



“Whatever you did for the **least among my brothers and sisters**,
you did for me.” —MATTHEW 25:40

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November 22, 2022

His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark

Your Eminence:

Peace be with you. I’m writing on behalf of LAMBS, the Christian outreach division of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals U.S.—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, and PETA U.S. is the largest animal rights organization in the world—with a respectful plea: In anticipation of the Advent season, will you please light up your community with kindness by using only cruelty-free Advent candles?

In God’s eyes, we all deserve life, respect, and dignity. Yet good-natured and gentle animals are deprived of these basic considerations and slaughtered, in part to manufacture certain types of candles. The stearic acid and tallow used in stearin candles can only be obtained by directly supporting slaughterhouses, because rendering companies process the carcasses of cows, sheep, pigs, dogs, and cats into purified fats like tallow. Beeswax candles require that insects capable of complicated communication and extensive social networks be suffocated and killed. The wings or legs of worker bees are often crushed or torn off during transport because of haphazard handling. The wings of queen bees are clipped to keep them from leaving the hive, and they are forcibly inseminated for the rest of their lives so that beekeepers can continue populating the colony at an unnatural rate.

Many of us grew up believing that killing animals for food, clothes, candles, and other items is somehow acceptable—but when we reflect, we realize that it isn’t. We understand that *all* killing is violent and requires us to separate ourselves from the rest of creation. Genesis 1:29 teaches us that Eden was vegan and that humans flourished in harmony with other animals. God intended for us to be caretakers, not killers. Thankfully, with the abundance of widely available cruelty-free candle waxes, including soy, coconut, ceresin, and sustainable palm, we can better honor God’s plan.

Please, will you commit to using only Advent candles with animal-friendly ingredients from [CocoSoy](#), [DEMDACO](#), and [Bear Natural Organics](#)? We’d be happy to replace your stock of nonvegan candles with vegan ones to help your church with this transition and to enlighten your congregation about simple, meaningful ways to spare animals this holiday season!

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

With compassion for *all*,

Candice M. Kelsey
Faith Outreach & Engagement Campaign Coordinator
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