Welcome to the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops and the 2011 New Mexico Legislative Session

This page will give you up-to-date information regarding the 2011 New Mexico Legislative Session, and at times, ask for your action.

The New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops is the association of three Catholic dioceses of the State of New Mexico. The Conference includes the three Catholic bishops of New Mexico: Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of the Diocese of Las Cruces, and Bishop James S. Wall of the Diocese of Gallup with Allen Sanchez as the Director of the Conference and Deacon Steve Rangel as the Associate Director. The Conference is the public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of New Mexico.

The purpose of the Conference is to promote the greater good of humankind by addressing issues of moral concern and social justice as seen through the eyes of the Catholic faith. The Conference informs and educates its members and the public about those issues and encourages all to advocate for those issues and the betterment of mankind.

This year is our 60-day session, beginning on January 18 and ending on March 19. The 2011 Legislative Agenda of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops is as follows: Life, being the greatest gift from God, is top priority, as is concern for the poor. The Bishops support the passage of “parental consent” for a minor to have an abortion, a ban on abortions after 22 weeks, support for tuition scholarship tax credits, farm worker-workman’s compensation, and funding for social programs for the poor. The Bishops will oppose bills that cut funding to children’s programs, cut benefits to the poor, establish food tax, or create domestic partnership.

We invite you to join us as Catholic citizens and become informed about the issues, then make "our voices" heard as well as the voices of those who can’t speak for themselves.

Please write, call or visit your State senators and representatives and participate in the legislative process. Information about who your legislators are, how to contact them, which
bills are being considered, and bill numbers can be found on the website of the New Mexico State Legislature at http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislatorsearch.aspx. Listen daily to Catholic Radio or go to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe web site www.archdiosf.org for more legislative updates.

We'd like you to keep the following dates in mind:

- **Tuesday, January 18, 2011** - The beginning of the 2011 Legislative Session - Santa Fe
- **Wednesday, January 19, 2011** - Sanctity of Life Awareness Day - Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe
- **Monday, January 24, 2011** - Yellow Umbrella Day - 11:00 am press conference at the East entrance of the State Capitol. Invest in kids now; support a constitutional amendment to make the permanent fund work for our children.

In Christ,
The New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops

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**Save the Dates:**

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