



A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

It's Time to Fish or Cut Bait

by Ernest Ohlhoff

Events in 2012 may well determine the future of the pro-life movement for decades to come. During the past thirty-four years I have been part of or witnessed much of the pro-life movement's history. While we have not reached our ultimate goal of banning abortion, the movement has made steady progress in limiting some aspects of abortion and in educating the public on abortion and other anti-life issues. However, during the past three years, the Obama administration has undermined or reversed many pro-life initiatives.

For example, on January 21, 2011 President Obama reaffirmed *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion on demand pledging, "***I am committed to protecting this constitutional right.***" In addition, he blocked attempts to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood, attempted to remove the ban on funding abortions in the District of Columbia, issued an order to fund private organizations that perform and promote abortions overseas, and issued an executive order rescinding a regulation that would have protected health-care providers from being penalized for refusing to provide abortions.

Unfortunately, the administration's most damaging action to date is the hydra-headed monster commonly known as Obama Care. It contains a myriad of anti-life provisions and mandate powers through which the administration can promote abortion, eliminate conscious clause protections, and establish mechanisms of government controlled health care rationing.

Using the mandate powers in Obama Care, President Obama is trying to force religious institutions and individuals of conscience to pay for health insurance plans that cover medical procedures and drugs which act against their religious beliefs and consciences. By simple extension of these existing mandate powers, Health and Human Services could easily include abortion as a required medical procedure to be covered by health care plans.

President Obama has tried to claim that the current objections to Obama Care come only from those who are opposed to contraception. Yet, as the Catholic bishops have repeatedly pointed out, the current debate is not about contraception or any other specific teaching of any religion. It is about the government trying to control how churches and religious believers live out their faith. What Mr. Obama appears incapable of understanding is how deeply committed Americans are to the principles of religious freedom on which the United States was founded. Whether people identify themselves as Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Evangelical, Fundamentalist, Mormon or Jewish, they understand that the government does not have the right to

force religious individuals, organizations, or churches to violate their consciences or act in a manner contrary to the teachings of their faith.

Attacks on religious institutions by abortion activists are not new. In the late 1960's and early 70's, Dr. Bernard Nathanson and Larry Lader, who were founding members of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), targeted the Catholic bishops. After his conversion to a pro-life position, Dr. Bernard Nathanson revealed a key strategy used by NARAL in his book, *Aborting America*. Lader's strategy for breaking down opposition to the legalization of abortion centered on demonizing the Catholic bishops.

"Historically...every revolution has a villain..."

"Not just all Catholics....that's too large a group...we have to convince liberal Catholics to join us, a popular front as it were,... [the villains have] got to be the Catholic hierarchy. That's a small enough group to come down on, and anonymous enough so that no names ever have to be mentioned but everybody will have a fairly good idea whom we are talking about."

There is no accurate way to evaluate the effect of NARAL's anti-Catholic strategy almost four decades ago, but the statements of current Obama administration officials seem to be taken chapter and verse from the early NARAL play books. The current attacks on religious liberty has similarities in its reliance on casting Catholic principles as anti-woman, anti-progressive religious oppression. The manner and temerity with which Mr. Obama presented his mandate demands did nothing to soothe their impact. By drawing a line in the sand demanding religious institutions violate their beliefs, he has created a chasm too wide to bridge.

Many legal analysts have also pointed out that the current mandates are only the first step. Obama Care is riddled with provisions that will allow the administration to require funding of abortion via insurance coverage, as well as promoting euthanasia through health care rationing. Repealing Obama Care may be the last hope for several decades to prevent our nation from sliding down a slippery slope into government sponsored abortion and massive health care rationing.

Although the major media outlets and culture of death forces are trying to keep the public's focus on the red herring issue of contraception, many pro-life organizations and other groups of concerned citizens have recognized the threat and are coalescing in their opposition to these attacks on religious freedom. Americans have recognized that an attack on the conscience rights of anyone is an attack on all. If the Obama administration is allowed to continue its relentless anti-life campaign, human rights and freedoms in this country may be compromised for decades to come. It is time for people of faith to fish or cut bait - - act or be acted upon.

Please consider using the July 4th Religious Liberty Declaration Petition sheets in your church

Bulletin Inserts

April 1 – As we read the account of Christ’s trial before Pontius Pilate, it is timely to realize that every day in this country alone, 3300 unborn children (1371 per hour) are sentenced to life-ending Passion without benefit of trial. Even the most heinous murderer gets a trial by jury.

April 8 – Christ is risen, alleluia! He has broken the chains of death, enabling us to enjoy eternal life. But before the treasure of eternal life, we are given the gift of our human life, an immeasurable gift which should never be rejected or discarded. Abortion and euthanasia are not part of God’s life-giving plan.

April 15 – On this day when we render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s in the form of taxation, we should remember that each of us has the obligation to let our government officials know that policies allowing our tax dollars to subsidize abortion is morally wrong.

April 22 – “No amount of good social policy, such as programs that feed the hungry and shelter the homeless—as vitally important as they are—can make up for bad policies concerning

the protection of life itself. Without the fundamental right to live, the right to not be killed, no other rights are meaningful. In fact, without life no other rights can exist.” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Respect Life pamphlet, 2006.

April 29 – To be silent when unborn babies are being mercilessly put to death is not an option. Holocaust survivor Elie Weisel sums it up well: “I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

May 6 – Between 1990 and 2008, abortions in the United States fell 25%. During this period of dramatic decrease in the number of abortions, Planned Parenthood was increasing the number of abortions performed at its facilities by 157%! At the average rate of \$400 for each abortion, Planned Parenthood is making big money from the deaths of unborn children. (NRLC fundraising letter, 12/11)

May 13 – God says to each mother of an unborn child of, “Blessed are you among women,” because motherhood is truly one of God’s greatest gifts. Blessed are the mothers who choose to give birth to mentally or physically challenged babies, blessed

Fourth of July - Religious Freedom



1st Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or the free exercise thereof... We the undersigned are unalterably opposed to laws that attack religious freedom and individual consciences. We ask Congress to restore our religious and individual liberty, which is guaranteed by the First Amendment, and the right not to participate in abortion.

<i>Signature</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>

Please return petitions to: National Right to Life Committee - 512 Tenth St NW - Washington, DC

are those who choose life in extremely difficult circumstances, and blessed is each woman who carry an unborn child for nine months and allow a childless couple the joy of adoption.

May 20 – As certain scientists pursue unproductive stem cell research which kills human embryos, all people need to remember: “No objective, even though noble in itself, such as a foreseeable advantage to science, to other human beings or to society, can in any way justify experimentation on living human embryos or fetuses, whether viable or not, inside or outside the mother’s womb.” (Gift of Life, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 1987 from pamphlet “Life Matters: Embryo Research,” published by UCCB)

May 27 – “Once we remove the principle ‘thou shalt not kill’ from our civil law, those on the fringes of society become extremely vulnerable. The only difference between euthanasia and abortion is geography (the nursing home as opposed to the womb) and the size of the victim.” Msgr. William Smith, professor of moral theology

June 3 – To bring about the death of a person in order to ease his or her suffering is always wrong. It is always “a serious violation of the law of God because it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of

a human person.” The Gospel of Life encyclical of Pope John Paul II

June 10 – On this Father’s Day, there are many fathers denied the privilege of raising a child because of abortion. “Abortion leaves indelible footprints in the texture of masculinity, in the recesses of a man’s heart, and in his reproductive history. A father is a father forever, even of a dead unborn child.” These men need healing prayers. (The Hollow Men”: Male Grief and Trauma Following Abortion”, pamphlet by Vincent M. Rue, Ph.D.

June 17 – As we enter ever more fully into the “brave new world” of creating the children of our choosing, we need to look at the consequences of these actions: “The pricey manufacture of ‘custom kids’ [by genetic enhancement] would in fact undermine the value and dignity of human life by reducing these children to customized products like cars or computers. Rather than surprise and appreciation for the uniqueness and mystery of each individual, custom-made children would be judged by how they conform to preset specifications. (Marilyn Coors, Ph.D., Respect Life Program, 2005-6)

June 24 – What have we done to our children by legalizing abortion and championing it? The daily abortion stories, polls, editorials, and stories showing how the “abortion rights” movement is faring—all this has drummed into our children’s heads the idea that human life is not special, is not sanctified, is not a life formed by God but a fertilized ovum that makes demands and can be removed. Peggy Noonan, “Abortion’s Children, New York Times, 1/22/98.

Declaration

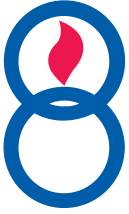
abolishment of religion, or prohibiting
to the provisions the Obama Health Care Law
to repeal the Obama Health Care Law and
amendment to the U.S. Constitution, including



Area code & phone	Email address

Suggested Prayers

- April 1** – For those struggling with an the abortion decision, that they may be encouraged and supported to choose life, we pray
- April 8** – For women not ready to accept the gift of the new life within them, may they ask for human and divine assistance to choose life, we pray
- April 15** – For those suffering pain and regret after their abortion, may they reach out for the gentle mercy of Christ, we pray
- April 22** – For doctors and nurses involved in the abortion industry, that they may turn from death and choose life, we pray
- April 29** - For all religious leaders, that they may teach the essential truth about the importance of protecting the right to life, we pray
- May 6** – For all those seeking to build a culture of life, that they may be guided and nourished by their faith, we pray
- May 13** – For all mothers, especially those who daily live out Respect Life in their care of mentally or physically challenged children, we pray
- May 20** – May those who work in classrooms and laboratories teach and practice respect for all human life, we pray
- May 27** – For all those in government positions, that they may resist all attempts to further ingrain abortion into our society, we pray
- June 3** – That more women with untimely pregnancies will choose adoption rather than abortion, we pray
- June 10** – For all fathers, especially elderly fathers, that they may know respect and love as they age, we pray
- June 17** – For all those who offer pregnant women alternatives to abortion, that they may courageously carry on their helping ministry, we pray
- June 24** – For a growth in understanding among all people that human life begins at conception, we pray



Choose Life...

Spring 2012

More News

Religious Liberty Advocate, Archbishop Lori Appointed to Lead Baltimore Archdiocese

by Ernest Ohlhoff



Archbishop William Lori

Archbishop William Edward Lori, 62, of the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, has been named by Pope Benedict XVI as the 16th archbishop of Baltimore.

Archbishop Lori serves as the Chairman of the newly formed Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty which was established last September by United State Catholic Conference President Timothy Cardinal Dolan, to fight political threats which

violate Catholic teaching. Archbishop Lori's statements and testimony before Congress have been strong, direct, and eloquent. In testimony delivered to a congressional committee Archbishop Lori's now famous parable of the Kosher Deli and the Pork Mandate has gone viral on social network all across America:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/upload/lori-testimony-for-oversight-on-religious-freedom-2012-02-16.pdf>

The appointment to the Baltimore Archdiocese comes at a curial time as a result of attacks by the Obama Administration's on individual consciences and religious liberty through mandates issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Archbishops Lori's appointment to Baltimore is viewed by many as a sign of the importance of the religious liberty issue and would seem to indicate appreciation for Archbishops Lori's leadership, talents, and courage.

Prior to being appointed Bishop of Bridgeport Connecticut, Archbishop Lori served as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington. Originally from Louisville, KY, he received

a bachelor's degree from St. Pius X Seminary in Kentucky and later earned a master's degree from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, which is in the diocese of Baltimore. He then continued his studies and received his doctorate in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Archbishop Lori was elected the 10th supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus a Catholic lay fraternal organizations with which he has had a longtime affiliation. "The Knights of Columbus is an amazing lay organization, predominantly, that already supports family life in very magnificent ways, supports the dignity of human life, and also the vocations of priestly and religious life, as well as a solid healthy patriotism," then Bishop Lori told CNS upon his 2005 appointment.

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