

## Choose Life...

2014 - Issue 1

### More News

## President Obama meets Pope Francis for the First Time

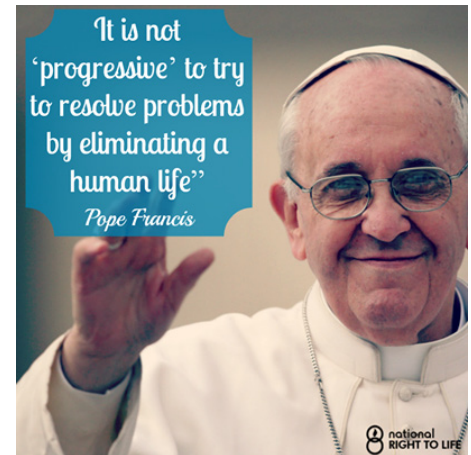
President Obama traveled to the Vatican to meet Pope Francis for the first time on March 27. The two spent 52 minutes conversing about a variety of issues. Although reports indicate that the meeting was cordial, the two also discussed points of significant difference. The Vatican summary of the meeting mentioned “there was a discussion on questions of particular relevance for the Church in that country [the United States], such as the exercise of the rights to religious freedom, life and conscientious objection.”

Two weeks after his first meeting with President Obama, Pope Francis met with Italy’s Pro-Life Movement (*Movimento per la Vita*). He thanked them for their service and reiterated that the right to life is the “first and most fundamental right,” without which all other rights perish.

Pope Francis warned against any sort of social or economic policies which view the person as a “commodity that you can use and then throw away.” He went on to describe abortion as one

of the most direct threats to life: “It is therefore necessary to reiterate the strongest opposition to any direct attack on life, especially [the] innocent and defenseless, and her unborn child in the womb is the innocent par excellence.”

In conclusion, Pope Francis emphasized that every person, and especially those women who have suffered from abortion directly, must be “regarded as a person, listened to, accepted, accompanied.”



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## A Pro-Life Religious Outreach Newspaper

### Hobby Lobby Case against the HHS Mandate Arrives in the Supreme Court

Washington – Hobby Lobby’s case against Kathleen Sebelius’ Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate arrived in the United States Supreme Court on March 25. The HHS Mandate is one of the harshest aspects of Obamacare which, according to Justice Anthony Kennedy, could set a precedent for unrestricted taxpayer funded abortions.

The Kathleen Sebelius vs. Hobby Lobby case revolves around the HHS Mandate, which was one of the many “rules” written by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. This Mandate requires charities, schools, universities, hospitals, and for-profit organizations to provide employees with insurance plans which cover procedures and medications which violate the conscience and religious beliefs of companies, such as Hobby Lobby.

While dozens of law suits have been filed against Sebelius’ HHS Mandate, the Hobby Lobby case was the first of these to appear before the Supreme Court on March 25. Hobby Lobby is based in Oklahoma City and is a leader in the arts and crafts industry. According to the company’s website, the Green family who founded and owns Hobby Lobby is proud to honor “the Lord in all we do by operating the company in a manner consistent with biblical principles.” They argue that their religious liberty is being violated by being required to provided drugs and procedures which violate biblical principles. If Hobby Lobby refuses to

violate its corporate conscience, it will be required to pay an estimated \$475 million per year in fines.

Justice Kennedy highlighted the importance of this case in the fight against abortion. He confronted the Obama Administration’s lawyer, saying that insofar as a person could be coerced by the government to violate its conscience in any area, it follows that “a for-profit corporation could be forced in principle to pay for abortions.”



President Barack Obama hugs HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi after signing the Obamacare law on March 23, 2010. (White House photo/Pete Souza)

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### New York Governor Andrew Cuomo Tells Pro-Lifers: “They Have No Place in the State of New York”



Governor Andrew Cuomo

state of New York.”

He asked, “Are we right-to-life or are we pro-choice? Well if you are right to life, that is your opinion and that’s your religious belief, that is fine but that is not the opinion of this state, which 70% are pro-choice in this state. ... Figure out who you are and figure out if you are of a[n] extreme conservative philosophy and if you can survive in this state. And the answer is no.”

During a radio broadcast on January 17th, Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) of New York declared that pro-lifers do not belong in his state. Cuomo was being interviewed by Susan Arbetter on “The Capitol Pressroom,” a WCNY Radio show about the differences between moderate and extreme conservatives. Frustrated with the political gridlock in New York, Governor Cuomo said that the “Extreme conservatives, who are right-to-life, ... have no place in the



Timothy Cardinal Dolan

are, resist the constitutionally legal restraints that have been reasonably placed upon abortion.” He explained that Kermit Gosnel, the notorious Philadelphia abortionist, “was killing not only the babies in the womb, but their mothers in the most unsanitary conditions. There is an extremist.” He went on to show that being pro-life is not an extreme position. “Pro-lifers are reasonable, rational, diligent, committed citizens of the United States who love our country, who want to work both for women and their babies and want to do this in a very civil way.”

On his weekly Sirius Satellite Radio show, Timothy Cardinal Dolan called Cuomo’s remarks “unfortunate at best; inflammatory and outrageous at worst.” He went on to explain that “The extremists are really on the other side. The extremists are those who want to radically expand abortion, are not happy with the way things



# March Leaders Can Thank the Un-Aborted Bishop

by Tom Hoopes

In 2013, Notre Dame led. In 2014 it was Benedictine.

This year, Benedictine College will be leading the March for Life in Washington, D.C., thanks to a mother who refused to abort a bishop.

My favorite argument against abortion is the George Bailey argument. Bailey is the character in *It's a Wonderful Life* who gets a glimpse of what the world would be like if he never existed.

What George Baileys are we missing because of abortion? What kind of world would we have if they had lived?

One near miss: The Ravens Respect Life group leading the March for Life this year would have gotten aborted away, if one doctor had his way.

Bishop Andrew Cozzens of St. Paul-Minneapolis told me the story. In October, Pope Francis named him a bishop, making him the seventh "Raven Bishop" (Benedictine alum bishop) in the 21st century.

Growing up, he said, his mother would tell him, "God saved your life because he has a plan for you and your job is to find out what that plan is," said the bishop. "That's true of everyone but this story made that impress[ion] on me in a deeper way."

One of the things that God created him to do was to cofound Ravens Respect Life at Benedictine College, apparently. "We were the first group to organize trips to the March for Life to Washington, D.C.," said Bishop Cozzens. "We took a couple of buses back then."

But he almost wasn't there to start it.

"When my mom was 20 weeks pregnant with me, her water broke and she went immediately to the hospital," he said. "She and my father spent a night in prayer that they would not lose the baby. The next morning, the doctor came in after running some tests."

The doctor said, "I need to tell you that your child is severely deformed and I recommend that we induce labor" — in other words, end the child's life prematurely.

Mrs. Cozzens said, "Absolutely not."

The doctor answered, "You don't get it — this child is a freak."

"I don't care what you say," she answered. She was determined to keep her baby — and to get a new doctor.

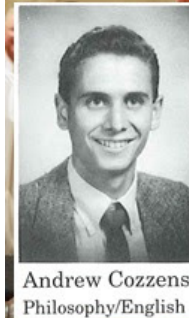
A second doctor was sent and he said the baby would be fine, "If you're willing to lie in bed for the rest of this pregnancy."

The parents were happy to do just that. But "How will we pay?" they asked. Insurance wouldn't cover a months-long hospital stay.

The new doctor said not to worry. He had made a bet with the

first doctor that she would deliver a healthy and normal child. If the baby was normal, Doctor 1 would pay for her \$1,200 hospital stay. If not, Doctor 2 would pay.

"When the second doctor delivered me he told the nurse to go get the other doctor and tell him to see his 'little freak,'" laughed Bishop Cozzens.



Andrew Cozzens  
Philosophy/English



The "freak" would later help start the March for Life, and another student a few years behind him would take up the slack: James Albers, who is now Abbot James of St. Benedict's Abbey on our campus.

Abbot James rode of our eight buses on the 1,000 mile-plus trip to lead the March for Life this year — along with faculty, staff and 386 students, nearly 25% of our student body.

It is no coincidence that the pro-life leaders in college become leaders in the world later on.

Bishop Cozzens said: "The pro-life issue has been in a certain way the key issue in the cultural battles that we are deeply immersed in in the United States. It was the first dividing point for the future. We had to decide: Would we be willing to live sacrificially for another, or not? Being involved in the pro-life movement is a key to those who support the founding dream of the United States. College students need to be involved in that, if they will be involved in building a culture of life, which is one of the great tasks of this generation."

*Editor's note. Tom Hoopes is writer in residence at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. This first appeared at The Gregorian Blog.*

## ...HHS Case Continued from Page 1

Although it is not possible to predict the outcome of the case, the strong remarks of Justice Kennedy, who is often the swing vote on the bench, indicate that it is very possible that the HHS Mandate will be overturned. The final decision on the case is expected by the end of June.

In the wake of the rocky rollout of Obamacare and the appearance of her HHS Mandate before the Supreme Court, Kathleen Sebelius resigned from her position as secretary of Health and Human Services on April 11. Sebelius spent the last five years at HHS expanding taxpayer funding of abortion. Sebelius will be replaced by Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the former Chief Operating Officer of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has contributed millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood. Mrs. Burwell is expected to continue advocating the Obama abortion agenda.

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# Bulletin Inserts

**April 6** – “An abortion ends a human life – a defenseless, vulnerable, utterly innocent human life. How has our culture gotten to the point where the tragedy of this fact is lost on so many, when in all other ways we view ourselves as more civilized and humane than at any point in human history?” Ken Connor, Chairman of the Center for a Just Society, Washington, DC.

**April 13** – “(The) defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development.” Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel,” 11/26/13

**April 20** – As we celebrate the Easter gift of new life, Pope Francis’ recent words speak of the value of each life: “Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.” “The Joy of the Gospel,” 11/26/13

**April 27** – On December 13, 2013, the Belgian Senate voted to extend its 2002 euthanasia law to cover terminally-ill children. Belgium thus becomes the first country in the world to remove any age limits on euthanasia. As always euthanasia supporter cloak their action in caring terms: “The principle of euthanasia for children sounds shocking at first, but it’s motivated by compassion and protection,” according to John Harris, a professor of bioethics at the University of Manchester.

**May 4** – In a commentary on Belgium’s embrace of euthanasia, Dr. Peter Saunders wrote, “It is widely acknowledged that euthanasia is out of control in Belgium: a 500% increase in cases in ten years; one third involuntary; half not reported; euthanasia for blindness, anorexia and botched sex change operations; organ transplant euthanasia; the extension of euthanasia to children and people with dementia.” As one commentator has noted, “Belgium has leaped headfirst off a moral cliff.” Life Site News, 11/26/13

**May 11** – A unique story showing why mothers are so special: An ultrasound at 20 weeks revealed a baby with a severe bone growth disorder. Advised to end baby Ryan’s life, his 26 year old mother decided that her child deserved a chance. “If he was going to pass anyway, I wanted him to go on his own terms. It didn’t seem right to make that decision for him before he’d had a chance at life.” Born on Christmas Day, 2011 Ryan spent a year in the hospital and today continues to do things doctors said he would never do. His mother, Natasha says of her son, “Ryan’s a gift. His differences just make him all the more special.” NRL News Today 12/12/13

**May 18** – Dr. Gordon Clark, a former abortionist, saw a pro-life billboard saying, “Abortion score: one dead, one wounded.” In a response to Oregon Right to Life, he stated, “No, one dead, and a whole bunch of people wounded, including the doctor, the nurses involved... the grandparents, the father of the baby... all of these people have been wounded... Knowing that I’ve been wounded, and knowing that I’ve wounded others, talking about it and bringing it out... is useful. It’s time to make a decision, and say, ‘this has to change.’ Our society can’t go on this way, of pretending it’s hunky-dory. It’s not. It’s murder...” LifeNews.com, 9/12/13

**May 25** – In our supposedly civilized, humane society, “Our hearts bleed for the melting ice caps, exploited natural resources, vanquished species, economic injustice, racial inequality, gender discrimination... you name it and there’s a group dedicated to raising awareness for it. Why on earth this same righteous sense of justice isn’t felt for the plight of the unborn is beyond me.” Ken Connor, Chairman of the Center for a Just Society, Washington, D.C.

**June 1** – We need to stop cloaking the ugliness of abortion with misnomers like “proper medical coverage” or “choice.” Its violence of the most intimate sort, and it needs to end.” Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia

**June 8** – Thinking about the possible connection between Detroit’s bankruptcy and its high rate of abortion (37.9 per 1000 women of childbearing age), a writer for Ohio Right to Life observes, “Americans would be sorely remiss if we overlook the fact that Detroit is desperately in need of the very thing that abortion deliberately takes: life, minds, human power and ingenuity. If we continuously fail to address this grave social issue—the depletion of human brainpower by means of abortion—then we will continue to set America up for her collapse and the extinguishing of all her lights.” NRLC News Today, 8/7/13

**June 15** – Reflecting on fathers and abortion, columnist Pat Morrison wrote, “So many otherwise decent men need to stop taking refuge in the noxious excuse ‘Well, it’s her decision.’ It is, in countless cases, not because women want to make the decision alone but because men ‘honored’ their ‘right to choose.’ What a cop-out on the part of men, what an exercise in hypocrisy, what patent insincerity.”

**June 22** – “Only a tender, compassionate love that seeks to serve those most in need, whatever the personal cost, is strong enough to overcome a culture of death and to build a civilization of love.” Respect Life Sunday statement, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, 10/6/2012

**June 29** – Planned Parenthood’s annual report for 2012-13 reveals that over the past three reported years, Planned Parenthood has performed nearly one million abortions. In 2012 abortions made up 93.8% of the organization’s pregnancy services. Planned Parenthood receives public funding at a rate of \$1.5 million a day Life News, 12/13/13

## Suggested Prayers

**April 6** – That those who work to restore legal protection to the unborn may rely on the Holy Spirit for inspiration and strength, we pray

**April 13** – That the passion of Christ may encourage the pro-life movement to endure until the goal is accomplished, we pray

**April 20** – May we welcome the gift of each new life with the joy Jesus brought us at Easter, we pray

**April 27** – For all those who work in the abortion industry, that they may turn away from slavery to darkness, we pray

**May 4** – For all women facing untimely pregnancies that they may receive help from a caring community, we pray

**May 11** – That the gift of motherhood may be gratefully received regardless of difficult circumstances, we pray

**May 18** – For the elderly who are nearing the end of their journey, that we may value their life at its end, we pray

**May 25** – For the physically and mentally challenged, that their lives may be honored and protected, we pray

**June 1** – May our hearts and minds be enlightened to see what abortion is doing to this country, we pray

**June 8** – That the Holy Spirit may inspire us to change the hearts of those who do not value the right to life, we pray

**June 15** – For fathers and grandfathers of unborn babies threatened by abortion, that they strongly support their child’s right to life, we pray

**June 22** – For a halt to laws legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia, we pray

**June 29** – For those who suffer for defending the right to life, we pray