



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL 2005: CALLED TO SERVE THE COMMON GOOD” SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 4, 2005

On April 4, 2005 nearly 300 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 charities agencies.”

This year’s conference will feature a wide variety of learning opportunities including focus sessions on specific public policy issue areas.

The Conference begins at 9:30 AM and concludes at 3:00 PM, at which time individuals and groups will visit with legislators at the Capitol. The public policy issues to be addressed include:

- Embryonic stem cell research
- Criminal justice
- Respect life initiatives
- Funding for programs serving the poor and vulnerable

Bishop Robert C. Morlino of the Diocese of Madison and Vice-Chair of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference Board will be present to greet Catholics from around the state on behalf of the WCC.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of Milwaukee will offer the keynote luncheon address, entitled “American Catholics and the Responsibilities of Citizenship: What We’ve Learned and What We Still Need to Learn.”

“This conference has emerged as an important part of our advocacy strategy and an effective vehicle to connect lay Catholics around Wisconsin to their state government,” Huebscher added. “We are trying to make it something that anyone interested in learning more about faithful citizenship and raising a voice for human dignity and the common good will want to be a part of.”

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