

Tell Congress to Protect Religious Freedom in Health Care Reform

Support Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (HR 1179 & S 1467)

Issue: Our religious liberty is being threatened by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is mandating that all private health insurance plans cover surgical sterilization procedures and birth control, including the IUD, 'morning-after' pills and **abortion-inducing drugs**. It also requires that females of reproductive age be '**educated and counseled**' on these issues.

This move is part of the Department's efforts to enact the *2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. What are missing are any real opt-outs for the Catholic Church and other religious institutions to not offer health insurance with these mandates. And what about the individual who does not want to contribute to these procedures?

Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan responded to the new mandate: "To force Americans to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable. . . It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom." Noting that the Obama administration "has now drawn an unprecedented line in the sand," the Cardinal-designate urged that the HHS mandate be overturned. "The Catholic bishops are committed to working with our fellow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation."

It is critical that Congress pass the *Respect for Rights of Conscience Act* to end this new threat. The mandate is set to take effect August 1, 2012. Non-profit religious employers that do not now provide such coverage, and are not exempt under the rule's extremely narrow definition of religious employer, will be given one year—until August 1, 2013—to comply.

HR 1179 and S 1467 would ensure that parties participating in the health care system retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.

We need you to write your senators and representative and urge that they co-sponsor HR 1179 or S 1467.

To do this go to:

<http://www.mdccathcon.org/> and look for find your legislator.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2012

This week, you are asked to review the Cardinal's Appeal brochure and the tabloid that you will receive with your bulletin today. The theme of the campaign is: "Seek first the kingdom of God." (Matthew 6:33)

The Cardinal's Appeal campaign is much different than a one time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, payable over ten months.

A significant gift to the Cardinal's Appeal will touch the lives of many others in a very positive way. As you review the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God's gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the archdiocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world should be given in gratitude for the continuing gifts that God gives you.

Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they glorify Him by enabling the work of our archdiocese.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those of you that did not receive a mailing, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend and the following weekend.



**Mass Intentions
February 6th to February 12th**

Tuesday	9:00am	Evelyn Norris
Wednesday	9:00am	Frank Dean
Thursday	9:00am	Robbie Norris
Friday	9:00am	Robbie Norris
Saturday	5:30pm	St. Michael's Parish
Sunday	8:15am	Knighton Dunbar
Sunday	10:30am	Matt & Jimmy Blair

Holy Face Church has an immediate opening for a **temporary facilities maintenance person** who has knowledge of plumbing, heating, and electrical systems as well as the ability to perform routine cleaning and repairs. All candidates must obtain a security clearance to work in the presence of children. Salary is commensurate with experience. Submit resumes to Fr. Calis at holyface@md.metrocast.net or call 301-994-0525 to receive an application. Applications should be mailed to: 20408 Pt. Lookout Rd., Great Mills MD 20634.

Stewardship Report
Offertory January 22nd



**Weekend Ministries
February 6th to February 12th**

Altar Committee M.

Padukiewicz/A. Warren

Linens A. Trossbach

Saturday, February 11th, 5:30pm

A. Pratt (L), J. Orr (R)

A. Bishop, M. Hickie, J. Orr (EMs)

Altar Servers: L. Swann, C. Williams, T. Trossbach

Sunday, February 12th, 8:15pm

R. Pajak (L), J. Kellam (R)

J. Dominic, P. Cooper, B. Gast (EMs)

Altar Servers: M. Eagan, L. Jarboe, T. Mercure

Sunday, February 12th, 10:30am

S. Pope (L), M. Padukiewicz (R)

S. Pope, C. Smith, J. Smith (EMs)

Pray for the Sick



Gerald Adkinson

Vivian Barnes

Pam Bohmann

Laura Clements

Ann DeJong

Peaches Fallon

Marian Gatton

Mary Agnes Hill

Diane Miller

Marie Morgan

Casey Potter

Ross Raley

Rene Sanders

Chuck Yanchulis

Ruby Adkinson

Edith Bean

Janice Cheseldine

Bertille Cooper

Willie Dunbar

Joe Gatton

Michael Hammett

Elizabeth Marcaux

Rosemary Miller

Fr. O'Connell

Lawrence Potter

Scott Raley

Gary Willis

Retreat for Women: March 16-18 at Loyola Retreat House. Please consider taking time away from the busy world and renew your inner peace. Loyola has private rooms - you won't be in a dormitory setting. The retreat is silent, so you have ample time for reflection. The grounds are beautiful and welcoming. The cost is \$225, but please don't let that stop you from making the retreat. They are willing to help anyone have a retreat who wishes one. Please call Loyola at 301-392-0801 for more information. To register for a retreat, send your name, gender, address, home phone and a deposit of \$110 to Loyola Retreat House, Attention: Reservations, P. O. Box 9, Faulkner, MD 20632. The schedule for the retreat is at www.loyolaonthepotomac.com



**St. Michael's
School News**



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! The Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Education Association recognizes St. Michael's School as one of four recipients of the 2012 NCEA Distinguished Home and School Association Award. We won this honor last year for the wonderful "Thanks-A-Million" campaign and never before in the history of NCEA has a school won two years in a row! This year we submitted the Cash Bash event which was a huge success. None of this would have been possible without YOU! We are grateful to all of you for your commitment to Catholic education and outstanding contributions to the life of our school.

The 3rd Annual St. Michael's School Masquerade

Gala will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 6:00 to 11:00pm at The Elk's Lodge in California, MD. There will be dinner, dancing, karaoke & a silent auction. Black Tie Optional ~ Cash Bar. Tickets~\$50 each (\$25 tax deductible).



You may reserve a table for a party of 8! Sponsorship opportunities available. *Silent auction* donations and volunteers needed asap! For more information Please contact Michele at mcschmidt4@msn.com or Jen at vanderborght22@yahoo.com **All proceeds benefit St. Michael's. Thank you for your support!**

St. Mary's Ryken will be leading a group of young people on the pilgrimage to **World Youth Day 2013** in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. I am sure there are some young people, who would benefit greatly from this incredible experience. I would appreciate it if you could put something in your bulletin announcing this trip to the youth in your parish. Those interested can contact me directly at gdempsey@smrhs.org. We are trying to form a group now and I will have a solid price soon on the exact cost of the trip. We are estimating between \$3300-\$4000 because of the \$300 registration fee for WYD. We need to have our group complete by July 2012, yes 6 months away. The purpose of this is to allow time for our travel visas to clear through the US government. Passports alone are not sufficient for travel to Brasil and visas can take up to 11 months.

4th Annual Knights to Knights speaker series: Save the Date: Thursday March 29th at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Ryken High School Come hear Steve Ray discuss "The Failure of Sola Scripture and Why I Believe in the Church." This talk is open to the public and is free.