



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON · DIOCESE OF RICHMOND  
Representing the Virginia Catholic Bishops in Public Policy Matters

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## **VA Catholic Conference Needs Your Help on Advocacy Sunday!**

For the second consecutive year, Diocese of Richmond Bishop Francis DiLorenzo and Diocese of Arlington Bishop Paul Loverde have instituted a statewide sign-up campaign to boost enrollment in the Virginia Catholic Conference Email Advocacy Network and have sent letters urging all 226 parishes in their two dioceses to participate in Advocacy Sunday, Nov. 12-13.

Following the Bishops' letter, Conference Executive Director Jeff Caruso sent parishes throughout the state materials to support the enrollment campaign. These include bulletin and pulpit announcements about the Conference's Email Advocacy Network and tips on ways to encourage parishioners to sign up. Those materials are available on the Conference [website](http://www.vacatholic.org) at [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org).

The enrollment campaign will be conducted online with parishioners encouraged to visit the Conference website to sign up for the advocacy network. Parishes are also encouraged to consider using sure-fire ideas to spark campaign participation, such as providing internet stations at the parish where parishioners can sign up after Mass.

In their letter to parishes the Bishops noted that there are almost 700,000 registered parishioners in the Commonwealth. If many of those Catholics joined the advocacy network, imagine the impact for good this could have on issues being debated in the public square, they wrote.

“We urge your consideration knowing how many demands there are already on parish schedules, but also knowing that *there is so much at stake*,” the Bishops stated in their letter. “Will taxpayers be forced to fund abortions? Will human embryos continue to be sacrificed at the altars of economic development and science without ethical limits? Will Virginia expand its application of the death penalty even further? Will the safety net that helps sustain the poorest in our communities be preserved or eroded? Will our Commonwealth preserve the freedom of conscience of faith-based institutions to uphold their beliefs regarding marriage? Will immigrants be welcomed in our communities? Will parents, as first teachers, be given more options and opportunities to send their children to the schools best suited for them?”

The Virginia Catholic Conference advocates on behalf of these issues, and being able to enlist a large, active email advocacy network is essential in this work. The Conference urges Catholics throughout the commonwealth to help us make an expanded network a reality. Visit the website at [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org)