



*The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix*

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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Statement of the Diocese of Phoenix

Re: “Catholics United” news release

December 23, 2010

This statement underscores the same issue of Catholic identity demonstrated by St. Joseph’s Hospital. Just because an organization calls itself “Catholic” does not actually make it so. For an organization to be considered Catholic demands that it be in union with its local bishop and the universal Church.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted revoked his consent for St. Joseph’s Hospital to use the name Catholic because he cannot verify that the hospital will provide authentically Catholic health care in accord with the teachings of the Church.

The two primary reasons behind this difficult decision include:

- St. Joseph’s Hospital’s sanctioning and performing a direct abortion in late 2009, and
- St. Joseph’s admitting to being in formal cooperation in abortions, sterilizations and contraceptive services administered through their Mercy Care Plan — a \$2 billion endeavor covering about 368,000 of Arizona’s poor.

Unfortunately, St. Joseph’s Hospital and “Catholics” United are not in union with Bishop Olmsted and have no claim to being considered authentically Catholic, nor do they speak for the Church in any way.

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