



Arizona Catholic Conference

Diocese of Gallup • Diocese of Phoenix • Diocese of Tucson

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ARIZONA BISHOPS CALL ON GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO NOT FORGET THE MOST VULNERABLE OF SOCIETY

PHOENIX (April 20, 2009) The Bishops of the Catholic Conference of Arizona, in an open letter to Governor Jan Brewer and members of the Arizona Legislature released today, call on Arizona government officials to find creative solutions to keeping programs in the state budget that support the most vulnerable in our state and also encourage continued strong funding of public education.

The Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix and Apostolic Administrator of Gallup, and the Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, Bishop of Tucson, say in the letter that the reduction in protective services for children and vulnerable adults and the reduction in mental health services have placed at risk those who are least able to defend themselves. The bishops also believe that cutbacks in public education could put at risk the futures of an entire generation of Arizona's children.

The bishops recommend that government leaders seek solutions to the state budget crisis through cooperative collaboration of the public and private sectors. They contend a solution can be gleamed by "asking the people and the private and public institutions of Arizona to step up with ideas and step up with resources."

The full text of the letter from the Arizona Catholic Conference Bishops is available at www.azcatholicconference.org.

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