

## **Value of human life**

Pope Benedict XVI writes in *Caritas in Veritate* that "The Church forcefully maintains this link between life ethics and social ethics, fully aware that 'a society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized.'" (no. 15).

## **USCCB Statement on Immigration**

The Catholic Church believes that immigrants should come to the United States lawfully, but it also understands that the current immigration legal framework does not adequately reunify families and is non-responsive to our country's need for labor.

Our country must pass immigration reform laws to ensure the rule of law in the United States, while simultaneously ensuring that the laws that rule are responsive to our economy's demand for labor, rooted in the reunification of family, and respectful of the humanity of the immigrants in our midst. The Church supports immigration reform that would increase the number of visas available for low-skilled workers and facilitate family reunification

## **USCCB statement on a plan of action**

(We need...) **education, prayer, policy, and advocacy** efforts to mobilize the Catholic community on issues of life, justice, and peace. In this way, the Catholic community celebrates the gift of human life and witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

# **Letter from Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, to the People of the Archdiocese of Chicago on the House Bill 2495/Senate Bill 1942 and House Bill 2467/Senate Bill 1594**

March 23, 2019

With this letter I write to you about a development that should disturb us greatly, both as citizens and as disciples of Jesus, the Lord of life.

Recently, two bills have been introduced in the Illinois House and Senate. The first, House Bill 2495 and Senate Bill 1942, both identical pieces of legislation, seeks to strip unborn persons of any protection – or even consideration – under the law and declare abortion to be a “fundamental right” and matter of health care. The end result is that an abortion could be obtained at any stage of pregnancy, including late term, for any reason and without any regulation. The law would no longer guarantee any modicum of humanity or compassion for any unborn person in Illinois, even if they are partially born. This legislation also repeals the Abortion Performance Refusal Act, which protects doctors, nurses and hospitals who refuse to permit, recommend, perform or assist in abortion. In so doing, rights of conscience, especially religious objections, will be lost.

The second piece of legislation House Bill 2467 and its identical Senate Bill 1594, repeals the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act. This law, upheld unanimously by the Illinois Supreme Court just six years ago, has the common-sense purpose of ensuring that parents would be part of the life-altering decision of their minor child in the case she seeks an abortion. This effective law has reduced abortions performed on minors by fifty-seven percent.

As citizens of a state and people of faith who care about the common good, I urge you to join me and my brother bishops in an effort to defeat this radical departure from current law and practice in our state. Please reach out your State Representative and Senator to urge defeat of these bills. You can find the name of your appropriate politicians and their contact information at <https://www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/action-center/>.

To find out more about these bills, please consult the Catholic Conference of Illinois website, [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org), or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at **312-534-5355** for further information.

Entrusting our efforts for all life, from the moment of conception until natural death, to the care of our Blessed Mother, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Blase Cardinal Cupich

Archbishop of Chicago