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Bishop Samuel Aquila: Nancy Pelosi's misinformed comments do not reflect the true teaching of the Catholic Church

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Bishop Samuel Aquila, in an Aug. 26 letter to priests, deacons, seminarians and others, noted that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's comments on abortion and Catholic teaching, made Aug. 24 on "Meet the Press," were "misinformed. By her statement in a public manner she has created confusion in regard to Catholic teaching."

Those who have studied the Catechism of the Catholic Church, John Paul II's encyclical *The Gospel of Life* and have read the Church Fathers, the bishop wrote, "can easily recognize the flaws in her remarks on the teaching of the Church concerning when human life begins. The right to life from conception is the pre-eminent social justice and human rights issue of our time."

He continued, "As your bishop, I have the responsibility to present to you the authentic teaching of the Church, to correct the misinformation she has given, and finally to warn you that those who oppose the true teaching are not in good standing with the Church."

Bishop Aquila noted that he fully supports a statement issued by Archbishop Charles Chaput and Auxiliary Bishop James Conley which clarifies the Catholic teaching on abortion and addresses Pelosi's comments.

"The Christian teaching on abortion throughout history is unchanged," Bishop Aquila wrote. "Human life from the moment of conception is to always be respected, treated with dignity, and protected. Catholics who support so called abortion rights support a false right, promote a culture of death, and are guided by the 'father of lies' rather than by the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Out of respect for the teaching of Jesus Christ and the Church, any Catholic who supports abortion rights has placed himself or herself outside of visible unity with the Church and thus should refrain from receiving Holy Communion. Catholics have a responsibility to study the teaching of the Church on human life and when life begins. This teaching is affirmed by revelation and is a basic truth of natural reason. I ask all of you in your presentations, teaching, or preaching to state the truth of this teaching in an unequivocal manner."

Bishop Aquila's full letter can be found here: <http://www.fargodiocese.org/>

Archbishop Chaput's statement can be found here:
http://www.archden.org/images/ArchbishopCorner/ByTopic/onseparationofsense%26state_openlettercjc8.25.08.pdf