

## PRE-APPLICATION STATEMENT TOWARD EMPLOYMENT IN THE CHURCH

### Diocese of San Diego

The Church needs the service of dedicated lay persons who have a clear knowledge and proper understanding of the teachings of the Church with a firm adherence to those teachings, and whose words and deeds are in conformity with the Gospel. Those employed by the Church in our parishes, Catholic schools and other institutions, as co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord, are rightly expected to be practicing Catholics whose faith is an essential part of their daily lives, and who participate fully in the communal worship and life of the Church.

To be employed by the Church, persons of good faith who are not Catholic must have an understanding of the Catholic Church and her teachings and respect the Catholic vision on important social, moral and ethical issues.

The Catholic Church has a special commitment to the poor, the oppressed and the immigrant. It is committed to promoting a "Culture of Life" from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. It believes in the inherent dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God, and possessing basic rights endowed by God, including the right to life, the right to religious liberty, and the right to be treated justly with dignity and respect. It believes that conjugal love and human procreation are gifts from God to be shared only by those joined in marriage as established by God himself. It believes that all persons are called by God to live chaste lives by virtue of their own dignity and according to their state of life. It believes in the rights of workers to just working conditions, to just wages and benefits as well as the right to organize to their benefit. It opposes all forms of oppression and exploitation, including racism, sexism, pornography, sexual abuse and harassment, and unlawful discrimination.

The Catholic Church embraces everything contained in God's word, written or handed down in Sacred Tradition and proposed as divinely revealed and calling for faith and, as well, all authoritative teaching on faith and morals. It rejects anything to the contrary, including:

- Abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the unnecessary use of capital punishment;
- Pornography and obscenity, adultery, cohabiting in sexual relationships of any nature outside of marriage and homosexual activity;
- Any restriction of religious liberty;
- Violence or the use of force to resolve social, political or religious problems.

Persons who do not respect the teachings of the Church, either by virtue of their own objections or disbelief, or by virtue of their lifestyle choices or public conduct, do not meet the basic criteria to work in the Church.

*After you have carefully reflected on what is contained in this Pre-Application Statement, if you are interested in seeking employment in the Diocese of San Diego, please complete the Pre-Application Acknowledgment.*