



1042 Burlington Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601-8487
Tel (502)875-4345
Fax (502)875-2841
www.ccky.org

May 28, 2009

For Immediate Release
For additional information, please
contact:
Robert J. Castagna
502-875-4345

**Catholic Conference of Kentucky Calls for Tax Reform, Securing the Safety Net of Services
Protecting Vulnerable Persons**

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky today called upon Governor Steve Beshear to include tax reform as one of the issues the Kentucky Legislature will be asked to address in a Special Session. The Commonwealth's projected revenue shortfall, estimated by some to be about \$1 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1, challenges the safety net of services provided to vulnerable persons.

Executive Director, Robert J. Castagna, issued a statement on behalf of the Conference:

“During this national economic recession negatively affecting almost all states, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is facing a severe revenue shortfall threatening basic services that Kentuckians rely on in daily life.

We call upon the Governor and the Legislature to address this shortfall in a Special Session through enacting tax reform legislation to secure the safety net of essential services. We call for tax reform legislation that is fair, sustainable and provides adequate revenue. We seek sufficient revenue to meet the basic needs of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. We call for a tax system based upon one's ability to pay and that is fair and just in the treatment of the poor.

Faced with the magnitude of the projected budget shortfall, tax reform with additional revenue based upon ability to pay is preferred public policy to budget reductions in essential services, particularly those serving the poor and vulnerable in Kentucky.”

-30-

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D. Archbishop of Louisville	Most Reverend Roger. J. Foys, D.D. Bishop of Covington	Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D. Bishop of Lexington	Very Reverend J. Michael Clark, J.C.L. Diocesan Administrator Diocese of Owensboro	Robert J. Castagna Executive Director
--	--	--	---	---