



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix NEWS RELEASE

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St. Joseph's Hospital no longer Catholic

PHOENIX (Dec. 22, 2010) — Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted announced during a news conference yesterday that St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center can no longer identify itself as a Catholic institution.

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.

Bishop 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.

For any health care institution to identify itself as Catholic, its members must make a commitment to protect life at all stages, from conception until natural death. At no time may a doctor or any medical professional take the direct action against the life of a vulnerable child.

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