



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

Office of the Bishop

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July 31, 2006

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and Faithful of the Diocese:

Since my appointment as your Apostolic Administrator, I have had the privilege to serve Christ with many of you and have come to know you as a people of deep faith with a strong commitment to building a culture of life.

Life is the foundation upon which all other rights exist. Jesus taught us that without a solid foundation, the house will crumble. Likewise, as long as life itself is not protected, the very foundations of our society are undermined. Every time an abortion happens, we reject the dignity of human life and the firm belief that we are created in the image and likeness of God.

The South Dakota Legislature and the Governor have enacted the Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act (HB 1215), a bill that defends human life and aims to protect citizens from the great suffering caused by abortion. This courageous act has placed South Dakota at the forefront of the fight to build a culture of life.

Sadly, there are those who support abortion, and through a petition drive have secured enough signatures to place HB 1215 on the ballot (as Referred Law 6) for a vote of the people on November 7, 2006. The nation and the world are watching closely to see how we respond to this opportunity to defend life. As people of faith, we must share the truth and dispel the lies about abortion. We must speak with clarity, but also with charity and hope, so that this law is affirmed. And first and foremost, we must pray daily.

To aid you in your prayer and educational efforts, please use and distribute the diocesan Prayer Card, Prayer Guide, and the educational booklet entitled "Response of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls to the Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act (HB 1215 – Referred Law 6)". All of these resources can be viewed on and printed from the Catholic Advocate Network (CAN) website at www.sfcatholic.org/can.

I pray that the coming months will be a time of growth for you as we proclaim the truth. May our prayers and educational efforts transform the hearts and minds of South Dakotans so that on November 7, 2006, the people will vote "Yes" to affirm HB 1215, taking us one step closer to saving the lives of our preborn brothers and sisters and protecting women and families from the evil of abortion.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Samuel J. Aquila".

The Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Sioux Falls