

**STATEMENT OF THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS
REGARDING CIVIL UNION LEGISLATION IN ILLINOIS**

December 1, 2010

After the Illinois House of Representatives approved legislation that would require the state to recognize same-sex unions, Governor Pat Quinn was quoted as saying, "My religious faith animates me to support this bill." He did not say what religious faith that would be, but it certainly is not the Catholic faith. If the Governor wishes to pursue a secular agenda for political purposes, that is his prerogative for which he is accountable to the voters. But if he wishes to speak as a Catholic, then he is accountable to Catholic authority, and the Catholic Church does not support civil unions or other measures that are contrary to the natural moral law.