

March 14, 2006

Dear Father/Pastoral Administrator:

You may have recently become aware of a petition that is circulating that seeks to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that defines life as beginning at the moment of conception. This letter is intended to explain why the Michigan Catholic Conference is not participating in the gathering of signatures sponsored by Michigan Citizens for Life.

Three reasons form the foundation for this decision. Michigan already has a law banning abortion, which remains dormant due to *Roe v. Wade*; second, the U.S. Supreme Court will soon revisit the issue of partial birth abortion and, potentially, the issue of *Roe* itself. Finally, this effort is not built upon a broad based coalition.

The Michigan Catholic Conference remains committed to the belief that life begins at conception and will continue to work for the protection of life in all of its stages. Further information about this issue and the possible 9 or 10 other proposals being readied for the 2006 ballot will be forthcoming.

With dependence on and gratitude for your continuing cooperation in these matters, I am

Cordially,

Sister Monica Kostielney, R.S.M.  
President and CEO

SMK/mls