



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
134 FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
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OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

March 7, 2009

Dear Parishioners:

This past Thursday, the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut State Legislature, which is chaired by Senator Andrew McDonald of Stamford and Representative Michael Lawlor of East Haven, introduced a bill (S.B. 1098) that directly attacks the Roman Catholic Church and our Faith.

This bill violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. It forces a radical reorganization of the legal, financial, and administrative structure of our parishes. This is contrary to the Apostolic nature of the Catholic Church because it disconnects parishes from their Pastors and their Bishop. Parishes would be run by boards from which Pastors and the Archbishop would be effectively excluded.

Please contact the co-chairs of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Andrew McDonald and Representative Michael Lawlor to register your opposition to the bill. Senator McDonald can be reached at 1-800-842-1420 or by email at McDonald@senatedems.ct.gov. Representative Lawlor can be reached at 1-800-842-8267 or by email at MLawlor99@juno.com. I also encourage you to come to Hartford this Wednesday, March 11, to be present at the public hearing at 12:00 noon, in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building. It would be helpful if every parish in the Archdiocese were represented by at least six to ten parishioners. Please arrive early to assure yourselves seats.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell
Archbishop of Hartford**