

October 2011

St. Raymond's Respects Life Newsletter

The newsletter of the Respect Life Committee of St. Raymond's Parish
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We changed the format and content of this newsletter to make it more educational rather than just informational. While we will still include the [Calendar of Respect Life Activities](#), since last Sunday has been designated by the Catholic Church as Respect Life Sunday, we thought that we would include the beautifully educational and inspirational homilies of Fathers De Celles and Pilon from Sunday, October 2, 2011. There are also several other links to national issues of importance to our Catholic way of life.

Father De Celles' Respect Life Sunday Homily:

The first Sunday of October, has, for years, been designated by the Catholic Bishops in America as "Respect Life Sunday."

So, as I have for the last 16 years, today I will preach on the topic of respecting life: specifically on the evil of abortion.

But I gotta tell you, part of me wonders: Why? What good does it do?

After all these years of 1000's of priests, bishops and Popes, proclaiming the Gospel of Life so many Catholics still don't understand that abortion is destroying not only the lives of millions of unborn babies, and their mothers, but also mankind's fundamental respect for all aspects human life.

[Read more](#)

Father Pilon's Respect Life Sunday Homily:

Today, the First Sunday in October, is the Catholic Church's Respect Life Sunday in our Country. In Catholic teaching, there is the strongest connection between our obligation to defend and promote the value of human life and the way we esteem the dignity of each and every human person. [Read more](#)

Other Significant Respect Life Articles and Activities this Past Month:

1. *There has been much written about the pro-abortion HHS Contraception Mandate that the U.S. Bishops had asked us to comment on to HHS. Arland Nichols, the National Director of HLI America, has provided a thorough piece of research on the background of the individuals who made the recommendation to the HHS. HLI America has been one of the leading organizations which has written about this travesty. Links to the significant articles on the subject are found below.*

The Pro-Abortion Committee Behind the HHS Contraception Mandate

"Through a search of public records, HLI America has been able to substantiate the claim that members of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee who wrote Recommendation 5.5 have ideological commitments that raise serious questions about the supposed objectivity with which

they considered the scientific evidence that led to their recommendation that the HHS mandate contraception and sterilization coverage as “preventive care.” The IOM members below have strong relationships with both Planned Parenthood and NARAL, and have actively supported pro-abortion candidates for public office.” [Read more](#)

2. *Archbishop Dolan **wrote** a personal letter to President Obama asking that his administration **not only support** the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), **but stop** publicly opposing it **to include** in the courts.*

Attacks on DOMA Threaten Marriage, Church-State Relations, Warns Archbishop Dolan in Letter to President

September 22, 2011 WASHINGTON—The Obama Administration’s fight against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage as between one man and one woman, will undermine marriage and create a serious breach of Church-State relations, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote in a September 20 letter to President Barack Obama. The Administration’s assault on DOMA, Archbishop Dolan said, will “precipitate a national conflict between Church and State of enormous proportions and to the detriment of both institutions.” The announcement and the [entire letter](#) is definitely worth reading.

3. *9/11 was a very significant event in the history of our nation. In the aftermath of this tragedy, Planned Parenthood of New York decide to compound the problem by offering free abortions. Here is an article on the subject by Gerri Laird, a member of the Parish Respect Life Committee and Writer for HLI America.*

9/11 and Planned Parenthood’s Legacy for Women

“We will never forget September 11, 2001.” These words that we’ve heard in different contexts over the last couple of weeks around the 10th anniversary of 9/11 mean one thing for those who value all human life, and quite another for those who only value those lives that are wanted and convenient. For those who value life, September 11th is a time to pray for all who suffered and died that day in 2001 due to the sinful behaviors of others. It is also a personal reminder that we know not the day nor the hour when each of us will be called into eternity. Actions have consequences; “the wages of sin is death,” but through God’s justice and mercy in our own lives, the culture of life continues to bring hope and healing to others. For Planned Parenthood, however, the aftermath of September 11, 2001 was a time for helping women in need by offering free reproductive services, including abortions, emergency contraception, and birth control. Yes, Planned Parenthood of New York City (PPNYC) will [never forget](#) that date as they “[reached] out to women who have been displaced and [eased] their fears” by offering these services from September 18th to 29th that year at no cost. In their own words, “The tragic events of September 11th will not alter or diminish this legacy.” [Read more.](#)

Parish Calendar of Respect Life Events:

Through November 6th [40-Days for Life Continues](#) – Spend an hour in prayer at a local abortion facility. Fellow St. Raymond’s parishioners pray together at the clinic from 11am-1pm every Friday till November 4th. Come and see! Bring your rosary.

November 3rd 7:30 p.m. St. Raymond’s Speaker Series – Dr. Marie Anderson, Medical Director, Tepeyac Family Center and President, Northern Virginia Guild of Catholic

Physicians, Parish Hall

November 30th

Quarterly Respect Life Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m., Parish Library

December 1st

7:00 p.m. [Natural Family Planning Class series](#) begins (Classroom in Parish Hall)

January 23rd

March for Life – Buses will depart from St. Raymond’s Parish after a special 10:00 a.m. Mass. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex in January.