



Diocese of Madison

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In recent weeks, the Catholic Church has frequently been asked for its teaching on a number of issues surrounding the proposed budget legislation in the State of Wisconsin. The Catholic Church takes a neutral stance on this bill. Any report or claim stating that the Church stands on one side, or another, of this issue is mistaken. The following are some local statements, articles, comments and references on the issues our state and country currently faces. May God's will be done in this and all matters.

- ✘ **Wisconsin Catholic Conference - Rights of Workers**
Archbishop Listecki's Statement, echoed by Bishop Morlino and other bishops of Wisconsin, on Workers' Rights - Catholic Church remains neutral on budget bill.
- ✘ **Bishop Robert C. Morlino's Catholic Herald Column** re: "Neutral stance, duel-horned issue."
- ✘ **Catholic teaching and unions: Framing the debate**
Dr. Constance Nielsen examines the nature of Catholic social teaching and its effect on our views on unions and workers' rights.
- ✘ **Bishop Robert C. Morlino's Stational Mass homily**, from February 27, 2011, on "the common good."
- ✘ **3/14/2011 "Catholic Social Services" is not a Catholic entity in the State of Wisconsin** – In recent days we have had a number of understandably concerned inquiries raised about support from the Catholic Diocese of Madison for political protests on the issue of public unions and our state budget. There has been no support from the Diocese of Madison nor any affiliated organization for these political protests. Some websites have claimed that "Catholic Social Services" have offered financial or material support to the protests. We do not know who the organization or individual identifying themselves as "Catholic Social Services" is. In fact, while some diocese's in the State of Wisconsin once had a department of Catholic Social Services, including the Diocese of Madison, none of the Catholic Charities in the state operate under the name "Catholic Social Services" any longer. However, we've confirmed with our Diocesan Catholic Charities and with our local Catholic Multicultural Center, neither of whom has entered into this political debate. And certainly no support has been offered from the diocese itself. With regard to any questions concerning the moral issues a Catholic might consider in this debate please see the links above.