



Most Reverend Robert W. Finn
Bishop
Diocese Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

Statement in Support of Archbishop Naumann's Request of Governor Sebelius

May 9, 2008

Many Missouri Catholics have been dismayed over the actions of Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius in support of unrestricted access to abortion. The fact that she is Catholic makes her consistent support of abortion especially troubling.

After attempting to instruct and dialogue with the Governor over the past three years, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas is publicly asking Governor Sebelius to refrain from receiving Holy Communion. This request is clearly a pastoral responsibility of the local bishop entirely consistent with guidance from the Vatican and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Archbishop Naumann has my admiration and prayerful support.

I ask Catholics and all people to pray for an end to abortion and the conversion of persons who, in grave moral error, support the intentional destruction of innocent human life. Let us also pray for the healing of millions of mothers, fathers, and families who have been damaged by the devastating effects of abortion, and for courageous leaders to promote the peaceful and lawful changes in our country needed to secure the inalienable right to human life.

###