

Why the Catholic Church opposes expanded gambling

The following is the position of the Diocese of Manchester on gambling

The Roman Catholic Church does not view gambling as morally unacceptable in and of itself. Rather, the behavior that often accompanies state-endorsed gambling results in the deprivation of basic needs of persons, which is a violation of justice. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “games of chance or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement (CCC, 2413).” The reality is that if the gambling industry is allowed to expand in New Hampshire, it is unlikely that the state has any reasonable way to address human behavior that moves beyond intended recreational activity. Likewise, as has been seen in many other instances, when states become dependent on revenues associated with gambling, an undesirable dependency by the state can mirror the horrible addictive behavior of persons who gamble without consideration of their basic human needs. Any further expansion of the gambling industry in New Hampshire could harm our family-focused environment. New Hampshire cannot afford the social cost of the addictive behavior that inevitably accompanies the presence of the gambling industry.

For more information, visit: www.noslots.com

Expanded gambling is opposed by:

The NH Council of Churches (which includes the Catholic Church), NH Chiefs of Police, National Education Association and many civic groups