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June 12, 2017

Ms. Sheila St. John  
CA NFP Coordinator  
1217 Tyler Street  
Salinas, CA 93906

Dear Sheila:

The California Conference of Catholic Bishops is pleased to endorse the event commemorating the 50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, to be held in California on **July 27 - 28, 2018**, with a day for clergy, and programs on NFP and medical aspects, on July 25th and 26th.

This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the truth and beauty of the Catholic teachings on marriage and sexuality, as well as recognize the joys that await us, when we are faithful to God's design. Your gathering will duly commemorate this historic milestone, shining a light on the inherent *evangelii gaudium* of *Humanae Vitae*. This occasion provides the impetus to renew Pope Paul VI's invitation to "work zealously and incessantly with the priests your collaborators and with your faithful people to safeguard marriage and to keep it holy, so that it may ever be lived more and more in all its human and Christian fullness". (HV#30) Five decades since its release, the message of *Humanae Vitae* still speaks to our families, church communities, and society.

We are encouraged that you are providing healthcare professionals with updates that permit them to further integrate faith, medical science and technology as they care for the faithful. The day dedicated for clergy will further equip and inspire pastors to "expound without ambiguity the Church's teaching on marriage" HV#28 with access to the knowledge and experience of experts in the field.

Clergy, religious, and healthcare professionals should take advantage of these presentations. The benefits gained from participation will enrich their ministry and practice in the service of the families in their care.

All clergy, religious and lay leadership in the Catholic community are urged to participate in this gathering as well as invite others to do so.

We support and pray for your efforts to bring these truths to a world so in need of the *amoris laetitia* found in *Humanae Vitae*, "since Man cannot find true happiness, for which he yearns with his whole being, unless he respects the laws inscribed in his nature by God". (HV#31)

Be assured of my abiding regard and prayers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaime Soto", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

+Jaime Soto  
CCC President and Bishop of Sacramento