



## *Office of the President*

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Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of New York  
*President*

December 15, 2011

Nicholas Cafardi, J.D., J.C.D.  
Board Member, Catholic Democrats

Lisa Schare  
Board Member, Catholic Democrats

Steven A. Kruger  
National Director, Catholic Democrats

Patrick Whelan, M.D., Ph.D.  
President, Catholic Democrats

Catholic Democrats  
P.O. Box 290331  
Boston, MA 02129

Dear Leaders of Catholic Democrats,

I am writing in response to your kind letter of November 14, 2011, regarding Catholic social justice teaching, and concern for economic issues, in the ongoing activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Thank you for your thoughtful comments. As you may be aware, I wrote to the bishops in September encouraging them to take actions, similar to those you mention on page six of your letter, to protect the poor and vulnerable during these challenging times in our economy.

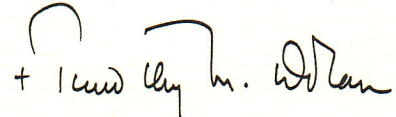
I am somewhat perplexed at how anyone familiar with the wide-range of teachings at all levels of the Church -- the Apostolic See, individual bishops, and our national conference -- could imply that the Church has in any way of late lessened her vigor in defense of the poor and promotion of justice. Any observer at our sessions would note that concern for the poor and anxiety about the current economy often animates discussion. One of the reasons defense of religious liberty is such a high priority is because this is necessary to protect our efforts in the promotion of charity, justice, peace, service, and advocacy.

Likewise, I worry when any attempt to dialogue with Republicans is interpreted as turning one's back on the poor.

Nevertheless, I very much welcome your comments and have taken them seriously.

With prayers for a holy and blessed Advent season and Christmas, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a distinct 'D'.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of New York  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops