

IMPORTANT – EFFECTIVE 1-1-2007

TO: All pastors, business manager, administrators, and principals
FROM: James R. Wright, Claim/Risk Manager, Catholic Mutual Group
DATE: 11-30-06
RE: Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act

The Governor signed into law Public Act 094-071 – Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act. This new state law takes effect in January 1, 2007.

This law requires an “approved carbon monoxide alarm” (a carbon monoxide alarm that complies with all the requirements of the rules and regulations of the Illinois State Fire Marshall, bears the label of a national recognized testing laboratory, and complies with the most recent standards of the Underwriters Laboratories) be installed within 15 feet of every bedroom or room used for sleeping purposes. This mirrors the Smoke Alarm Detector Act passed in 1987.

This means that all rectories, convents and rental properties must have carbon monoxide alarms installed, along with smoke alarms. The carbon monoxide alarm can be combined with smoke detecting devices, provided each unit has a distinct alarm that differentiates the hazard. Residences with electric heat, electric water heaters, electric ovens and stoves, but **with** an attached garage will also need to have carbon monoxide alarms.

A property owner or landlord who refuses to comply with the law by installing carbon monoxide detectors could be prosecuted for a Class B misdemeanor, generally punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,500 fine. A tenant who destroys a carbon monoxide detector faces a Class B misdemeanor for a first offense, while a second offense would be a Class 4 felony, generally punishable by a maximum of 3 years in prison.

Please make sure that all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are properly installed and functioning.

Should you have any questions regarding this law, feel free to contact me at 815/838-2142.