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### **Signature Drive Campaign on Church Property Modification**

On June 1, 2017, the Ordinaries of the four Dioceses of Massachusetts issued a Policy<sup>1</sup> regarding signature drive campaigns on church property. With the exception of these modifications, that Policy remains unchanged moving forward.

Currently efforts are underway by concerned citizens to place ballot questions before the voters of Massachusetts on November 6, 2018 and November 3, 2020. Those ballot questions, if approved by the voters, would have varying effects. Two would amend the Massachusetts Constitution, one would repeal an existing law while several others would enact new laws. Given the importance of these efforts, and while maintaining the basic principles and integrity of the original Policy issued in June, the Archdiocese of Boston will allow signature gathering to be conducted on Church property for the purpose of assisting the advocates of the petition drives under the following guidelines:

- (1) The decision to allow signature gathering will be at the sole discretion of the Pastor of that Church provided that any petition approved by the Pastor must be in accordance with the teachings of the Church.
- (2) **Signature gathering must take place at a designated location(s) on the property away from the flow of parishioners approaching or departing Holy Mass.** The location shall be determined by the Pastor. It is suggested that location(s) such as Church halls, school auditoriums, rectories, special events should be considered by the Pastor.
- (3) The Pastor shall decide the appropriate method of communicating to the parishioners the fact that petitions are available for signing at the designated location(s). Announcements at the beginning/end of mass, bulletin inserts, email notifications, etc. are suggested means of communication.

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<sup>1</sup> [Policy Re Signature Drives](#)

This modification applies only to the Churches located in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Any questions should be directed to James F. Driscoll, Executive Director, Massachusetts Catholic Conference at 617-746-5620 or [jdriscoll@macatholic.org](mailto:jdriscoll@macatholic.org)

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Seán, OFM Cap". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

His Eminence Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.  
Archbishop of Boston

October 26, 2017