The day concludes with a conversation among Archbishop ListECKI, Bishop Ricken, and two lay Catholics on “Witnessing Hope in Uncertain Times.”

“The goal of the conversation is for bishops and lay Catholics to share their insights on how Catholics set an example as voices for hope and cooperation in the midst of an economic recession and a tense political environment,” Huebscher explained.

Media interviews with conference presenters may be scheduled throughout the day.

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For more information, contact John Huebscher, 608/257-0004.