

**Pastor's Corner**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Lent:** Lent is nearly upon us. This is a great season of grace and renewal. Ash Wednesday is this week. Our Ash Wednesday Mass schedule is as follows: 8:45 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Due to the additional liturgies, we will not have Adoration in the Church on Ash Wednesday.

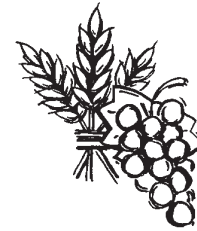
**Conferences:** The Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences are a great way for personal renewal. Register online at [www.columbuscatholicmen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicmen.com) or at [www.columbuscatholicwomen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com). If you wish to sign up for either of the buses departing from the parish, please contact the Parish Office at 345-4290 to sign up for the bus. (See the bulletin for more details).

**Religious Liberty:** As of this writing, the Bishops continue to express their concern and opposition to the threat to religious liberty imposed by the recent mandate of the Health and Human Services department. I have inserted articles in the bulletin this weekend and will continue to do what I can to inform you about why the Bishops are concerned and what you can do about it. If you have not already done so, please contact our representatives in Congress. Go to [www.usccb.org/conscience](http://www.usccb.org/conscience) to find a link to contact congress. A handwritten note with a stamp remains the most effective way to contact your representative and senators.

**Blessed Sacrament School 7th and 8th graders visit Holy Family Church and the Cathedral:** I am happy to share that I was able to join the 7th and 8th graders this past week on a field trip to Holy Family Church and the Cathedral. Our 7th and 8th graders served in the Holy Family Soup Kitchen which serves a hearty meal to 300 homeless people every day. Also, they visited the Holy Family Jubilee Museum which is housed above the Soup Kitchen in the old Holy Family School building. The Jubilee Museum is the single largest museum of diversified Catholic art in the United States. At the end of the day, we received an excellent tour of St. Joseph Cathedral. I was very proud of our 7th and 8th graders as they represented our school and our parish extremely well.

**Kairos Retreat:** Newark Catholic High School is hosting its first ever Kairos Retreat for Juniors and Seniors starting Friday, February 24th. I have encountered Kairos at Fisher Catholic and have come to believe it is a powerful means of conversion for high school students. Please pray for all the students who will be making this retreat. The retreat ends on Tuesday, February 28th.

God bless,  
Fr. Wilson



**Mass Intentions for the Week of February 19th**

- Tuesday – Saint Peter Damian, bishop, doctor** 6:15 P.M.  
Jean & Mark Davino (birthdays) by Davino Family
- Ash Wednesday** 8:45 A.M.  
For the People of the Parish
- 12:00 P.M.  
Garet Biedenbach by Judy, Ted and Family
- 7:00 P.M.  
Susie Molnar by Pat Molnar and Family
- Thursday – Saint Polycarp, bishop, martyr** 8:15 A.M.  
Art & Dotti Nutter by Robert & Nancy Turner
- Friday – Lenten Weekday** 8:45 A.M.  
Lyda Cantlin by Blessed Sacrament Bereavement Ministry
- Saturday – Lenten Weekday** 5:00 P.M.  
Patty Wheeler (Anniversary) by Renny & Judy Richards
- Sunday – First Sunday of Lent** 8:00 A.M.  
For the People of the Parish
- 10:30 A.M.  
Vivian Meinhardt by Bob & Philly Dolen

**Sunday Lector & Eucharistic Ministers**

**Schedule**

- Ash Wednesday, February 22nd – School Mass** 8:45 A.M.  
Blessed Sacrament School (L), Sharon Van Horn
- Ash Wednesday Daytime Mass** 12:00 P.M.  
Barb Rue, Andrea Conley (L), Volunteer (EM)
- Ash Wednesday Evening Mass** 7:00 P.M.  
Patrick Wesley, Glenna Bowman (L), Deacon Patrick, Deacon Bob, Kathy Bline, Patricia Laughman, Michelle Stair
- Sunday Vigil Mass, Saturday, February 25th** 5:00 P.M.  
Ken Billig, Christine Billig (L), Deacon Patrick, Phil & Sue West, Judy Healy, Tina Frischen
- Sunday, February 26th** 8:00 A.M.  
Patrick Wesley, Al Mazur (L), Deacon Patrick, Glenna Bowman, Barb Rue, Dean Anderson, Christina Priest
- 10:30 A.M.  
Josh Caton, Sarah Ewing (L), Deacon Patrick, Scott Van Horn, Michelle Stair, Velma Braunbeck, Karen Gross

## Liturgical Ministers Schedule

### Week of February 19th

#### Daily Mass Schedule

**6:15 P.M., Tuesday, February 21st** – Pat Molnar (L), Sara Stephens, Judy Healy (EM), Jaidyn Adkins, Nick Jewett, Jakeb Lewis, Erica Rickey (Servers)

**8:45 A.M., Ash Wednesday, February 22nd** – School Mass

**8:15 A.M., Thursday, February 23rd** – Patricia Laughman (L), Judy Healy, Glenna Bowman (EM), Matthew Grabo, Sam Anderson, Emily Brown, Mariah West (Servers)

**8:45 A.M., Friday, February 24th** – School Mass (L), Sharon Van Horn (EM), Noah Campbell, Dylan Wilson, Emily Amore, Allison Shaw, Drake Nance, Billy Wollenburg (Servers)

#### Ash Wednesday, February 22nd –

##### **School Mass**

|                |                  |            |
|----------------|------------------|------------|
|                | <b>8:45 A.M.</b> |            |
| Meredith Hans  | Talon Gerber     | Jacob Koch |
| Emily Tennyson | Mitchell Herbert |            |

##### **Ash Wednesday Daytime Mass** **12:00 P.M.**

|              |                  |               |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Andrew Selfe | Richie Stalnaker | Bailee Clouse |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|

##### **Ash Wednesday Evening Mass** **7:00 P.M.**

|                |              |             |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Carrie Ghiloni | Mary Ghiloni | Tyler Hayes |
| Nick Jewett    | Rachel Stair |             |

#### **Sunday Vigil Mass, Saturday, February 25th** 5:00 P.M.

|                |              |            |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Mariah West    | Sarah Decker | Ian Billig |
| Christian Sams |              |            |

#### **Sunday, February 26th** 8:00 A.M.

|               |              |                  |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Ashten Priest | Hanna Priest | Richie Stalnaker |
| Jacob Koch    |              |                  |

|                  |                   |              |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                  | <b>10:30 A.M.</b> |              |
| Nick Jewett      | Matthew Grabo     | Rachel Stair |
| Billy Wollenburg |                   |              |

#### **Ash Wednesday Scripture February 22nd**

1st Reading: Joel 2:12-18

“Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned”

Responsorial Psalm: 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

#### **Next Weekend’s Scripture February 26th**

##### **Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

“Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.”

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Matthew 1:12-15

This week, we pray Liturgy of the Hours  
Seasonal Proper Week III.

**Remember in your prayers** all parishioners who are ill or injured, especially for *Catherine Betz, Elsie Zahniser, Bettie Wolfinger, Doug Ogilbee, Gina Carpenter*, and for those who are homebound or in healthcare facilities. *Our Love, Prayers and Sympathy for the family and friends of George Thomas. May he rest in the arms of Our Risen Savior.*

#### **Our Stewardship Collection February 12th**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Budgeted per Week  | \$ 9,987.60        |
| Offertory (174 envelopes)  | \$ 6,436.50        |
| Loose Cash   | \$ 301.93          |
| Average Auto Withdrawal<br>(96 households – average weekly giving) | \$ 2,572.61        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 9,311.04</b> |
| Weekly Deficit   | (\$ 676.56)        |
| Budget YTD (7/1/11-2/12/12)  | \$ 329,590.80      |
| Actual Offerings YTD   | \$ 319,569.78      |
| YTD Deficit  | (\$ 10,021.02)     |
| Building Fund Collection   | \$ 396.00          |
| Building Fund Collection YTD                                       | \$ 21,620.21       |
| Building Loan Balance as of 1/27/12                                | \$2,282,638.25     |

*Forgiveness, too, is a gift from God. Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today’s Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do I let sin cripple me? Am I a good steward of the gift of God’s forgiveness?*

*See Mark 2:1-12*

### **Our Parish & School Events**

We will not have Eucharistic Adoration on February 22nd, Ash Wednesday. **Mass times for Ash Wednesday** are 8:45 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 7:00 p.m.



We’d like to welcome new and returning **Market Day** supporters! With your help, we earned \$170.00 for our school last month! Help us earn up to 45% profit when you purchase tasty spring desserts through Market Day in March plus, get a free pound of Pork Tenderloin with any \$90.00 online purchase and promo code MARBONUS. Check out the March order guide at the door entrances or on [marketday.com](http://marketday.com) to order today! For information, call Rachel Baechle at 763-1039.

**Special Note to our Frequent Buyers who received the insulated Bag in January.** A small number of the insulated bags may have been of lesser quality than our typical standards. As with any Market Day product, we want to make sure that your families are completely satisfied. If you have any questions or concerns about the quality of your Frequent Buyer Bag, contact Market Day Customer Services team at [Marketplace1@marketday.com](mailto:Marketplace1@marketday.com) or by calling 877-632-7753. Thank you for your continued support of the Market Day fundraising program at Blessed Sacrament School. *We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.*

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**Sponsored by our St. Vincent de Paul Conference, come and enjoy the annual Mardi Gras Spaghetti Dinner** on “Fat Tuesday”, February 21st, **from at 4:30-7:00 p.m. in Shepherd Hall.** Bring family and friends to a **delicious homemade Spaghetti Dinner along with a Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage.** The **cost is a donation** which allows us to help more members of our community in these tough economic times. A collection box will be available in the cafeteria on February 21st if you would like to bring nonperishable boxed or canned food items to donate to the SVdP food pantry. Your generosity is appreciated! *Dessert donations for the Spaghetti Dinner would also be appreciated! To volunteer to help at this dinner or for more information, call the Parish Office at 345-4290.*



**Lenten Dinners at Blessed Sacrament**  
**Blessed Sacrament Lenten Dinners** sponsored by our Holy Name Society will be on **Wednesdays starting February 29th through March 28th.** Join us **February 29th and March 7th for Fish Frys; March 14th is Panini Sandwich and Soup** (*grilled Italian sandwich with homemade bread, finest Italian meats, cheeses and tomato*); **March 21st and March 28th are Fish Frys** *all from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Shepherd Hall/ Cafeteria (394 E. Main Street, Newark).* Enjoy a delicious Fish Dinner of Fried White Pollock (all you can eat) or Baked Fish (upon request), French Fries or Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Mac and Cheese, Homemade Italian Flat Bread, Dessert and Beverage. The cost is: \$8.00/Adult, \$7.00/Kids (4-12 years), \$7.00/Seniors (65 years plus), \$24.00/Family Rate and Kids 3 years and under are Free! Proceeds benefit Blessed Sacrament School Education Fund. Come and enjoy a fun evening, delicious meal and help support Catholic Education! *For information, to volunteer, donate desserts for any of these dates or donate soups for March 14th, call Mike Burger at 344-9095 or Dean Anderson at (740) 258-7719.*

**Make your reservations today as Blessed Sacrament Marian Club is chartering a Bus** to travel to the Women’s Conference in Columbus and back home. The cost of the bus ride is \$12.00/person and will leave the Blessed Sacrament parking lot at 7:00 a.m. on February 25th then travel home from the conference at 4:00 p.m. (arriving back around 5:00 p.m.). Call the Parish Office at 345-4290 to make your reservation for the bus trip.



**It’s almost here! The Catholic Women’s Conference “Clothed with Strength & Dignity: Becoming a Worthy Woman of God.”** Order tickets for the Annual **Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference on Saturday, February 25th**, by going to [www.columbuscatholicwomen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com) (tickets will be e-mailed or pick up at the door at the conference). *Come and listen to great speakers, attend Mass with Bishop Frederick Campbell, visit tables of information and much more.* For Women’s Conference information, call 614-228-8601.

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 Men of the Diocese are invited to the **Catholic Men’s Conference on Saturday, March 3rd, from 8:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m.** in the **Ohio State Expo Center, Lausche Building – State Fairgrounds, 717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus.** Come and experience a prayerful, spirit-filled, life-changing day featuring **Scott Hahn**, nationally-known speaker, teacher and author; **Richard Lane**, son the late Dick “Night Train” Lane, NFL Hall of Fame Cornerback, a convert to the faith in 2003, has been known for delivering a powerful message of the Gospel; **Msgr. Eugene Morris** of the Archdiocese St. Louis and director of Sacred Liturgy at the Josephinum; **Fr. David Schalk**, pastor of Christ the King Church, Columbus; and **Doug Lessells**, Emmy and Ohio Award winning sportscaster, co-host of ABC 6’s The Football Fever and St. Gabriel Radio’s High School Football Preview Show. Register online at [columbuscatholicmen.com](http://columbuscatholicmen.com) or for information, call (614) 798-1792.

**Blessed Sacrament is chartering a bus and will leave the parking lot at 6:30 a.m.** for those from our parish along with other nearby parishes. The cost is \$10.00/person for the bus trip and is underwritten by Columbus Catholic Men. Join us a little early to enjoy coffee and donuts in the School Cafeteria. *Reservations are required* and space is limited (55 seats). Call the Parish Office at 345-4290 to reserve your seat!



**Lent 2012 – Operation Rice Bowl**

This year's theme for Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, "For I was hungry," reminds us that when we serve our brothers and sisters in need, we also serve Jesus. Since 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has offered Catholics in the United States a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. This Lenten season, CRS invites Catholics to **pray** with their families and faith communities; **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger; **learn** about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and **give** sacrificial contributions to those in need. *All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl by taking home a Rice Bowl which are located at the doors of the church and in the vestibule.* Visit <http://orb.crs.org> for additional resources to use at home.



Thank you to all new and returning readers of the **Catholic Times**. You still have time to sign up for the upcoming year for a minimum donation of **only \$17.00** (parish rate). Just drop your **Catholic Times** envelope in the collection basket, it's just that easy! As an evangelization tool, Bishop Campbell encourages all Catholic households in the diocese to receive and read our diocesan newspaper, the **Catholic Times**.

We are collecting old, blessed palm branches in a box in our vestibule which will be used for the **Burning of the Palms Service on Tuesday, February 21st, at 8:45 a.m., in the Brides Room Courtyard.** Everyone is invited to attend this service.



**In your Lenten journey, join us starting February 26th, for Evening Prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction each Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Make this season a truly prayerful time.**

**St. Vincent de Paul Collection**

- Sun., Feb. 19** 8:00 a.m. Mass  
9:00 a.m. CCD Classes  
9:00 a.m. RCIA – Library  
10:30 a.m. Mass  
6:00 p.m. HS Youth Group – Shepherd Hall
- Mon., Feb. 20** **No School – Presidents' Day**  
12:00 p.m. Adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the *Rectory Adoration Chapel*
- Tues., Feb. 21** 8:45 a.m. **Burn Blessed Palms – Brides Room Courtyard**  
12:00 p.m. Adoration until 6:00 p.m. in the *Church*  
4:30 p.m. **SVdP Mardi Gras Spaghetti Dinner – Shepherd Hall**  
5:30 p.m. Reconciliation till 6:00 p.m.  
6:15 p.m. Mass  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice – Church
- Wed., Feb. 22** **Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins!**  
**No Eucharist Adoration Today**  
8:15 a.m. Rosary  
8:45 a.m. **School Mass w/distribution of Ashes**  
12:00 p.m. **Mass w/distribution of Ashes**  
7:00 p.m. **Mass w/distribution of Ashes**
- Thurs., Feb. 23** 7:50 a.m. Rosary  
8:15 a.m. Mass  
9:00 a.m. Nazareth Faith Sharing Group – Brides Room  
12:00 p.m. Adoration until 5:00 p.m. in the *Rectory Adoration Chapel*  
7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council – Library
- Fri., Feb. 24** 8:15 a.m. Rosary  
8:45 a.m. School Mass  
6:15 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group – Cafe  
7:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross & Benediction – Church**
- Sat., Feb. 25** 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group – Conference Room  
7:00 p.m. **Bus leaves for Women's Conference – Columbus**  
3:30 p.m. Reconciliation  
5:00 p.m. Mass
- Sun., Feb. 26** 8:00 a.m. Mass  
9:00 a.m. CCD Classes  
9:00 a.m. RCIA – Library  
10:30 a.m. Mass  
12:30 p.m. Drama CAST – Annex  
2:30 p.m. *RCIA Rite of Election at St. Paul's Church – Westerville*  
3:00 p.m. Drama CREW – Annex  
5:00 p.m. **Evening Prayer w/Benediction – Church**



# USCCBLOG

Monday, February 6, 2012

## Six Things Everyone Should Know About the HHS Mandate

1. **The mandate does not exempt Catholic charities, schools, universities, or hospitals.** These institutions are vital to the mission of the Church, but HHS does not deem them "religious employers" worthy of conscience protection, because they do not "serve primarily persons who share the[ir] religious tenets." HHS denies these organizations religious freedom precisely because their purpose is to serve the common good of society—a purpose that government should encourage, not punish.
2. **The mandate forces these institutions and others, against their conscience, to pay for things they consider immoral.** Under the mandate, the government forces religious insurers to write policies that violate their beliefs; forces religious employers and schools to sponsor and subsidize coverage that violates their beliefs; and forces religious employees and students to purchase coverage that violates their beliefs.
3. **The mandate forces coverage of sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs and devices as well as contraception.** Though commonly called the "contraceptive mandate," HHS's mandate also forces employers to sponsor and subsidize coverage of sterilization. And, by including all drugs approved by the FDA for use as contraceptives, the HHS mandate includes drugs that can induce abortion, such as "Ella," a close cousin of the abortion pill RU-486.
4. **Catholics of all political persuasions are unified in their opposition to the mandate.** Catholics who have long supported this Administration and its healthcare policies have publicly criticized HHS's decision, including columnists E.J. Dionne, Mark Shields, and Michael Sean Winters; college presidents Father John Jenkins and Arturo Chavez; and Daughter of Charity Sister Carol Keehan, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States.
5. **Many other religious and secular people and groups have spoken out strongly against the mandate.** Many recognize this as an assault on the broader principle of religious liberty, even if they disagree with the Church on the underlying moral question. For example, Protestant Christian, Orthodox Christian, and Orthodox Jewish groups--none of which oppose contraception--have issued statements against the decision. The Washington Post, USA Today, N.Y. Daily News, Detroit News, and other secular outlets, columnists, and bloggers have editorialized against it.
6. **The federal mandate is much stricter than existing state mandates.** HHS chose the narrowest state-level religious exemption as the model for its own. That exemption was drafted by the ACLU and exists in only 3 states (New York, California, Oregon). Even without a religious exemption, religious employers can already avoid the contraceptive mandates in 28 states by self-insuring their prescription drug coverage, dropping that coverage altogether, or opting for regulation under a federal law (ERISA) that pre-empts state law. The HHS mandate closes off all these avenues of relief.

Posted by Sr. Mary Ann Walsh at 12:19 PM 



# USCCBLOG

Monday, February 13, 2012

## Six More Things Everyone Should Know About the HHS Mandate

1. **The rule that created the uproar has not changed at all, but was finalized as is.** Friday evening, after a day of touting meaningful changes in the mandate, HHS issued a regulation finalizing the rule first issued in August 2011, “without change.” So religious employers dedicated to serving people of other faiths are still not exempt as “religious employers.” Indeed, the rule describes them as “non-exempt.”
2. **The rule leaves open the possibility that even exempt “religious employers” will be forced to cover sterilization.** In its August 2011 comments, USCCB warned that the narrow “religious employer” exemption appeared to provide no relief from the sterilization mandate—only the contraception mandate—and specifically sought clarification. (We also noted that a sterilization mandate exists in only one state, Vermont.) HHS provided no clarification, so the risk remains under the unchanged final rule.
3. **The new “accommodation” is not a current rule, but a promise that comes due beyond the point of public accountability.** Also on Friday evening, HHS issued regulations describing the intention to develop more regulations that would apply the same mandate differently to “non-exempt, non-profit religious organizations”—the charities, schools, and hospitals that are still left out of the “religious employer” exemption. These policies will be developed over a one-year delay in enforcement, so if they turn out badly, their impact will not be felt until August 2013, well after the election.
4. **Even if the promises of “accommodation” are fulfilled entirely, religious charities, schools, and hospitals will still be forced to violate their beliefs.** If an employee of these second-class-citizen religious institutions wants coverage of contraception or sterilization, the objecting employer is still forced to pay for it as a part of the employer’s insurance plan. There can be no additional cost to that employee, and the coverage is not a separate policy. By process of elimination, the funds to pay for that coverage must come from the premiums of the employer and fellow employees, even those who object in conscience.
5. **The “accommodation” does not even purport to help objecting insurers, for-profit religious employers, secular employers, or individuals.** In its August 2011 comments, and many times since, USCCB identified all the stakeholders in the process whose religious freedom is threatened—all employers, insurers, and individuals, not just religious employers. Friday’s actions emphasize that all insurers, including self-insurers, must provide the coverage to any employee who wants it. In turn, all individuals who pay premiums have no escape from subsidizing that coverage. And only employers that are both non-profit and religious may qualify for the “accommodation.”
6. **Beware of claims, especially by partisans, that the bishops are partisan.** The bishops and their staff read regulations before evaluating them. The bishops did not pick this fight in an election year—others did. Bishops form their positions based on principles—here, religious liberty for all, and the life and dignity of every human person—not polls, personalities, or political parties. Bishops are duty bound to proclaim these principles, in and out of season.



## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

### **BISHOP BLAIRE REFUTES WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY'S CLAIM THAT BISHOPS NEVER SUPPORTED HEALTH CARE REFORM**

February 14, 2012

WASHINGTON—The White House press secretary, Jay Carney, said in a press briefing at the White House on February 13, "...I would simply note with regard to the bishops that they never supported health care reform to begin with..."

"This is not the case," said Bishop Stephen Blaire, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"Since 1919, the United States Catholic bishops have supported decent health care for all and government and private action to advance this essential goal," Bishop Blaire said. "Long before the current battles, the Catholic Church was persistently and consistently advocating for this overdue national priority."

In the recent health care debate the USCCB called universal and affordable health care "an urgent national priority and moral imperative." The USCCB's criteria insisted reform should be truly universal, protect human life and conscience and not discriminate against immigrants. "The USCCB opposed the final legislation because it failed this test, a judgment sadly but clearly borne out by the failure of the law and the recent regulation to protect conscience and religious liberty," explained Bishop Blaire.

"I hope those who made or repeated this false statement will correct the record and report the bishops' long and consistent record of support for health care which protects the life, dignity and consciences of all, especially the poor and vulnerable."



## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

### **BISHOPS RENEW CALL TO LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

**February 10, 2012**

**Regulatory changes limited and unclear  
Rescission of mandate only complete solution  
Continue urging passage of Respect for Rights of Conscience Act**

WASHINGTON – The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued the following statement:

The Catholic bishops have long supported access to life-affirming healthcare for all, and the conscience rights of everyone involved in the complex process of providing that healthcare. That is why we raised **two serious objections** to the "preventive services" regulation issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in August 2011.

**First**, we objected to the rule **forcing** private health plans — nationwide, by the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen—to cover sterilization and contraception, including drugs that may cause abortion. All the other mandated "preventive services" prevent disease, and **pregnancy is not a disease**. Moreover, forcing plans to cover abortifacients violates existing federal conscience laws. Therefore, we called for the rescission of the mandate altogether.

**Second**, we explained that the mandate would impose a burden of unprecedented reach and severity on the consciences of those who consider such "services" immoral: **insurers forced** to write policies including this coverage; **employers and schools forced** to sponsor and subsidize the coverage; and individual **employees and students forced** to pay premiums for the coverage. We therefore urged HHS, if it insisted on keeping the mandate, to provide a conscience exemption for **all** of these stakeholders—not just the extremely small subset of "religious employers" that HHS proposed to exempt initially.

Today, the President has done two things.

**First**, he has decided to **retain HHS's nationwide mandate** of insurance coverage of sterilization and contraception, including some abortifacients. This is both unsupported in the law and remains a grave moral concern. **We cannot fail to reiterate this**, even as so many would focus exclusively on the question of religious liberty.

**Second**, the President has announced **some changes** in how that mandate will be administered, which is **still unclear in its details**. As far as we can tell at this point, the change appears to have the following basic contours:

It would **still mandate that all insurers must include coverage** for the objectionable services in all the policies they would write. At this point, it would appear that self-insuring religious employers, and religious insurance companies, are not exempt from this mandate.

It would allow non-profit, religious employers to **declare** that they do not offer such coverage. But the employee and insurer may separately agree to add that coverage. The employee would not have to pay any additional amount to obtain this coverage, and the coverage would be provided as a part of the employer's policy, not as a separate rider.

Finally, we are told that the one-year extension on the effective date (from August 1, 2012 to August 1, 2013) is available to any non-profit religious employer who desires it, without any government application or approval process.

These changes require **careful moral analysis**, and moreover, appear subject to some measure of change. But we note at the outset that the **lack of clear protection** for key stakeholders—for self-insured religious employers; for religious and secular for-profit employers; for secular non-profit employers; for religious insurers; and for individuals—is **unacceptable and must be corrected**. And in the case where the employee and insurer agree to add the objectionable coverage, that coverage is still provided as a **part of the objecting employer's plan**, financed in the **same way** as the rest of the coverage offered by the objecting employer. This, too, raises **serious moral concerns**.

We just received information about this proposal for the first time this morning; we were not consulted in advance. Some information we have is in writing and some is oral. We will, of course, continue to press for the greatest conscience protection we can secure from the Executive Branch. But stepping away from the particulars, we note that today's proposal continues to involve needless government intrusion in the internal governance of religious institutions, and to threaten government coercion of religious people and groups to violate their most deeply held convictions. In a nation dedicated to religious liberty as its first and founding principle, we should not be limited to negotiating within these parameters. The only complete solution to this religious liberty problem is for HHS to rescind the mandate of these objectionable services.

We will therefore continue—with no less vigor, no less sense of urgency—our efforts to correct this problem through the other two branches of government. For example, we renew our call on Congress to pass, and the Administration to sign, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. And we renew our call to the Catholic faithful, and to all our fellow Americans, to join together in this effort to protect religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all.

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Local Events of Interest

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date...Newark Catholic Touch of Class Auction is Saturday, April 28th with the theme "Lights, Camera, Auction"! Look in future bulletins for more information.

St. Edward's Preschool is now accepting applications for Fall 2012. We are proud to be able to offer our preschool program to your family. We welcome families to visit our school and ask that you call/e-mail ahead so we can arrange a tour. Packets of information are available on a table outside St. Edward's Preschool Office, in the church Gathering Space and are downloadable from www.saintedwardspreschool.com. For information, contact Linda Foley, St. Edward's Preschool Director, at 587-3275 or preschool@saintedwards.org.

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, 135 Wilson Street, Newark, is in need of many items to help those who are less fortunate in our community. Please consider donating canned or boxed items: juice, canned or dry milk, tuna, soups (non-Tomato), crackers, peanut butter, dessert mixes such as Jell-O, cake, pudding, baking items such as flour, pancake mix, cornmeal, oil, etc., canned meats, toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo, laundry detergent. Every donation is appreciated! Call the St. Vincent de Paul Center at 349-8425 for more information.



FISH FRY

Newark Catholic Lenten Fish Fry

Help support Newark Catholic High School by joining us each Friday during Lent in the cafeteria for our "Fabulous" 9th annual "All-You-Can-Eat" Fish Fry. The meal includes; all-you-can-eat fresh hand-breaded perch, golden fries, homemade coleslaw, creamy macaroni and cheese, delicious green beans, dinner roll, and Velvet Ice cream. Choice of coffee, iced tea, fruit drink, or beer is included. Dinner is from 4:00-7:30 p.m. and the cost is \$10.00/person; \$9.00/Seniors; \$5.00/children (4-12 years); Children 3 and under eat FREE. Early Bird Special is from 4:00-5:00 p.m., with Adults/\$9.00 and Seniors/\$8.00. Again this year - Night Owl Special is 7:00-7:30 p.m. All Children 12 and under EAT FREE. Carry-out available - Adults/\$9.00; Seniors/\$8.00.

Around the Diocese

Retreat



The Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League invites all women in the diocese to a Silent Retreat, "Coming to Know Jesus through Mary" from Friday, March 2nd-Sunday, March 4th, at St. Therese's Retreat Center, E. Broad Street, Columbus. Retreat Director is Fr. Stash Dailey, Associate Pastor of St. Michael Church, Worthington. For information or to register, e-mail: retreatleague@gmail.com or call Sharon Gehrlich at 614-882-1946. Registration deadline is February 20th and space is limited.



An evening for parents and teens you should not miss! Come hear Leah Darrow from the hit reality TV show America's Next Top Model. Leah will share her personal testimony and focus on mercy, forgiveness and encourage all people to realize their call for greatness, rather than comfort. Leah's talk is appropriate for 14 year olds and above and will be at St. Andrew Parish Hall, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, on Saturday, February 25th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This event is free, but RSVP is required by e-mail: columbusfamilies@gmail.com. For more information, call Brenda Lombardi at (614) 389-2434.



The Pontifical College Josephinum welcomes you to its 7th Annual Irish Fest on February 25th from 5:00-11:00 p.m. Join us for Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the seminary's Main Chapel, followed by an evening of traditional Irish music, food and dance. 100% of the proceeds assist seminarians. Beverages and food will be available for purchase throughout the evening. Tickets purchased at the door are \$20.00/adults, \$5.00/youth (11-16), children under 11 are free. Pre-sale tickets (\$15.00/adults; \$5.00/youth 11-16) may be purchased until 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 24th. Call 614-885-5585 to purchase tickets by phone via credit card, or visit the main lobby of the Josephinum on weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Parking is free.