



## A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

### Obama Administration Likely to Overturn Protection of Conscience Rights for Doctors

The new Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, pro-abortion Tom Daschle, appointed by Obama, may overturn President Bush's regulation strengthening protection of conscience rights for medical personnel, which took effect January 20.

Obama has criticized the regulation which increases protections for health-care providers asked to participate in providing abortions or other service to which they have ethical objections. Pro-abortion advocates are promoting various strategies to change the rule protecting doctors' right to act according to their moral conscience.

In addition, Senators Hillary Clinton (D/NY) and Patty Murray (D/WA) have initiated legislation to prevent HHS from implementing the rule the Bush administration put in place. Representatives Diana DeGette (D/CO) and Louise Slaughter

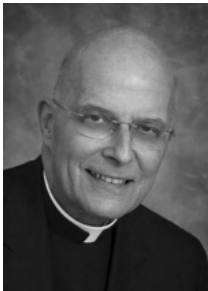
(D/NY) have sponsored similar legislation in the U.S. House.

Another strategy considered by pro-abortion leaders is to appeal to the Congressional Review Act which authorizes Congress to reject new regulations approved within 60 legislative days of Congress's adjournment at the end of a president's administration. This would give pro-abortion legislators time to get an anti-conscience bill passed. Democratic leaders have communicated to the media that they intend to use one of the above strategies to overturn the pro-life conscience protection enacted by the Bush administration.



Photo courtesy of LifeNews.com

### Cardinal George, USCCB President, Warns Obama that Aggressive Pro-Abortion Policies Will Alienate Millions of Americans



Cardinal George

On behalf of U.S. Catholic bishops, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, current president of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference, emphasized that the election of Barack Obama should not be interpreted as support for a radical pro-abortion agenda.

"If the election is misinterpreted ideologically as a referendum on abortion, the unity desired by President-elect Obama and all Americans at this moment of crisis will be impossible to achieve. Abortion kills not only unborn children; it destroys constitutional order and the common good, which is assured only when the life of every human being is legally protected. Aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate

tens of millions of Americans, and would be seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion."

"The fundamental good is life itself, a gift from God and our parents. A good state protects the lives of all. Legal protection for those members of the human family waiting to be born in this country was removed when the Supreme Court decided *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973. This was bad law. The danger the Bishops see at this moment is that a bad court decision will be enshrined in bad legislation that is more radical than the 1973 Supreme Court decision itself," the statement declared.

"On this issue, the legal protection of the unborn, the bishops are of one mind with Catholics and others of good will. They are also pastors who have listened to women whose lives have been diminished because they believed they had no choice but to abort a baby. Abortion is a medical procedure that kills, and the psychological and spiritual consequences are written in the sorrow and depression of many women and men. The bishops are single-minded because they are, first of all, single-hearted."

#### News Notes

#### Adult Stem Cells Can Renew and Repair Tissue Researchers Show

Stanford University scientists report that adult muscle stem cells can repair damaged tissue cells. They transplanted skeletal adult muscle stem cells into immune-suppressed mice who had damage to hind limb muscle tissue and found that the stem cells restored lost function to the mice. They subsequently found that the regenerated tissue was capable of muscle cell growth and repair, restoring muscle healing function.

Bioethicist Dr. David Prentice said, "The work by the Stanford group is exciting because it shows with very definitive experiments that even a single muscle adult stem cell can grow and repair muscle damage while still maintaining a pool of muscle stem cells for future repair, or as in these experiments, for transplant. These detailed experiments lay the groundwork for the potential use of muscle adult stem cells to treat various muscle disorders in patients."

#### Alveda King, Niece of Dr. King, Urges Obama to Oppose Abortion

Alveda King and a group of pro-life leaders in the black community are sending a message to Obama to oppose abortion. "African Americans like many Americans are pro-life... We are one human race and it's time to stand up for the truth. It's time to stand up for life, liberty and family," declares a statement the group released. "We need to let Barack Obama know that our

children's lives are more important than the money and political support of the abortion lobby.... This nation was founded upon life, liberty, and justice for all," the statement continues.

The group led by Alveda King is sending their statement as an "open letter" to Obama, members of Congress, state legislators and other officials.

## Abortion Advocates Dictate Radical Abortion Agenda for Obama To Follow

In a 55 page memo, abortion advocates, including Planned Parenthood and NARAL, have specified decisions they are urging Obama to make during his administration to promote abortion-on-demand as a legal “right” and require taxpayer funding for it. This memo is posted on Obama’s transition team website.

### The memo’s priorities for the Obama administration include:

- Pass the radical “**Freedom of Choice Act**” (FOCA) and sign it into law. This legislation would make abortion-on-demand an established right by national law and overturn the hundreds of pro-life laws that have been passed in the 50 states over the last decades.
- **Repeal the Hyde amendment** (which prohibits funding abortions except to save the life of the mother or for cases of rape & incest).
- Include an **abortion mandate in a health care** reform bill.
- Direct more funding to family planning programs, which means **more money for Planned Parenthood** (which, according to its annual report received \$1 billion in income last year).
- Ask Congress to reject the Weldon Amendment that protects health care providers who do not want to provide, pay for or refer for abortions.
- Advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take immediate steps to reverse the Bush regulations protecting medical professionals who refuse to provide abortions for reasons of conscience.
- **Restore funding to UNFPA** which supports a program which includes forced abortion, sterilization and the one-child policy in China. The memo asks for \$65 million in funding for UNFPA.
- **Overturn the Mexico City Policy** which bans federal funding of international pro-abortion groups that promote legalizing abortions in countries which have pro-life laws. The memo says \$1 billion should be allocated for such groups.
- Appoint **only pro-abortion judges** to the Supreme Court and lower federal courts.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for National Right to Life Committee, pointed out that, “This document is a road map

to what we call ‘the Obama abortion agenda.’”

“The pro-abortion lobby has presented its radical abortion agenda to the Obama Administration in a single tidy 55-page package—even including the exact language of presidential orders that these lobbying groups want Obama to sign,” Johnson said.

The groups that compiled the memo are asking Obama to remove all limits on taxpayer funding of abortion in the following way:

“The President’s budget should strike language restricting abortion funding for (i) Medicaid-eligible women and Medicare beneficiaries (Hyde Amendment); (ii) federal employees and their dependents (FEHB program); (iii) residents of the District of Columbia; (iv) Peace Corps volunteers; (v) Native-American women; and (vi) women in federal prisons.”

The pro-abortion memo has written out the actual text that Obama should use for Executive Orders and Presidential Memorandums, legislative language changes, and regulatory initiatives. It also provides Obama with a list of judicial vacancies to be filled with pro-abortion judges.

**Johnson says this memo provides a clear list of what pro-life advocates need to immediately start working against as Obama takes over with his new administration.**

Comments on the Obama website carrying the memo have shown strong pro-life opposition to this agenda. It is clearly not the case that this radical agenda is supported by a majority of Americans.

A poll sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops found that 82% of U.S. adults believe abortion should be limited or entirely illegal. Even among the minority supporting abortion for any reason, a third favored several of the currently existing laws limiting abortions.

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for USCCB’s Pro-life Secretariat, said regarding the 55-page abortion memo, **“Their agenda...won’t sell in the general public....Most people agree we should work to reduce abortions, but you can’t reduce abortions by promoting abortion and eliminating all the policies that have proven effective in reducing abortions.”**

## Washington State Citizens Ask for Medical Zones Free of Assisted Suicide

After Washington became the second state after Oregon to legalize assisted suicide, Washington citizens are asking for health facilities where doctors refuse to be involved in assisted suicide.

The Coalition Against Assisted Suicide (CAAS), which worked to defeat the November initiative to legalize assisted suicide, has received calls from across the state from Washington residents who are concerned about their health facilities or doctors participating in assisted suicide. Katie Martin of CAAS says that, in particular, “Senior citizens, people with disabilities and caregivers have contacted us to ask how to make sure the facilities in their communities remain safe harbors, ‘assisted suicide-free-zones.’”

Martin is encouraging citizens to contact health facilities, which are currently determining their internal policies, and ask

them not to engage in the practice of killing patients. CAAS is offering a series of template letters that can be sent to hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, pharmacies, doctors and clinics to encourage them not to participate in assisted suicide. “We need as many people on this bandwagon as possible to help keep our loved ones safe,” Martin said. “Obviously, the more encouragement they receive to refuse to participate in assisted suicide, the better chance terminally ill and sick patients have of receiving truly good medical care and not lethal drug overdoses at the hands of their doctors.” CAAS can send sample letters to those interested in sending a letter to their doctor or to a medical center.

# Bulletin Inserts

**March 1** – “One day... our nation will... look back on what we have been doing to innocent human beings within their mothers as a crime no less heinous than what was approved by the Supreme Court in the ‘Dred Scott case’ in the 19th century, and no less heinous than what was perpetrated by Hitler and Stalin in the 20th.” Cardinal Edward Egan in Catholic New York, October 23, 2008

**March 8** - “To claim the right to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia, and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance; that of an absolute power over others and against others.” *Evangelium Vitae*

**March 15** – An Oregon court recently decided that a woman had the right to kill frozen embryos as part of the property in a divorce settlement. Commented a Catholic Medical Association physician, “It’s where the culture of death has led our society—through the courts—to truly devalue human life.” *The Southern Cross*, November, 2008

**March 22** – The prominent Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer clearly described the act of abortion: “The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being and that this nascent human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. And that is nothing but murder.”

**March 29** – “The Christian tradition from the earliest days reveals a firm antiabortion attitude. From apostolic times, the Christian tradition overwhelmingly held that abortion was grievously evil.” Charles Chaput, OFM.Cap., Archbishop of Denver

**April 5** – “In today’s world of medical technology and pain control, the understandable fear of pain and death as one faces the end of their life should never lead to suicide—physician-assisted or otherwise.” Jennifer Popic, J.D., *NRL News*, Nov.-Dec., 2009

**April 12** - “Nobody is a nobody; nobody is unwanted. All are wanted by God, and therefore to be respected, protected and cherished by us,” wrote Father Richard John Neuhaus. Is this not the message of Christ’s dying and rising,—not just for certain people but for all?

**April 19** – Commenting on Washington State voters’ approval of physician-assisted suicide, the State Medical Association voiced its opposition “because our training and experience in the practice of medicine directs us to heal and comfort, not to cause death. *NRL News*, Nov-Dec., 2008

**April 26** – “Researchers Find Safer Methods to Reprogram Adult Stem Cells.” This recent headline describing adult stem cell research that does not involve killing embryos joins those announcing breakthroughs with adult stem cells from bone marrow, skin, and placentas. Meanwhile the world of embryonic stem cell research keeps demanding more money while producing negligible results.

## Church Bulletin Insert

This insert is perfect for any church bulletin, civic meeting, handing out at pro-life marches and anywhere pro-life people gather. Bulletin insert is 8 1/2” x 5 1/2,” double-sided and printed on glossy paper.

To order copies of this bulletin insert, please call (202) 626-8800 x142 for rush shipping. You can also place an order by email at Luis@nrlc.org.



## Suggested Prayers

**March 1** – For a greater commitment to the defense of innocent human life, we pray

**March 8** – That families facing an untimely pregnancy may turn to God for help and strength, we pray

**March 15** – That we may be moved to reach out to parents caring for disabled children, we pray

**March 22** – That this nation may heed the words of those who speak about the humanity of the unborn, we pray

**March 29** – That we may have the eyes to see the intrinsic value of every human life regardless of age or size or health, we pray

**April 5** – That we may cherish each human life as a gift from God, we pray

**April 12** – That our witness to the sacredness of human life may change hearts and minds, we pray

**April 19** – That we may have greater respect for those who are weakened by age or illness, we pray

**April 26** – For those who are involved in the abortion industry, that they may turn from death to life, we pray

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See Obama's radical abortion agenda on p. 2

## Choose Life...

January/February 2009

### More News

## Obama May Be in The White House, But Pro-Life Believers Are Uniting in God's Houses

By Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of NRLC Outreach

Barack Obama's statements, party platform, and comments from his supporters have attacked the very fabric of the culture of life. His election will ultimately galvanize pro-life religious communities into a strong and cohesive force for life.

During my 35 years in the pro-life movement, I have worked with many different religious denominations. I believe that Obama's anti-life philosophy is drawing together those who believe in a loving God, the Author of life, because they are now faced with a fearsome enemy who wants to dismantle the gains made by the pro-life movement over the past three and a half decades. The threat of raw blatant political power, now wielded by those who do not share our pro-life beliefs, have made a variety of religious groups and leaders realize that our only hope for protecting our pro-life gains is through unity in action and prayer.

### Specific activities to energize and mobilize pro-life churches

1) **Talk about the Obama Abortion Agenda** over and over and over again. Once people understand the real danger posed by Obama's agenda, they will be more likely to become actively involved in working against the Obama Agenda. Get further information at [www.stoptheabortionagenda.com](http://www.stoptheabortionagenda.com)

2) **Meet with Pastors:** Ask for a meeting with each of the pastors in your community to explain the Obama Abortion Agenda including FOCA. Even pastors who may have been sympathetic to legalized abortion will probably rethink the abortion issue when threats to pro-life laws like the Hyde Amendment are explained.

3) **Petition:** Use National Right to Life's Stop The Obama Abortion Agenda petition (see below) at every opportunity. Every single pro-life signer is critical to our ability to block the Obama Abortion Agenda including the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)". With your pastor's permission, have information sheets and NRLC petition sheets available at your church.

5) **Do the Cross Project:** One of the most effective ways to make people think about the magnitude of abortion is the cemetery of the innocence project--a field of 172 small white crosses made of wood representing the number of abortions performed each hour in the United States. The crosses are placed in church or school lawns along with a sign that explains the meaning of the crosses. The Knights of Columbus often will take on this project.

6) **Pray, Pray, Pray:** Prayer can save innocent human lives. Organize a regular prayer event each month, or develop a prayer campaign for those who cannot attend prayer meetings but choose to pray privately. Spiritually adopt an unborn child in danger of being killed by abortion or pray for a particular legislator or judge.

## Stop the Obama Abortion Agenda

Barack Obama and his allies in the pro-abortion Democratic leadership in Congress are taking aim at unborn children and their mothers with a radical pro-abortion agenda, including:

- ◆ Require taxpayer's to fund abortion for any reason
- ◆ Force hospitals to fund abortion for any reason
- ◆ Fund organizations that perform and promote abortion
- ◆ Force employer health insurance plans to cover abortion
- ◆ Enact the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)--a bill that would invalidate virtually all state and federal laws limiting abortion, including parental notification laws, and make partial birth abortion legal again.

Learn more at [www.stoptheabortionagenda.com](http://www.stoptheabortionagenda.com)

To request a **petition form**, go to website above, or call NRLC at 202-378-8842. Collect signatures on the petition from your friends, family and neighbors. Mail the signed petitions AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to National Right to Life, STOP THE OBAMA ABORTION AGENDA CAMPAIGN, 512 10th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.