



September 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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Editor's Note: This is the first Newsletter after the summer. Our primary focus is education on key issues of importance in the respect life and religious liberty arena. Follow the links on the left to find what you may have missed during the summer in Father De Celle's columns in the parish bulletin. Feel free to distribute this newsletter to your friends.

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Father Tad Pacholczyk, the Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center returns to St. Raymond's on Saturday, September 29th at 9:45 a.m. to speak on 'The Ethics of Healthcare Mandates and Nationalized Healthcare'. The day will begin with Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by a light refreshments and Father's talk. There will be ample time to ask questions. The event will end by 12:30 p.m. The mandates contained in the nationalization of healthcare have brought to light the blatant disregard for the expression of religious

liberty which is one of the basic rights that we have as Americans. This issue has been discussed often beginning with a forum on the topic in February. See the current parish website to stay current on the religious liberty issue. Father Tad's talk is apropos as we prepare to elect new members of the House of Representatives, a new Senator in Virginia, and a President. Father Pacholczyk is arguably the foremost expert on presenting complex Catholic moral issues in an easily understandable manner. This talk is for families, teens, clergy, pro-life leaders, and religious education teachers and leaders. Father Tad holds degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology and chemistry. His Ph.D is in Neuroscience from Yale.

To RSVP for this event, place email us at straymondprolife@aol.com. Last year over 150 were in attendance at his presentation. Several folks have asked if this event is only open to St. Raymond's Parishioners. St. Raymonds cordially invites anyone to attend this presentation as our guests. We don't charge a fee to attend.

More on Father Tad: You may recognize Father as one of the monthly columnists in the Arlington Catholic Herald. [Click here](#) to read his latest writings. His article, [Federal Mandate Crushes Religious Freedom](#), published in the Arlington Catholic Herald in March 2012 gives you an insight into the depth and breadth of his knowledge on the subject. Be sure to email us with your RSVP.

The Busy Summer: In case you missed it, the educational focus of the parish over the summer (and into the fall) has been religious freedom. St. Raymond's, following the recommendations of the Arlington Diocese, published a Fortnight for Freedom schedule which contained a prayer event each evening. Father De Celles' [columns in the bulletin](#) explained the rationale behind the time for prayer and education.

The Fortnight concluded on the 4th of July, *Independence Day*. In case you missed it, here is what Father De Celles said about "Liberty Day".

What a great gift to live in this “land of the free”. But it is also, thank God, “the home of the brave”. So many heroes have given so much, even their very lives, to win and protect our liberty. They are truly “the brave”. But we too must be brave, and we too must fight to defend our liberty.

Liberty does not mean a freedom *from* responsibility, quite the contrary. Liberty is a demanding servant and master—it both benefits us and places demands on us. Liberty demands that we defend it—that we sacrifice and fight to preserve it. True liberty is a freedom *for* and freedom *to*: a freedom for becoming the good men and women we have the potential to be, the freedom to be who God calls us to be. As such, the most fundamental type or aspect of liberty is Religious Liberty, without which we cannot be truly free people God created us to be.

History tells us that when the Declaration of Independence was first read publicly in Philadelphia in July of 1776, the church bells of the city rang out in celebration, “ringing out freedom.” On this July the 4th listen for the **ringing of the church bells** of Catholic churches, including St. Raymond’s, at **12 noon**, declaring to all who will hear that Catholics will not let our God-given and Constitutionally guaranteed religious liberty be taken from us by a government which is supposed to be formed primarily “to secure these rights” for us. And as you hear the church bells peal, join your fellow Catholics and parishioners in humble prayer, in thanksgiving and supplication, to the Creator who endows us with the “unalienable rights” to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”.

Social Justice and Subsidiarity and the VP Candidates: Father De Celles spent two of the Father De Celle’s Corners discussing this subject. On May 6th he gave a tutorial on [Social Justice and Subsidiarity](#). He followed it a few months later on August 19th with a discussion of VP candidate Paul Ryan – [Good Catholic or Bad Catholic?](#)

First Religious Liberty; Now Freedom of Speech: Such was one of the topics of the Father De Celle’s Corner in the [Parish Bulletin of August 5th](#). In it he pointed out that both of these freedoms have been taken away by the current administration. Citing examples from health care (previously discussed) and the *Chick-fil-A* incident, Father makes a clear point that as Catholics, we cannot sit back and watch our freedoms being taken away from us.

Prayer for our Government (From [Father De Celle’s Corner Bulletin July 8, 2012](#)):

Prayer for Government

*by Archbishop John Carroll,
first bishop and archbishop of Baltimore,
and of the United States*

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope *N.*, the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, *N.*, all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability. We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

March For Life Alert: I know that it is only September, but the March for Life for 2013 is not on January 22nd, but on Friday, January 25th. Be sure to mark your calendars, plan your vacation time from work, etc. so that you can join the over 100,000 folks who converge on our Capitol to Celebrate Life. There will be three buses from Saint Raymond's for the March. Be sure to look for sign-up sheets in early January.

Parish Calendar of Respect Life Events:

September 23 rd	2:00-5:00 p.m. Join Alan Keyes and David Bereit (National Director of 40 Days for Life) at the Harris Pavilion in Manassas for a Pro-Life Kick Off Rally to begin the fall campaign for 40 Days for Life.
September 29 th	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 (CYO Car Wash4Life at same time)
September 30 th	After 12:15 p.m. Mass - St. Raymond's Parish Picnic. Voter Registration and Yard Signs available. The red, white, and blue signs say "VOTE Protect Life, Defend marriage, Restore Religious Liberty." Suggested donation for Signs are \$5.00
October 7 th	2:30-3:30 p.m. Life Chain on Franconia Road
October 13 th	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Pro-Life Apologetics for Teens with Jonathan Darnel (Parish Hall). Parents and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend. Free Admission – bring your own lunch. RSVP to Liz Hildebrand at hildebrandseven@cox.net.
October 27-28 th	Parish commitment for 40 Days for Life which runs from September 26 th – November 4 th . Sign up in the Parish narthex.
October 25 th	Parish Speaker Series Continues (Speaker yet to be announced)
December 5 th	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Parish Pro-Life Holy Hour
January 25, 2013	March for Life (note the change of date)