

From Your Pastor

The Dangers of Freedom ~ The Specter of the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA)

The Catholic bishops of the United States have unanimously called us to prayer and action to prevent the re-introduction and passage of a radical "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA). As Catholics, we oppose attempts like this which seek to overturn existing pro-life laws and policies. Your help is greatly needed.

As introduced in the 110th Congress, FOCA (S. 1173, H.R. 1964) declares that it is the policy of the United States that every woman has the "fundamental right" to terminate a pregnancy. The act prohibits government at every level (federal, state, and local) from "interfering" with a woman's right to choose, and from "discriminating" against the exercise of this right. FOCA is a radical bill. For the first time, the right to abortion would become an entitlement the government must condone and support. FOCA would have an unprecedented impact on society's ability to limit or regulate abortion and would overturn a broad range of existing laws. In fact, FOCA would:

- Eliminate regulations that protect women from unsafe clinics and unscrupulous abortionists;
- Force American taxpayers to fund abortions;
- Force every state to allow partial-birth abortions – its sponsors have said a primary purpose of the bill is to ensure that killing partially born children will again be permitted nationwide;
- Take away the conscience rights of physicians, nurses and hospitals that oppose abortion on religious, moral or ethical grounds; and
- Strip parents of their right and responsibility to be involved in their minor daughter's abortion decision.

The more you understand the meaning and purpose of this act, the more you recognize that the act would be better titled the "Force or Coercion Act" from our pro-life perspective as Catholics

FOCA embodies the public policy goals of pro-abortion groups. These groups will promote the bill's passage directly, and advance its agenda by working to reverse pro-life laws one at a time. Federal elected officials need to be urged to oppose FOCA or any similar bill, and to retain laws against the funding and promotion of abortion.

FOCA was first introduced in 1989. Abortion groups feared that the Supreme Court was retreating from its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision and began the drive to establish an even more expansive right to abortion on statutory grounds through the legislative process. With a new President and a new Congress dealing with so many vital issues facing the country, it is impossible to predict exactly when, or in what form, FOCA will be presented for a vote. But come it will. Portions of FOCA, especially funding matters, could come before Congress this month. Moreover, we now have a Congress more disposed than any in recent years to pass the bill, and a new President who has said he will sign the measure into law.

The best way for us to take a stand against this proposed legislation is to write directly to each of our two Senators and Representative in Congress on the matter. For those of us in Brighton, these are Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator John F. Kerry and Congressman Michael E. Capuano. Next weekend at the conclusion of all the Masses we will provide you with postcards in which you can register your opposition to FOCA or any similar measure, and express your hope that our Members in Congress will vote to retain laws against the federal funding and promotion of abortion. I hope you will take the time next week to join me and Catholics all around the country in opposing this very dangerous bill.



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Prayers are requested for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of Patricia Campbell, Joseph V. Burke and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

A Third Mass During Lent has been added to the daily Mass schedule at 5:30 pm from Monday through Friday. We encourage you to attend daily Mass during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday in the lower church at 5:00 pm before the 5:30 Mass.

Healing Mass: Fr. Agustin Anda will be celebrating a Mass of Healing on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 pm in the upper church. All are welcome to attend.

The Monday Night Prayer Group will meet on Monday at 7:15 pm in the lower church.

The Catholic Appeal – During this season of Lent, God calls us to renew our faith, deepen our relationship with Christ, and share our many gifts with others. Christ has set the example as the perfect Steward: “For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” The Catholic Appeal is one way all of us can support the mission of Christ's Church in the 292 parishes of our Archdiocese. Please be thankful, intentional, and prayerful as you make a pledge to this year's Appeal. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the Church. For more information please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com or call 617-779-3700. Every gift matters. Thank you!

Msgr. Fay will celebrate the CatholicTV Mass on Monday, March 23 at 9:30 AM. The CatholicTV Center is behind St. Patrick's Church at 34 Chestnut Street in Watertown. You are very welcome to be at the TV Mass. It is always nice to have a community from the parish. Please be at the TV Center by 9:10 AM on the morning of the Mass. You can call Patricia McShane if you have any questions.



The **ARISE Together in Christ** process continues in its fourth week. Please know that you are able to join a group at any time during the Season, which runs through the Season of Lent. As always, we ask you to pray regularly the *ARISE* Prayer (from the holy card or the back flap of the bulletin) for the success of this process in the parish. Thank you very much.

The Knights of Columbus regular bi-monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, beginning at 7:00.

Please Remember the St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today. Next meeting Tuesday at 7:00.

Offerings for Easter Flowers and the Paschal Candle – Envelopes are available at the doors of the church for offerings towards flowers to decorate the church during the Easter Season. If you would like to make a special offering towards the cost of our 2009 Paschal Candle (costing \$750.00), please contact Patricia McShane at the Rectory (617-782-5774).

March Donations were made towards the hosts in loving memory of Cornelius & Albina Buckley & Michael & Mary Maher by Mildred & Leo Buckley and towards the wine in loving memory of Clare & Thomas Phillips by their Family.

The Parish Council Minutes for February are available at the back of the church or on our website, www.brightoncatholic.org.

Oral History Conversations: The Brighton-Allston Historical Society invites residents to gather in the Senior Center auditorium on Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 pm for an open videotaped conversation about how immigrants made their adjustments to life in our community.

St. Anthony Parish Minstrel Show “Next Stop: Broadway” will be performed March 28 at 1:00 and 7:30 pm, March 29 & 30 at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$10.00 For more information call St. Anthony Rectory at 617-782-0775

MARCH 22, 2009

**From the *Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the
Modern World* of the Second Vatican Council
(*Gaudium et Spes* – Joy and Hope)**

“Coming down to practical and particularly urgent consequences, this Council lays stress on reverence for man; everyone must consider his every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all His life and the means necessary to living it with dignity, so as not to imitate the rich man who had no concern for the poor man Lazarus.

“In our times a special obligation binds us to make ourselves the neighbor of every person without exception. and of actively helping him when he comes across our path, whether he be an old person abandoned by all, a foreign laborer unjustly looked down upon, a refugee, a child born of an unlawful union and wrongly suffering for a sin he did not commit, or a hungry person who disturbs our conscience by recalling the voice of the Lord, ‘As long as you did it for one of these the least of my brethren, you did it for me’ (Matt. 25:40).

“Furthermore, whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are supreme dishonor to the Creator...”
(*Gaudium et Spes*, 27)

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“For God, the Lord of life, has conferred on men the surpassing ministry of safeguarding life in a manner which is worthy of man. Therefore from the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes.”
(*Gaudium et Spes*, 51)

MARCH 22, 2009

The ARISE Prayer

Gracious God and Father,
we enter into your presence
realizing you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know the cares and sufferings
we carry in our hearts.
You call us to holiness
and we trust you to lead us together
on our journey to be a renewed Church,
for with you all things are possible.
Create us anew in Jesus Christ your Son.
Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.
Heal us from every form of sin and violence.
Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.
Awaken us to the sacred; rebuild trust among us.
Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.
May your Holy Spirit empower us
to live as a community of love,
freed to share in your work
of recreating our world and restoring justice.
We believe you are doing something new,
calling us to arise together in Christ
to celebrate the fullness of life. Amen.

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PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Mar. 14 – Mar. 15): \$5,405

St. Vincent de Paul (Mar. 14 - Mar. 15): \$117.00

Catholic Appeal (to date): \$8,333

Thank You for Your Generosity

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sundays March 29 & April 5 & 26–9:30 am Family Masses

Thursday March 26–7:00 pm Healing Mass

Saturday March 28–10:00 am First Penance

Monday April 6-7:00 pm Lenten Penance Service

Sunday May 3- 11:15 am First Communion

Saturday May 9 – 10:00 am Confirmation
by Cardinal Seán

MARCH 22, 2009

Masses for the Week

Sunday, March 22 – 4th Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Ted & Joseph Snow, 35th Ann.
7:30 am Vicente & Cirila Arce, Mem.
9:30 am Thomas F. Conroy, 14th Ann.
11:15 am *Missa pro Populo*
5:00 pm Robert Holderbaum, 4th Ann.
Mon. 5:30 pm James E. Melanson, 22nd Ann.
Wed. 5:30 pm Mary E. Manning, Mem.
Thu. 7:00 am John & Elizabeth Byrne, Mem.
Fri. 5:30 pm Agnes & Hugh McShane, Mem.
Sat. 7:00 am Angelo & Julia DiMattia &
Vincent Gasbarro, Mem.

Sunday, March 29 – 5th Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Ann Corbett & Judy Ryan, Mem.
7:30 am Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.
9:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
11:15 am Joseph P. McCrorey, 2nd Ann.
12:45 pm Ana Elisa Montes, Mem.
5:00 pm Clare & Thomas Phillips, Sr. &
Thomas, Jr., Mem.

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CHURCH NAME: **Saint Columbkille**

CHURCH CITY: **Brighton**

ROUTING CODE: **W**

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Comments:
