

## CVNC Offers NC Catholics a Voice in Matters of Public Advocacy

In July of 2008, North Carolina's two Catholic Bishops created a statewide organization to give Catholics a stronger voice in matters of public policy.



Bishop Michael F. Burbidge and Bishop Peter J. Jugis established **Catholic Voice NC (CVNC)** and the website [www.CatholicVoiceNC.org](http://www.CatholicVoiceNC.org) to provide nonpartisan information on legislative matters that intersect with Catholic teaching, values, and morality and to give Catholics a way to voice their opinions directly to state legislators. The two bishops established Catholic Voice NC during a press conference in front of the NC State Legislative Building in Raleigh on July 2, 2008.

Both bishops commented on the relevance and importance of this advocacy initiative during the July 2 press conference. Bishop Jugis stated, "Catholics have always presented a consistent moral framework for assessing issues. It is quite natural for us to encourage dialogue with legislators." Bishop Burbidge concurred, adding, "Catholics bring a lot of experience to the political dialogue. We have worked for centuries in education, health care and social services to serve the public and to make our society better."

Five issues of public policy will initially be followed by Catholic Voice NC: Respect Life, Stem Cell Research, Family Life, Immigration, and End of Life. When the two bishops concur that the Catholic Church's moral and social teaching can give guidance on particular public policy matters, CVNC alerts are sent out highlighting Church teaching on the relevant topic and requesting CVNC participants' advocacy. Catholics in the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh are encouraged to register to receive CVNC e-mail alerts. Please visit the CVNC website for more information and to register: [www.CatholicVoiceNC.org](http://www.CatholicVoiceNC.org).