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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATHOLICS RESPOND TO EXCOMMUNICATION: “JUSTICE CANNOT BE SILENCED”

Although a Vatican official recently upheld the threatened excommunication of Call To Action (CTA)/Nebraska members, the organization says that Bishop Bruskewitz of the Lincoln Diocese cannot silence their work for justice. In response, CTA has launched an action campaign directed towards Bruskewitz, in addition to pursuing an appeal of the excommunication with the Vatican's Apostolic Signatura, Roman Catholicism's highest judicial court.

“Bishop Bruskewitz may try to excommunicate our Nebraska members, but he cannot excommunicate our efforts for justice,” says Rachel Pokora, President of CTA/Nebraska. “We want our daughters to be able to be altar girls and we want to protect the children in our diocese in the wake of the sexual abuse revelations. Every other diocesan bishop in the United States allows altar girls and has complied with the sex abuse-related national *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, except Bishop Bruskewitz. The bishop has excommunicated us for simply wanting justice in our diocese.”

“We will not let this excommunication letter stop our work for justice,” says Patty Hawk, a member of CTA/Nebraska and CTA/USA board co-president. “We are asking Catholics across the country to sign a letter to Bishop Bruskewitz objecting to the denial of due process we experienced during the excommunication proceedings and also requesting his compliance with the national charter to protect our children from sex abuse. These letters will also be delivered to Bishop Skylstad, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.”

“Although this decree only affects our Lincoln, Nebraska members, it could have serious ramifications for all Catholics,” says Nicole Sotelo, CTA/USA Co-Director and Media Coordinator. “Does this mean that any Catholic is at risk of excommunication when they disagree with their bishop or Catholic teaching? What about the more than 90% of US Catholics who disagree with the Vatican's stance on birth control? What about the two-thirds of US Catholics who desire women's ordination? Does this recent letter from the Vatican mean that any Catholic who advocates for the protection of children in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis could be subject to excommunication? This sets a dangerous precedent.”

For more information including quotes from canon lawyers and more information about our action campaign, please see our informative website: www.cta-usa.org

Catholic lay people, religious and clergy working together to foster peace, justice and love in our world, our church and ourselves in the spirit of Vatican II and the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Call To Action.