



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260
301-853-4500 TDD 301-853-5300

Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
The John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., #106
Washington, D.C. 20004

March 12, 2008

Dear Council ^{KENCE} Chairman Gray:

The D.C. Catholic Conference requests *your support* for the following proposed legislation:
The Religious Freedom and Historic Preservation Conformance Amendment Act of 2008.

Our faith teaches, *"Provided the just demands of public order are observed, religious communities rightfully claim freedom in order that they may govern themselves... in accordance with their religious principles. Religious communities also have the right not to be hindered, either by legal measures or by administrative action on the part of government, in the selection, training, appointment, and transferral of their own ministers, in communicating with religious authorities and communities abroad, in erecting buildings for religious purposes, and in the acquisition and use of suitable funds or properties."* (Second Vatican Council, *Dignitatis Humanae, Declaration on Religious Freedom*, Section 4, December 7, 1965.)

As such, the D.C. Catholic Conference not only strongly supports the proposed legislation in principle, but also the Third Church of Christ, Scientist of Washington, D.C. in this particular case.

With Kindest Regards, I Remain

Sincerely,

Ron Jackson
D.C. Catholic Conference, Executive Director