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Statement on Inauguration of President Biden

Archbishop Gomez

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pledged to work with new U.S. President Joe Biden for "an America that protects human dignity, expands equality and opportunities for every person and is open-hearted toward the suffering and weak." Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles said in a statement released as inauguration ceremonies began Jan. 20 that Catholic concerns in the political arena include abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, immigration, racism, poverty, care for the environment, criminal justice reform, economic development and international peace. But he said the "continued injustice of abortion" remains

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the "preeminent priority" for the U.S. bishops, adding that "preeminent does not mean 'only.' We have deep concerns about many threats to human life and dignity in our society." He said working with Biden will be unique because the country's second Catholic president "clearly understands, in a deep and personal way, the importance of religious faith and institutions." Archbishop Gomez called for "a dialogue to address the complicated cultural and economic factors that are driving abortion and discouraging families" and for the development of "a coherent family policy in this country." His statement follows.

my prayers are with our new president and his family today.

I am praying that God grant him wisdom and courage to lead this great nation and that God help him to meet the tests of these times, to heal the wounds caused by this pandemic, to ease our intense political and cultural divisions, and to bring people together with renewed dedication to America's founding purposes, to be one nation under God committed to liberty and equality for all.

Catholic bishops are not partisan players in our nation's politics. We are pastors responsible for the souls of millions of Americans and we are advocates for the needs of all our neighbors. In every community across the country, Catholic parishes, schools, hospitals and ministries form an

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