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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“Our Conscience and Our Vote”
A Message from the Catholic Bishops of Illinois**

CHICAGO, IL (September 22, 2008) - Today, the Catholic Bishops of Illinois released the statement *Our Conscience and Our Vote*, to help prepare Catholics for the upcoming election and further participation in the political process. The statement is signed by all the Bishops in the Province of Illinois including Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., as well as Bishops from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy and the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago.

The statement is consistent with the themes embodied in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, a document published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. However, “the bishops in Illinois wanted to issue a unique statement referencing some challenges specific to Illinois,” said Catholic Conference Director, Robert Gilligan.

The statement can be found on the Catholic Conference of Illinois website, www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org, and it is being sent throughout all the Catholic dioceses in Illinois. The statement will also be available in Spanish.

For further information, please call 312-368-1066.

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