



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

**DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE**  
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November 2, 2010

Ms. Letie B. Veillon  
President, Acadiana Affiliate  
Susan G Komen for the Cure  
Post Office Box 51597  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508

Dear Ms. Veillon:

I write today in reference to your letter of October 5, 2010 and the subsequent meetings held between representatives of Komen Acadiana and representatives of the Lafayette Diocesan Office of Pro Life Activities. I believe that the meetings were cordial and were helpful in clarifying certain issues.

It is true that for several years the Diocese of Lafayette, under my instructions, has discouraged parishes and schools from a public support of fund-raising activities for the Komen organization. I have made this decision because of some association between the Komen organization and Planned Parenthood. Today, I reaffirm my decision.

Please know that it has never been my opinion that Komen Acadiana is a pro-choice organization or that it supports Planned Parenthood. I do not think that representatives of our Office of Pro Life Activities have said such things. I think that we have at all times been clear about our position. Also, we recognize the laudable goals of Komen Acadiana, namely, the raising of funds to provide breast cancer education, screening and treatment.

I believe that the level of material cooperation with immoral activities is, for the local organization, quite remote and therefore morally permissible. The Diocese has not made negative judgments about persons working with Komen Acadiana or about individuals who wish to participate in its activities. However, I do wish to avoid any public association on the part of Catholic institutions in the Diocese of Lafayette. It seems to me that Komen Acadiana should be quite able to retain its goals notwithstanding any previous actions on my part.

With prayers for your good health and for all of God's blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

Most Reverend Michael Jarrell  
Bishop of Lafayette

MJ:mhb

xc: Ms. Karol Meynard, Director, Office of Pro Life Ministry