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## **ARCHBISHOP SCHNURR ENDORSES CHILDREN'S ISSUES**

*Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati, today issued the following statement:*

I wish to express my personal endorsement in this November election for Issue 44 and Issue 53, both of which support the education and safety of our local children.

Issue 44, an additional property tax levy, will raise new, local funds for the Cincinnati Public School District's efforts to increase quality education for its K-12 students, many of whom are Catholic parishioners. Moreover, the Archdiocese has joined with other religious groups and community partners over the last year to develop the new Preschool Promise initiative, which will receive \$15 million of this levy. Preschool Promise will provide most 4-year-old children as well as lower-income 3-year-olds a tuition subsidy to attend a high-quality preschool of the family's choice. Preschools participating in the initiative will include religiously affiliated and private preschools.

I realize that an additional tax levy can be a challenge for some property owners, and the decision on this issue may not be easy for them. I encourage residents to prayerfully consider how supporting Issue 44 might be a worthwhile sacrifice to allow many more of our children, especially

those from low-income families, to overcome the unacceptable education gap and cycle of poverty in our community.

Issue 53, a renewal property tax levy, will enable Hamilton County to fulfill its responsibility to care for abused and neglected children. With no additional cost to property owners, government agencies and social services can continue to provide urgent, critical support to thousands of these most vulnerable members of our community.

In the Christian Scriptures, children have a special place in Jesus' heart, as he exclaimed, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 19:14). Our children are our present and future leaders, and we have a special calling as a society to raise them up to their fullest, God-given potential. As Pope Francis said upon visiting the birthplace of Jesus, "Children are a sign. They are a sign of hope, a sign of life, but also a 'diagnostic' sign, a marker indicating the health of families, society and the entire world. Wherever children are accepted, loved, cared for and protected, the family is healthy, society is more healthy and the world is more human." (Holy Mass in Manger Square in Bethlehem. May 25, 2014)

*The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati is the 38<sup>th</sup> largest Catholic diocese in the country, with almost 500,000 Catholics, and has the sixth largest network of Catholic schools in terms of enrollment. The 19-county territory includes 211 parishes and 111 Catholic primary and secondary schools.*