



**CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE
OF KENTUCKY**

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Kentucky and West Virginia Bishops Urge Dialogue and Resolution of Hospital Strike

Frankfort, KY and Wheeling, West Virginia (December 20, 2007) –

Emphasizing that health care is an essential human right and remembering the “legacy of cooperation between workers and management in the creation of a hospital system that serves the health care needs of so many people across the coalfields of Kentucky and West Virginia,” the Catholic bishops of Kentucky and West Virginia today urged renewed dialogue between labor and management in the Appalachian hospitals nurses strike. “As the feast of the birth of the Prince of Peace approaches, it is our hope that all parties will work together to reach a just and equitable resolution for the issues that separate management and labor. It is our hope that there can be the resumption of work and that mutual dialogue may be fruitful through the good faith efforts of all parties.”

The bishops expressed their support for the proposal offered by Governors Steve Beshear and Joe Manchin in their attempt to foster a resolution of the current labor management dispute.

The creation of the Appalachian Regional Healthcare system was a milestone in enabling citizens of eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia to exercise their moral right to healthcare. “The great healthcare needs of the people of central Appalachia make the resolution of the current impasse all the more important.”

A copy of the letter is at www.ccky.org/

The Catholic Conference of KY is an agency of the Catholic Bishops, established in 1968. It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy, serves as liaison to government and the legislature, and coordinates communications and activities between the church and secular agencies. The Bishops of the four dioceses of KY constitute its Board of Directors. www.ccky.org/

The Catholic Conference of West Virginia was established to give witness to spiritual values in public affairs and to influence those making decisions regarding social policies to make such decisions in congruence with Catholic social teachings. <http://www.catholicconferencewv.org/>