



May-June 2012 Edition

# St. Raymond's Respects Life Newsletter

*The newsletter of the Respect Life Committee of St.  
Raymond's Parish Springfield, VA*

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**A Fortnight of Freedom: (From Fr. De Celle's Column in the Bulletin of April 22<sup>nd</sup>)** So do not think we have abandoned or sought to deemphasize the cause of Religious Liberty, or its fundamental importance to Catholics in America! Do not think we are retreating one inch from the battle the President and his minions have initiated against Catholicism, Christianity, and religion in general. What the Bishops wrote in defiance of this "unjust law" still stands, and will stand until, by the grace of Christ and the dedicated opposition of Americans of goodwill, our nation once again unambiguously recognizes and protects its foundational liberties, especially Religious Liberty.

To this end, on April 12, 2012, the Bishops issued a comprehensive statement, "[\*\*Our First, Most Cherished Liberty,\*\*](#)" outlining the current situation and laying out specific courses of action they are calling on Catholics to pursue in the coming months. Most notably they have called on American Catholics to focus "all the energies the Catholic community can muster" in a special way during the fourteen days from June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—to July 4, Independence Day, which they called a "**Fortnight for Freedom**"—"a great hymn of prayer for our country." Individual dioceses and parishes will observe this in their own particular ways as a "special period of prayer, study, catechesis, and public action" emphasizing "both our Christian and American heritage of liberty."

I look forward to this "Fortnight for Freedom" and hope to have several "events" planned for the parish, and to participate in any "events" Bishop Loverde will propose. We have, I think, already anticipated this call by our very successful and informative March 17th "Conference on Religious Liberty, Contraception, and the Catholic Church." In this regard I can now invite and encourage all of you who missed the conference to [visit the parish website where you can follow the obvious links to view the videos of this conference](#) (scroll to bottom of page), and to share them with your friends.

**Choose Life License Plate Frames:** Hopefully everyone received their Choose Life License Plate Frames for their vehicles after the Masses this weekend. If you did not receive one, you can still do so by

stopping by the rectory or the gift shop and picking one up. The donation is \$5.00 and will be used to help fund the St. Raymond's Respect Life Program.

We keep our parish website current on the religious liberty issue. [Visit it often](#). Share it with others. It is one of the most complete parish websites on this issue in the country. Most important are the homilies by [Fathers De Celles](#) and [Pilon](#) from a few weeks ago. [Click here for preview of Religious Liberty Items](#).

**Another Threat To Religious Liberty:** Does this sound like a “broken record?” Just when you think that the Obama Administration has tightened the screws on religious liberty in the United States, something else comes up which tightens them a little tighter. On March 21, 2012, the Health and Human Services Department, the Employee Benefits Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service issues an advanced notice of a proposed rule (in layperson-speak a proposed rule is having the Administration telling you that they are going to do something without Congressional approval and asking you to comment on it). The rule deals with religious organizations that object to the coverage of contraceptive services for religious reasons. Here is the [proposed rule](#). Here is the [link to the USCCB response](#) of May 15, 2012. It is worth your time to actually read the USCCB response. It is excellent. Anthony Picarello (the General Counsel) and his associate, Mike Moses, do excellent work. Now we need you to do something.

**Respond by June 19, 2012 to Another Threat to Religious Liberty:** Ordinary citizens are invited to comment on the proposed rule. You can do that by going to the following website and [completing the prepared form](#). The most effective way to do this is to prepare a personal comment directly to the [federal government website](#) and type your comments. Here are some of the talking points that you may want to tailor to your own use.

**Message to HHS:** The Administration’s “advance notice” does not correct the fundamental problems in its contraceptive mandate. Both the coercive mandate itself, and its extremely narrow exemption for “religious employers,” remain unchanged. Almost all private health plans, even those sponsored by many religious organizations, will be required to pay for or facilitate coverage for sterilization and all FDA-approved “contraceptives,” including drugs that can cause abortion. This coverage will be provided “automatically” to employees and their dependents, including minors, whether the employees want the coverage or not. Employers will have no right to act on their values when they provide health coverage. Employees, and those who provide or purchase health insurance outside the employer context, will have no freedom to opt out.

I urge you to allow all organizations and individuals to offer, sponsor and obtain health coverage that does not violate their moral and religious convictions.

**Komen Race for the Cure:** You will recall all of the discussion about the Susan Komen Foundation’s attempt to disassociate themselves with Planned Parenthood and then Planned Parenthood, with the support of the Obama Administration, pressuring Komen to resume the funding of Planned Parenthood. As the summer approaches and the various Komen events are being staged in the DC area, remember that a portion of every penny that you donate for that “cause” will go to Planned Parenthood.

## Parish Calendar of Respect Life Events:

Please Watch the Bulletin for Religious Liberty Events Over the Summer

September 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. Mass and then lecture. Kick off the 2012 St. Raymond's Speaker Series with a return of Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center

### *Extract from St. Raymond's Respect Life Website The Obama Administration Attack on Religious Liberty*

The Obama Administration has mandated sterilization and contraceptive coverage, including abortifacients, in health insurance plans offered by religious institutions, such as colleges and hospitals. This decision by the Department of Health and Human Services is a direct attack against religious liberty. An unprecedented and very dangerous line has been crossed that goes to the heart of the freedom of religion, and this action does intolerable violence to our First Amendment rights. The religious exemption to the law allowed by the Obama Administration is structured so narrowly that any Church institution that serves a considerable number of non-Catholics would not be protected, directly harming our various ministries throughout the community. The faithful of Northern Virginia and all citizens of good will must be prepared to engage in a strong defense in the civil arena of the basic human right of religious liberty. For now, though, we should all be united in prayer that President Obama and Secretary Sebelius will reconsider the action they have taken.

(Recent Documents from parish, the diocese, the Church)

Father De Celles' Homilies and Bulletin Writings on Religious Liberty

[May 6, 2012](#) (column) (excellent discussion on subsidiarity)  
[April 22, 2012](#) (homily) (public dissent from Church teachings)  
[April 22, 2012](#) (column) (freedom is fundamental to Christianity)  
[March 3, 2012](#) (column) (Rep. Pelosi is right!)  
[February 26, 2012](#) (column) (Catholics and birth control)  
[February 26, 2012](#) (homily) (*Humanae Vitae* and a 'line drawn in the sand')  
[February 12, 2012](#) (homily) (the Catholic Church and the free exercise of religion)  
[January 22, 2012](#) (homily) (39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v. Wade)

Father Pilon's Homilies on Religious Liberty

[April 22, 2012](#) (homily) (on the demands of the moral code)  
[January 22, 2012](#) (homily) (on religious freedom)

Conference on "Religious Liberty, Contraception, and the Catholic Church" – March 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Raymond's

[View Part 1](#) | [Download Part 1](#) (770 MB) (Talk by Mr. Casey and Father Pilon)

[View Part 2](#) | [Download Part 2](#) (330 MB) (Talk by Mr. and Mrs. Laird)

(NOTE: Please be patient viewing or downloading the videos as the files are large.)

## USCCB on Religious Freedom

[USCCB response](#) for HHS rule change further restricting the religious liberties in the United States, dated May 15, 2012

[Cardinal Dolan](#) on the “7 Givens and 7 Oughts to Catholic Social Teaching.” This is a video of a talk that he gave in March 2012 on Long Island. It is worth listening because he differentiates between the role of the Church and the role of the laity.

[Our First, Most Cherished Liberty](#), April, 2012 This is an excellent history of Religious Liberty in the United States

[United for Religious Freedom – March 14, 2012](#) – An action plan for the Catholic Church in America

[Letter from Cardinal Dolan to all Bishops – March 2, 2012](#)

“The Parable of the Kosher Deli” - Testimony of Bishop Lori before U.S. House of Representatives – February 28, 2012

[Long version](#)

[Short version](#)

[Fact Sheet on Religious Liberty – March 19, 2012](#)

[Cardinal-Designate Dolan’s Video Statement](#) – February 14, 2012

[Legal Analysis of HHS Regulation & Bulletin on Contraception and Sterilization Mandate](#) – USCCB Office of General Counsel – March 7, 2012.

[“White House Misrepresents its own Contraceptive Mandate”](#) – February 3, 2012 Press Release

[Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the Bishops of the United States of America on Their "Ad Limina" Visit](#) – January 19, 2012

[Joint Letter by Bishop Loverde and Bishop DiLorenzo](#) on Religious Liberty – January 30, 2012

[Bishop Loverde’s Statement](#) on Religious Liberty in response to Pope Benedict XVI’s statement – January 24, 2012

[Bishop Loverde Homily, Respect Life Mass, February 25, 2012](#)

[Cardinal Wuerl's Statement](#) on Religious Freedom – January 30, 2012

[ObamaCare and Religious Freedom](#) – Cardinal-designate Dolan – WSJ – January 25, 2012

## Other Documents

[Catholics: Hold Obama Accountable for Conscience Violations](#) – LifeNews.com – January 30, 2012

[Bishops speak out against HHS mandate](#) – CatholicCulture.org – January 30, 2012 [Stand up Speak out Be Heard](#) – Gerri Laird - *Family Foundations* – May 2012

[The line in the sand: Religious liberty and health care](#) – Bob Laird – *Family Foundations* – May 2012

[Talking Points on ObamaCare](#) – Couple to Couple League – February/March 2012