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Healthcare Talking Points/Bulletin Inserts

Short fact lists, talking points, and excerpts from Catholic teaching, for parish bulletins and similar materials, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Did you know?

In 2008, Catholic hospitals handled

...more than 16.9 million emergency room visits
...more than 92.7 million outpatient visits
...more than 5.5 million admissions

Support health care reform that respects the life and dignity of all people from conception to natural death. Get the long-standing teachings of the Church and the latest updates on health care reform — visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Other “Did You Know?” blurbs:

...in 1963, Pope John XXIII called medical care a human right.* (*Pacem in Terris*, 11)
...the U.S. bishops have been urging health care reform for decades.
...there are 624 Catholic hospitals in the United States.
...eleven of the nation’s forty largest systems are Catholic.
...one of every six admissions in the United States is to a Catholic hospital.

Share these excerpts drawn from Catholic teaching in your bulletins or other materials. Please be sure to include the bolded text below the quote.

Health Care: In the Example of Jesus

In the earthly ministry of Jesus...his teaching and preaching were not done in isolation but were accompanied by frequent manifestations of his healing power.

Members of the church follow the example of Jesus, therefore, when they carry out the work of healing – not only by providing care for the physically ill, but also by working to restore health and wholeness in all facets of the human person and the human community... –from *Health and Health Care* (© 1981, USCC)

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Health Care: In the Church's Tradition

From the earliest traditions of the Church to the present day, the mission of evangelization to which Jesus sent his followers has included healing as a major part.

Health care is so important for full human dignity and so necessary for the proper development of life that it is a fundamental right of every human being. from *Health and Health Care* (© 1981, USCC)

CONTINUED

Support health care reform that respects the life and dignity of all people from conception to natural death. Get the long-standing teachings of the Church and the latest updates on health care reform—visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Health Care: In Mercy and Justice

Because all human beings are created according to God's image, they possess a basic human dignity which calls for the utmost reverence On the societal level this calls for responsibility by society to provide adequate health care which is a basic human right ...

Health care is so important for full human dignity and so necessary for the proper development of life that it is a fundamental right of every human being. from *Health and Health Care* (© 1981, USCC)

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Consider using these longer excerpts from Catholic teaching in your bulletins or other materials, too. Please be sure to include the bolded text below the quote.

Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., outlined the policy priorities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on health care in a July 17 letter to Congress.

On respecting life and dignity: "No health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion. Any such action would be morally wrong."

On protections from public funding of abortion: "Health care reform cannot be a vehicle for abandoning this consensus which respects freedom of conscience and honors our best American traditions. Any legislation should reflect longstanding and widely supported current policies on abortion funding, mandates and conscience protections because they represent sound morality, wise policy and political reality."

On access for all: "All people need and should have access to comprehensive, quality health care that they can afford, and it should not depend on their stage of life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, where they live, or where they were born. *The Bishops' Conference believes health care reform should be truly universal and it should be genuinely affordable*" (emphasis in the original).

From Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States. © 2007, USCCB.

"Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right. With an estimated 47 million Americans lacking health care coverage, it is also an urgent national priority. Reform of the nation's health care system needs to be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life, and meet the needs of the poor and uninsured, especially born and unborn children, pregnant women, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations. Religious groups should be able to provide health care without compromising their religious convictions. The USCCB supports measures to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid. Our Conference also advocates effective, compassionate care that reflects Catholic moral values for those suffering from HIV/AIDS and those coping with addictions."