

## From Your Pastor

### *Embracing Health Care Reform Worthy of the Name*

Did you know?

- In 1963, Pope John XXIII called medical care a human right (*Pacem in Terris*, 11).
- The U.S. bishops have been urging health care reform for decades.
- There are 624 Catholic hospitals in the U.S.
- Eleven of the nation's forty largest health care systems are Catholic.
- One of every six admissions in the United States is to a Catholic hospital.

The Catholic Church has been a strong proponent of health care reform for many years. The reform we have long argued for is thoroughgoing and genuinely universal. It affects every person and benefits every person's health from conception to natural death.

Sadly, the models for health care reform that are now being debated in Congress are seriously deficient. More accurately, they are morally unacceptable. Our bishops have identified three grave problems with the current legislative proposals.

First, and most importantly, the bishops point out that the bills before Congress "have not met President Obama's challenge of barring use of federal dollars for abortion and maintaining current conscience laws." For over 30 years, the Hyde Amendment (1976) and other longstanding and widely supported laws have prevented federal funding of elective abortions and have protected the conscience rights of those who choose not to participate in abortions. In the current health care legislation, Americans would be forced to subsidize abortions through their taxes and health insurance premiums; and our doctors and nurses would lose their right to refuse to assist at abortions. *We need genuine health care reform, but it must be a reform that protects the life and dignity of every person.* Abortion is not health care and should not be funded, because killing is not healing. To my great surprise and sadness, I have heard some say that health care reform is so important that we may have to tolerate the funding of abortion and the loss of conscience rights to get there. To this I ask,

"Would we tolerate any other moral evil like genocide or slavery or segregation to ensure health care reform?"

Second, the bishops remind us that because "health care is not a privilege, but a right and a requirement to protect the life and dignity of every person," *health care must be affordable for all of our citizens, especially for our poor.* Unfortunately, the bills now before Congress include very high premiums, cost-sharing charges and co-payments that will seize almost 25% of the income of those who live just above the poverty level. This kind of financial burden will only discourage the poor among us from obtaining coverage or seeing a doctor.

Finally, the bishops teach, "*health care reform should be truly universal.*" It must include "an adequate safety net for those who remain uncovered." The current bills do not respond to this concern. Here the bishops are particularly concerned about legal immigrants, stating that "Immigrants pay the same taxes as citizens, and their health needs cannot be ignored. Leaving them outside a reformed system is both unfair and unwise."

The best way for us to help move health care reform forward is to contact our Senators and Representative in Congress and to express to them our concerns as Catholics. Health care reform should 1) avoid public funding for abortion and include conscience protection to exempt doctors and nurses from having to participate in abortions; 2) be affordable for even the poorest among us; and 3) be universal enough to include our legal immigrants and those who need a safety net. Senator John F. Kerry can be reached at 617-565-8519, or [kerry.senate.gov/contact/email/cfm](http://kerry.senate.gov/contact/email/cfm) or 218 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Senator Paul G. Kirk, Jr can be reached at 202-224-4543 or [senator\\_kirk@senate.gov](mailto:senator_kirk@senate.gov) or 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Congressman Michael E. Capuano can be reached at 617-621-8628 or [www.house.gov/capuano](http://www.house.gov/capuano) or 1414 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. I encourage you to take the time to contact each of our elected Members of Congress and to express your conscience on this very important matter before the nation.



God bless each of you.

*Mrs. Fay*

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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**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; for the prayers listed in our book of intentions; and for the repose of the souls of Christine Mackey and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

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**Remembering Our Deceased** – You are encouraged to list your beloved deceased in the *Book of the Names of the Dead* near the San Donato Shrine in the upper church. We remember our deceased in a special way at Mass during the month of November.

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**Lectors** – Your *Workbooks for Sunday Cycle “C”*, which begins the First Sunday of Advent (November 29), are available in the sacristies.

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**Msgr. Fay will celebrate the CatholicTV Mass on Tuesday, November 17, 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 9:00 AM on the morning of the Mass. You can call Patricia McShane if you have any questions.

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**Project Rachel Fall Retreat** – Do you know someone who is carrying grief and sorrow over past abortions? Project Rachel is the post-abortion ministry of the Catholic Church to help those dealing with the pain of abortion. Project Rachel will offer a "Come to the Waters" post abortion healing retreat on Saturday, November 21 from 9:00 – 5:00. For more information and registration for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com) or 508-651-3100.

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**Second Collection Next Week** will be for the Campaign for Human Development. During this time of economic struggle many Americans are falling below the poverty line. The CCHD has lifted millions of Americans above the poverty line through your support. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

**We Welcome** into our community of faith Ben Michael Mooney, John Gregory Mosman, Marion Kelley Mosman, Lila Grace Fitzgerald, Connor James Huse, Khloe Iona Quanking, Kaylin Melissa Diaz Arias, Abigail Karen Collins Cillian James Moroney and Jacob Alan Paolino. We extend congratulations to their families.

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**The Worcester Polytechnic Institute Brass Ensemble** will perform in concert here at St. Columbkille Church on Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 pm. All are invited.

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**Please remember the Saint Vincent de Paul boxes.** The next meeting will be this Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

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**The Knights of Columbus** will meet this Thursday at 7:00 pm in the K of C Hall. Please make every effort to attend.

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**The Monday Night Prayer Group** meets at 7:15 pm in the lower church. All are welcome.

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**The 57 Readers and Writers** present FOOD! Original prose poetry and song Tuesday evening November 10 at 6:30 in the Faneuil Branch Library.

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**The Catholic Daughters** will meet on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm in the K of C Hall. All women of the parish are welcome. We will be having our potluck supper.

***PARISH GIVING***

**Parish Offertory (Oct. 31 – Nov. 1): \$6,070**

**All Souls (Oct. 31 – Nov. 1): \$1,050**

**Catholic Appeal (to date): \$38,411**

**St. Vincent de Paul (Oct. 31 – Nov. 1): \$100.00**

***Thank You for Your Generosity***

NOVEMBER 8, 2009

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**A Sermon by St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop  
and Doctor of the Church (d. 390)**

*It is a holy thought to pray for the dead*

*What is man, that you are mindful of him?* What is this new mystery surrounding me? I am both small and great, both lowly and exalted, mortal and immortal, earthly and heavenly. I am to be buried with Christ and to rise again with him, to become a co-heir with him, a son of God, and indeed God himself.

This is what the great mystery means for us; this is why God became man and became poor for our sake: it was to raise up our flesh, to recover the divine image, to re-create mankind, so that all of us might become one in Christ who perfectly became in us everything that he is himself. So we are no longer to be *male and female, barbarian and Scythian, slave and free* – distinctions deriving from the flesh – but are to bear within ourselves only the seal of God, by whom and for whom we were created. We are to be so formed and molded by him that we are recognized as belonging to his one family.

If only we could be what we hope to be, by the great kindness of our generous God! He asks so little and gives so much, in this life and in the next, to those who love him sincerely. In a spirit of hope and out of love for him, let us then *bear and endure all things* and give thanks for everything that befalls us, since even reason can often recognize these things as weapons to win salvation. And meanwhile let us commend to God our own souls and the souls of those who, being more ready for it, have reached the place of rest before us although they walked the same road as we do.

Lord and Creator of all, and especially of your creature man, you are the God and Father and ruler of your children; you are the Lord of life and death, you are the guardian and benefactor of our souls. You fashion and transform all things in their due season through your creative Word, as you know to be best in your deep wisdom and providence. Receive now those who have gone ahead of us in our journey from this life. And receive us too at the proper time.

## NOVEMBER 8, 2009

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### Masses for the Week

#### **Sunday, Nov. 8 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Anthony Drago, Mem.  
7:30 am *Missa pro Populo*  
9:30 am Deceased Members of Sodality &  
The 9:30 Community  
11:15 am Gloria Abren, 5<sup>th</sup> Ann.  
12:45 pm Maria Andrea Valencia, Mem.  
5:00 pm Anthony Baccari, Mem.

**Mon.** 7:00 am Donato & Loreta Tempesta, Mem.

**Tue.** 7:00 am Leone & Maria Alfano & Maria &  
Vincenzo Cirigliano, Mem.

**Wed.** 7:00 am Teresa Cedrone, Mem.

**Thu.** 7:00 am Thomas Tully, Mem.

**Fri.** 7:00 am John Cunningham, 6<sup>th</sup> Ann.

**Sat.** 7:00 am Alan Temple, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann.

#### **Sunday, Nov. 15 – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm John Hehir, 1<sup>st</sup> Ann.  
7:30 am Deceased Members of the  
Legion of Mary  
9:30 am *Missa pro Populo*  
11:15 am Neil Duffy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.  
5:00 pm Clemente Baccari, 10<sup>th</sup> Ann.

*NOVEMBER 8, 2009*

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**ARISE Together in Christ**

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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**LEVÁNTATE Unámonos en Cristo**

Dios y Padre de infinita bondad,  
acudimos a Ti sabiendo que nos conoces  
mejor que nosotros mismos nos conocemos,  
y sabes el peso que llevamos  
en nuestro corazón.  
Nos llamas a la santidad  
y, porque para Ti todo es posible,  
confiamos que nos guiarás unidos  
por la senda que nos lleve  
a ser una Iglesia renovada.  
Créanos de nuevo en Jesucristo tu hijo.  
Libéranos de todo lo que nos aleja de Ti.  
Sánanos de toda forma  
de pecado y violencia.  
Transfórmanos para vivir  
tu Palabra más profundamente.  
Despierta en nosotros  
la sed de lo sagrado.  
Restaura entre nosotros la confianza.  
Vivifica nuestras parroquias;  
y reunifica a nuestras familias.  
Que tu Espíritu Santo nos fortalezca  
y nos congregue en una comunidad de amor,  
liberados para servirte y continuar tu misión  
de recrear el mundo y restaurar la justicia.  
Creemos que haces algo nuevo,  
con tu llamado a levantarnos en Cristo  
para celebrar la plenitud de la vida. Amén.

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CHURCH CITY: **Brighton**

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**Comments:**

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