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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *New Executive Director Appointed for the Connecticut Catholic Conference*

Connecticut's Catholic Bishops are pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Carroll Culhane of Middlebury as the new Executive Director of the Connecticut Catholic Conference. In this position, Mr. Culhane will be responsible for public policy advocacy as it pertains to Catholic social teaching, and he looks forward to his new responsibilities, "I am truly honored to be appointed as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Catholic Conference, by Archbishop Mansell and the other Bishops of Connecticut. I look forward with great enthusiasm to dealing with the issues of importance to the Catholic Church and society at large in Connecticut."

Archbishop Henry Mansell, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, applauds this appointment: "After an extensive search, the Connecticut Catholic Conference is most fortunate to find the right person for this very important position. Michael Culhane will no doubt lead the way in effectively interfacing between Connecticut's hundreds of thousands of Catholics and their political representatives in State Government. His extensive experience as a mediator will serve us well in conveying, and fostering, an understanding of all those truths fundamental to our following of the Gospel in contemporary society. Truly living the social teachings of the Church is tantamount to living a life of faith. We welcome Michael Culhane and look forward to the many great things he will accomplish."

The Connecticut Catholic Conference is a collaborative effort by the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Dioceses of Norwich and Bridgeport and the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford. Their Mission emphasizes the role of teacher of the Catholic faith and of the moral law. "We have the duty to teach about human life and dignity, marriage and family, war and peace, the needs of the poor and the demands of justice."

Michael Culhane is a prominent Waterbury arbitrator. He is a member of the Finance Council of St. John of the Cross Church in Middlebury. He has given years of service to the Archdiocese of Hartford: as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities Inc., and as a Board Member of both St. Mary's Hospital Foundation and of the Office of Urban Affairs. He has also served as Chairman of the March of Dimes Campaign in Waterbury. Michael received the 2007 Family Champion of the Year Award from the Connecticut Association of Family Service Agencies. Michael is married for 29 years to his beloved wife Mary and they have a son who is a junior at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y.

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