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Kentucky Catholic Bishops Announce New Director of Catholic Conference of Kentucky

(Frankfort, KY) The Roman Catholic Bishops of Kentucky have appointed Robert J. Castagna as the Executive Director of Catholic Conference of Kentucky. Mr. Castagna succeeds Edward Monahan who resigned in August to become Kentucky's Public Advocate. Mr. Castagna arrived in Frankfort this week.

Most recently serving as general counsel and executive director of the Aid for Women, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Castagna spent more than 20 years (1984-2006) as general counsel and executive director for the Oregon Catholic Conference. During his tenure in Oregon, Mr. Castagna was noted as for his political skills, knowledge of the Church, and passion on behalf of those in need. He led successful efforts to restore the funding of public assistance for two-parent unemployed families, wrote legislation to address the needs of terminally ill patients, and successfully worked to enact working family child care tax credits and state earned income tax credits. He also led the "Campaign for Fairness" on behalf of 24 social service and statewide organizations, which successfully lobbied to restore \$60 million in Oregon's Department of Human Services' budget.

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**Most Reverend
Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.**
Archbishop of Louisville

**Most Reverend
John J. McRaith**
Bishop of Owensboro

**Most Reverend
Roger J. Foys**
Bishop of Covington

**Most Reverend
Ronald W. Gainer**
Bishop of Lexington

Robert J. Castagna
Executive Director

A native of Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Castagna earned a bachelor of arts from Fordham University and a law degree from the Catholic University of America. He has received a number of awards including the 2003 Harvest of Hope Award presented by Oregon’s governor on behalf of the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger; a 1989 “Service Award” from the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs; the 1989 Steward of Life Award from the Oregon Right to Life; and the 2002 “Outstanding Advocacy Award” from the Governor’s Commission on Senior Services. He has served in a number of professional, community, and church activities, including as president of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors, as a consultant for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration Committee, and on the board of directors of Maryville Nursing Home and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

In announcing the appointment on behalf of the bishops of Kentucky, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz said, “We are privileged to have someone of Mr. Castagna’s stature serving as our public policy leader. His record and accomplishments are outstanding, and it will be a great pleasure to work with him as we continue to keep the Church’s positions before the Commonwealth.”

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky is the public policy voice of the state’s four Roman Catholic Bishops.

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