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Catholic Charities offers apology, answers questions regarding abortion

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA (JULY 1, 2008) . . . Commonwealth Catholic Charities Executive Director

Joanne D. Natrass said she was notified the afternoon of January 17, 2008 that a minor in foster care at Commonwealth Catholic Charities was scheduled to have an abortion the next morning.

Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo was notified by Natrass that afternoon. The Bishop was very explicit in saying, "I forbid this to happen." Based on erroneous and incorrect information provided to Natrass, the Bishop was told it could not be stopped.

"The CCC staff and Bishop DiLorenzo are deeply saddened by the incident," Natrass said. As previously reported, disciplinary action regarding the employees involved has been taken.

In a statement issued by Bishop DiLorenzo in the June 30, 2008 edition of the Catholic Virginian, he said "I express my profound apology for the loss of the life of one of the most vulnerable among us, and I apologize for the profound embarrassment this has caused the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, and Catholics throughout the United States."

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