

## NEWS RELEASE

Catholic Charities

August 18, 2011

Contact:

Celeste Matheson

Director of Advancement

309.636.8029

[cmatheson@ccdop.org](mailto:cmatheson@ccdop.org)

***“Statement by the Most Reverend Jenky, Bishop of the Diocese of Peoria, Regarding the Court Decision Made by Judge John Schmidt in Sangamon County”***

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PEORIA:** The Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Jenky of the Diocese of Peoria stated he was extremely disappointed to hear the ruling made against Catholic Charities by Judge John Schmidt in Sangamon County.

The Bishop said, “Catholic Charities is one of the lead providers of foster care services in the state. They have been valued partners for decades. Clearly the intent of the civil union law was not to force the state to end these contracts and force the transfer of thousands of children’s cases.” He continued by stating, “We continue to believe we can adhere to our religious principles and operate within Illinois law.”

The Bishop, his Priests and the faithful of the Diocese of Peoria, are simply astonished that the politicians of the state of Illinois seem to be unwilling to grant the same kind of religious accommodations that have been granted in the states of New York and Rhode Island regarding their establishment of civil unions.

Bishop Jenky is sad to observe that important elements of the political establishment in the state of Illinois are now basically at war with the Catholic community and seem to be destroying their institutions. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Peoria will be reviewing the judge’s written ruling to determine their next steps.

#####