

Unusual Action by Supreme Court on Religious Freedom

Justices Take Extraordinary Step

On March 29th the Supreme Court issued a two-page order that framed their own compromise to a dispute between dozens of religious organizations such as Catholic dioceses and the **Little Sisters of the Poor**, and the federal administration's mandate to require health insurance coverage that includes contraception and abortifacient drugs to all their employees.

The court's order sketched out in unusual detail a mechanism that could provide mandated coverage in a way that doesn't require any involvement from religious employers who object on religious grounds. Stephanos Bibas, director of the University of Pennsylvania Law School's Supreme Court Clinic, said that the justices "are inviting some kind of creative solution like you frequently see in trial courts," where a judge persuades the parties to resolve disputes, but "**at the Supreme Court, it's almost unheard of.**"

Otherwise, a 4-4 deadlock at the Court would permit the continuance of a patchwork of regulations in different parts of the country. [Jess Bravin. *Wall Street Jnl*, 3/30/16]

It awaits to be seen if the administration and Catholic groups can come to some agreement on new wording within the health law that would satisfy both sides.

We call on all to respect the inalienable right to life.

Millions are denied the very right to be born into the world.

The blood of the unborn cries out to God.

[Pope Francis & Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill, 2/12/16]

Legal Center Spring Brunch

The Legal Center for Defense of Life annual Spring Brunch is planned for May 1, 2016, at the Victorian Room of the Madison Hotel, Convent Station, NJ. The brunch will feature a tribute to **Justice Antonin Scalia** by Professor Matthew Franck, and a presentation on **pregnancy centers** by Joan Fasanella, Director of Life Choices, Phillipsburg, NJ.

The Legal Center is a Morristown-based non-profit that comes to the aid of individuals and groups whose **legal and civil rights are threatened**, especially for those who seek to defend the human life of unborn children.

To attend the brunch, contact Legal Center Trustee Adele Gilhooly (973-984-3368). An amount of \$65 is the suggested donation.

ed. by Frank Tinari, Ph.D., tinarifr@shu.edu

(let the editor know if you want the newsletter emailed to others)

StemExpress Buys Fully Intact Aborted Babies From Planned Parenthood

The bio-tech firm that purchases aborted baby parts and fully intact aborted babies from Planned Parenthood is stonewalling Congress. On March 30th, the Congressional panel chairman charged with investigating the sales of aborted baby parts announced the **issuance of 12 new subpoenas** to groups that have failed to fully cooperate with both requests for information and previous subpoenas from the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives.

The panel chairman stated: "**There should be no resistance to letting all the facts come out** — but some abortion supporters seem to be clearly rattled with basic facts coming to light.

Therefore, in the interest of completing our investigation pursuant to H. Res. 461, we will continue to issue subpoenas when necessary to ensure information can be gathered in a timely fashion."

StemExpress, in particular, has been documented as having very close ties with the Planned Parenthood abortion company, as revealed by the 8th video in the series of 12 videos the **Center for Medical Progress** has released exposing the aborted baby parts industry. In the video, Cate Dyer, the company's CEO, at a lunch meeting with undercover operatives posing as representatives of a biotech firm, laughs about how StemExpress purchases fully intact aborted babies from Planned Parenthood. She laughs about how shippers of the aborted babies would give a **warning to lab workers to expect such a baby**.

After a swarm of negative publicity, StemExpress was forced to cut ties with the abortion company. Revealing videos catching Planned Parenthood officials selling the body parts of aborted babies have shocked the nation. The 12th video in the series shows new footage of Jennifer Russo, medical director at Planned Parenthood in Orange County, California, describing to undercover investigators how her abortion business tries to harvest intact aborted babies' bodies for a local for-profit biotech company and changes the abortion procedure to do so. [LifeNews.com]

News Your Paper May Not Be Reporting

- Florida Gov. Rick Scott Signs Bill to Defund Planned Parenthood Abortion Business
- Mississippi Senate Passes Bill to Ban Dismemberment Abortions Tearing Babies Limb From Limb
- New Legislation in Missouri Would Define Unborn Baby as a Person and Ban Abortions
- Man With Down Syndrome Dies at 61, Puts Face on Indiana's New Abortion Ban [For more, visit LifeNews.com]

It's Not Your Mom's Girl Scouts Anymore

Robert Carlson, Archbishop of the St. Louis Archdiocese, outlined concerns in a recent letter to Scout leaders and Catholics. An investigation by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops revealed that Girl Scouts USA and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are involved in promoting anti-life causes such as:

- **Abortion rights on behalf of its girl members**, most of whom are minors;
- Supporting Amnesty International, the Coalition for Adolescent Girls, and OxFam, all of which **advocate abortion and contraception even for underage girls**;
- Promoting as “role models” strong pro-abortion activists Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan.

In addition, said the Archbishop, there are problems with the Girl Scouts' position “on and inclusion of transgender & homosexual issues. Our culture is becoming increasingly **intolerant of a Catholic world view** regarding these issues. While Catholics are called to treat all people with compassion and mercy, we must at the same time be mindful of whom we will allow to teach and form our youth.”

He asked if the Girl Scouts are still doing a good job of forming the spiritual, emotional and personal well-being of Catholic girls. Archbishop Carlson is asking pastors with Girl Scout troops to meet with troop leaders to review these concerns and discuss alternative options such as the **American Heritage Girls**.

These are some crucial points to ponder, right now, before buying that next box of Thin Mints or Samoas. [Teresa Tomeo, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 3/13/16]

Reclaiming Authentic Feminism

What do Women Speak Out PAC, SBA List Candidate Fund, and the Charlotte Lozier Institute have in common? They are part of the family of organizations that comprise the Susan B. Anthony List, dedicated to advancing **pro-life leadership**, especially among women, in the public sector.

Since the 1990s, the SBA List has been reclaiming the mantle of authentic feminism. Like the group's namesake, it seeks to assist women in obtaining **freedom and equality, but not at the price of innocent lives**. For more information, visit their website www.sba-list.org

Especially helpful to pro-lifers is the Charlotte Lozier Institute that produces pro-life medical, statistical, and academic research on the most pressing life issues. Its research is distributed to **pro-life lawmakers**, members of the media, and leaders across the country to influence the debate and foster a culture of life. [www.lozierinstitute.org]

40 Days for Life Successfully Completes Latest Campaign on Palm Sunday

According to Shawn Carney, Director of 40 Days for Life, “There are 471 reasons to celebrate now that the



campaign has drawn to a close. That's how many babies, that we know of, have been saved from abortion!”

In addition, several **abortion centers**

have closed. A Jacksonville, North Carolina, abortion facility that had been in business for decades suddenly announced its closure. And an abortion business in Indiana, where numerous 40 Days for Life (40DFL) vigils were held over the years, closed its doors on the Friday before Palm Sunday. Earlier in the campaign, two facilities in Georgia – in Augusta and Marietta – also shut down.

In New Jersey, there were at least three separate regional campaigns, involving **hundreds of volunteers**, with at least one confirmed baby saved.

“Abortions are done in our public hospital,” said Clare, 40DFL leader in Wellington, **New Zealand**. The women are told to use an entrance that is away from the vigil. “We have never had the opportunity to sidewalk counsel,” she said. “We do get interactions with the public though.”

Volunteers held a large sign with a picture of the pre-born baby and the words “I am 13 weeks.” Several passers by had comments such as “that's a fake picture.” But one young woman approached and showed them an **ultrasound image**. Her baby was at 12 weeks, Clare said, “and she couldn't get over the similarity with the one on our sign.” She had been told her baby resembled a pea at this stage of pregnancy and she was toying with the idea of abortion, mainly to please her parents. But after seeing the scan, she decided to keep her baby. “It seemed as if God had us there with that particular picture to confirm her decision,” Clare said.

For more information, interested persons may contact Shawn Carney via email: shawn@40daysforlife.com.

Resources

Crisis pregnancy: many caring people are ready to help mother and unborn child: www.care-net.org

Abortion regret: for those who regret their involvement in abortion: www.silentnomoreawareness.org