

Stand for Conscience Rights in Our Nation

Two Catholic women's freedom to work

according to their faith is being severely threatened.

Cathy Cenzone-DeCarlo is an operating room nurse in NYC. In 2009, she was forced to participate in a 22-week abortion against her clearly-stated objections. She has suffered deep trauma from witnessing the abortion and being required to account for all of the unborn child's body parts afterward.

Cathy sued the hospital but had no recourse in court even though the hospital's orders were clearly illegal. Since then, many other nurses and medical staff have told her she's not alone. Contrary to their medical oath to "do no harm," they, too, have been pressured to destroy life rather than preserve it.

Cathy said it was like "a horror film unfolding."

Sister Jan Marie Klein is the board chairperson for the non-profit Franciscan Alliance, a 13-hospital Catholic health care system in the midwest, serving more than four million patients yearly regardless of their ability to pay. Under the guise of "preventive services for women, the Administration is forcing nearly all employers to cover sterilization procedures as well as contraception and abortifacient drugs and devices in their health plans at no cost to the employee – the so-called "HHS mandate."

The Franciscan Alliance has been a Catholic system for more than 130 years, but does not qualify for an exemption as a "religious employer" according to the Administration's definition. Soon they will face huge, crippling fines for being faithful to Catholic teaching. They are suing the federal government to protect their freedom of conscience.

In the meantime, these and many other men and women are urging Congress to pass the Health Care Conscience Rights Act (H.R. 940; Senate 1204). The women tell their stories in a **YouTube video** (tinyurl.com/q8urzj8) "Speak Up for Conscience Rights Today." Send your personal email to Congress at www.usccb.org/conscience. It only takes a few minutes. Then ask others to watch the video, too.

[Source: Dierdre A. McQuade, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *The Beacon*, Aug. 29, 2013.]

Parish Activities and Events

■ October is Respect Life Month throughout the Diocese. This year's theme is **Open Your Hearts to Life**.

■ Respect Life Sunday is October 6th. You are all invited to participate in a one-hour **Life Chain** near Morristown Hospital in the early afternoon.

■ October 20th is the **Holy Family "Baby Shower"**. You could help by donating a new item. All items will then be delivered to Good Counsel Homes.

■ October 26th - 27th are the dates for the annual New Jersey **Right to Life raffle**. First prize is a **2014 Volvo XC60 AWD SUV**. There are three other runner-up prizes.

■ The annual **Poster Contest** is being offered to all 7th and 8th graders in Florham Park.

■ **Free pamphlets** are available at the doors of the church dealing with an array of life issues. Take one or more for yourself or someone who may be in need of them.

■ Plan now to participate in the parish bus ride to Washington D.C. on **January 22, 2014**, for the annual **March for Life**.

■ During the next few weeks, try to do something to help **protect religious freedom** in our nation. See the article to the left, and the link to submit your email message. Thanks!

More details on the preceding events will be forthcoming in our parish bulletin.

New Church Media Growing Rapidly

Matt Warner founded **Flocknote** in 2009 to give the Church a simple way to manage basic yet powerful communication, employing new-media technology. The Catechism subscription is the biggest list to date.

The Radical Life, Warner's latest project at **TheRadicalLife.org**, is a weekly faith digest delivered to subscriber's emails. "I need a constant reminder that, every day I wake up still breathing, God is calling me to a big, beautiful, meaningful life," he said. "A radical life that requires radical trust, forgiveness and sacrifice."

What do Taylor Swift, the Yankees and Jesuit Bishop Greg O'Kelly have in common? All are featured on **TheJesuitPost.org** where God is found in everyday life.

Catholic League Petition to Withdraw

HHS Mandate “The Catholic community, led by the bishops, has voiced its objections to the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate on several occasions. The Obama administration has made "accommodations" and other revisions, but the fundamental problem remains: the HHS mandate adopts a definition of what constitutes a "religious employer" that is entirely too narrow; and the religious liberty abridgement entailed in this edict represents an unfair burden on Catholic non-profit organizations, and Catholic-owned private businesses.

“The amount of time and money spent trying to reconcile the HHS mandate with legitimate First Amendment concerns has been considerable, & without a satisfactory conclusion. Indeed, almost 70 lawsuits have been filed. The only sensible outcome is for the administration to withdraw the mandate altogether.

“The problems inherent in ObamaCare are serious. From delaying "out-of-pocket costs" to postponing the employer mandate, it is evident that even those who support this legislation are growing weary. Add to this the more than a thousand waivers that have been granted, and the loss of support by labor unions, and the result is alarming. But none of these factors are as important as the constitutional issues that the HHS mandate presents: even if ObamaCare can be salvaged, the problems posed by the mandate remain.

“The petition drive that we are launching today will end September 30, six weeks from today. We will forward the petitions to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on October 1. Please encourage family, friends and members of your parish to sign it.” **To sign it via computer**, go to <http://www.catholicleague.org/petition-to-withdraw-the-hhs-mandate/>

Morality of Bioethical Issues

According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, only small percentages of Americans see bioethical issues other than abortion as being morally wrong. Here are the numbers:

- In vitro fertilization: 12%
- Non-embryonic stem-cell research: 16%
- Embryonic stem-cell research: 22%
- Having an abortion: 49%

[Source: Our Sunday Visitor, Sept. 8, 2013.]

Open Your Hearts to Life!

If you feel that you are not sufficiently informed to know and explain life issues from our Catholic faith perspective, why not get **helpful information**? The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is located in Washington, DC, and may be reached toll-free at 866-582-0943. The Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities is the bishops' outreach, accessible at www.uscb.org/prolife.

The website of the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, with educational and program resources assisting the Church and other groups in promoting the **culture of life in the public policy arena** is www.nchla.org.

www.stemcellresearch.org is the site of Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics that includes background and up-to-date information helpful for the debate on stem cell research.

Email subscriptions are also available:

- People of Life e-newsletter contains the latest updates from the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/people-of-life.cfm

- Life Issues Forum is a bi-weekly op-ed column on the latest culture of life issues.

www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/life-issues-forum

- Join Catholics nationwide in January in a time of united prayer, penance and pilgrimage surrounding the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. www.usccb.org/9days

Other resources:

The **pamphlets** available at the doors of our church cover a wide range of topics. Some of them are:

- **Explaining the Reality of Marriage to Family and Friends.** “Marriage unites a man and a woman with each other and any children born of this union.....”

- **Domestic Violence.** “A pattern of behavior aimed at establishing and maintaining power and control over another.”

- **A Catholic Response to the Death Penalty.** Blessed Pope John Paul II said: “Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this.”

Real Healing After an Abortion

For persons who have struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion, there is help. Call for Rachel's Vineyard's (973-437-9735) next weekend retreat.
