



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

Statement
on the
Proposed Nuclear Weapons Plant in Cass County, Missouri

June 22, 2009

The Catholic Church advocates for the application of a consistent ethic of life, resting on the primacy of human life and the innate dignity of the human person. Objective principles based on the natural law must be applied to practical issues of medical research, abortion, migration, capital punishment, the conduct of modern warfare, the care of the terminally ill, and other issues.

On June 19, Jude Huntz, the Diocesan Director of Human Rights, offered testimony to the Planned Industrial Expansion Authority concerning a proposal by the federal government to build a nuclear weapons plant in Cass County, Missouri. The new plant would replace an existing facility operated by Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies.

Huntz effectively summarized Church teaching about the consistent ethic of life, and the grave concern of the Catholic Church about the continued production of nuclear weapons. The diocese is grateful for the opportunity to add the principles of the ethical and moral law into the public record concerning an important development in our community.

In his testimony, Huntz quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church and stated, "Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and humanity, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation."

We value and support the right of the state to defend itself in the face of unjust aggression. We also value the need for industrial improvements and jobs for our citizens. Our hope, however, is that if this project moves forward, it does not contribute to an unnecessary accumulation of nuclear weapons. Our belief in the sanctity of human life leads us to stand against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to remind the world that, "Those who possess them have an enormous responsibility before God and all of humanity."