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**Statement of the Illinois Bishops Regarding Governor Quinn's Decision  
to Present Personal PAC's Pro-Choice Leadership Award**

November 2, 2011

We have recently been made aware of Governor Quinn's decision to present a Pro-Choice Leadership Award at an upcoming event for a political organization known as Personal PAC. This organization describes itself as a "political action committee (PAC) dedicated to electing pro-choice candidates to state and local office in Illinois." Personal PAC has raised and spent millions of dollars in this effort and supports the lobbying efforts of Planned Parenthood in Springfield.

We deeply regret the Governor's decision to present this award, which so closely associates him with a political action group whose purpose is contrary to the common good. With this action, Governor Quinn has gone beyond a political alignment with those supporting the legal right to kill children in their mother's wombs to rewarding those deemed most successful in this terrible work.

Pope John Paul II asked in his *Letter to Families* (1994), "How can one morally accept laws that permit the killing of a human being not yet born, but already alive in the mother's womb?" Governor Quinn not only accepts these laws, he promotes them and publicly presents awards to their advocates. This approach is irreconcilable with any honest profession of the Catholic faith. While we deeply regret and oppose his actions, we continue to pray for his conversion and the protection of unborn human life.

To our Catholic institutions statewide, we reaffirm our desire and policies that those acting in the manner of the Governor should not be given special recognition on Church property or at functions held in support of Church ministry.

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His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran  
Bishop of Rockford

Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
Bishop of Peoria

Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton  
Bishop of Belleville

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield-in-Illinois

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon  
Bishop of Joliet