**HUMAN LIFE – A FOUNDATIONAL RIGHT**

Because we believe we are created in the image of God, we hold life to be sacred from conception to natural death. We believe that we are stewards of this gift of life from a loving God.

We support compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life care. We advocate for adequate pain control and availability of hospice care. We oppose assisted suicide or euthanasia as unwise and flawed public policy which ruptures the physician-patient relationship, puts vulnerable patients, particularly the elderly at risk of abuse, breaks our bonds of care for each other and validates suicide as a response to personal mental health challenges.

We support programs which offer medical, economic and emotional support for pregnant women and children, so there is no incentive to abort a child. We advocate for parental notification for minor abortions, full informed consent and restrictions, regulations and record keeping on abortion practice. Taxpayer funding for abortion should be removed since it coerces us to pay for a morally wrong personal action. We support adoption as an alternative to abortion.

We support non-embryonic stem cell research as the only ethical and efficacious source of treatment for many chronic diseases and spinal cord injuries. We oppose the production of cloned embryos—both for research and for reproduction—as it represents the commodification of human life.

We support life imprisonment without parole for those convicted of capital crimes rather than the death penalty. We have the means to protect ourselves without resorting to state violence.

For more information, visit www.cacatholic.org or contact Sandra Palacios, spalacios@cacatholic.org, 916.313.4020