

From Your Pastor

Respect for the Dignity of Human Life Is at the Heart of Catholic Life and Action

Last weekend I provided you with a bulletin insert from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that updated you on the current state of health care reform in the Congress of the United States. As you saw, it is very possible that the bill to be sent to President Obama may be terribly flawed, because 1) it does away with a 33-year restriction on the funding of abortions by the federal government and 2) it provides no conscience protection for those who refuse to participate in an abortion for reasons of conscience. Though the Catholic Church has been an ardent and long-time advocate of health care reform, we will have to oppose such a bill. This is very sad.

Several months ago I had occasion to be at supper with a number of fellow Catholics. Not surprisingly, the subject of health care reform came up for discussion. During that conversation, one of my tablemates suggested that we might have to live with federally funded abortion in order to get a health care reform bill passed. The rest of the group concurred. I thought about that for a moment and asked, "Would we be willing to live with racial segregation in order to get a health care bill passed?" The group went mute. Three times I asked my question. It was never answered. Neither did my tablemates abandon their suggestion that we might need to tolerate federally funded abortion to achieve a health care reform bill.

From a Catholic perspective, racial segregation and abortion are moral evils. For that matter, so are blasphemy, stealing, calumny, adultery and a host of other actions that violate one's self and one's neighbor. According to Vatican Council II, activities like these are "infamies" that "poison human society" and "do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are a supreme dishonor to the Creator" (*Gaudium et Spes* 27).

Is it ever acceptable to promote or tolerate an action that is morally evil, even as a means to a good end? No. Why? Because actions that are evil by their very nature, such as murder or the willful destruction of a person's good reputation, can never be justified for

any reason. They are inherently wrong or, as the moral law says, "intrinsically evil." You can never call a bad action "good." Abortion is always wrong.

Something interesting has happened in the past year. Last May a Gallup Poll reported that for the first time in recent years a majority of Americans (51%) are now calling themselves "pro-life" on the issue of abortion. This is stunning. When Gallup first asked the question in 1995, only 33% of Americans identified themselves as pro-life. Something is changing.

The right to abortion cannot and will not remain the law of the land, because it is inherently wrong. Just as our natural goodness as Americans moved us to overturn the Dred Scott Decision of the Supreme Court, which denied African Americans their human rights by keeping them enslaved, so also will the wrong (not "right") of legalized abortion be overturned. It is only a matter of time. But time is of the essence. Tragically, 1.3 million abortions continue to be performed in the United States each year.

What can we do? Let me suggest three things. First, now that we pro-lifers are a majority in society, let us be more forceful with those who represent us in government. It is time we insist that we be truly represented at the federal, state and local levels. Speak up. Let those in elected office know you want them to make decisions that are decidedly pro-life. Second, if you have not yet communicated with your Senators and Representative in Congress on the current health care discussion, do that today. You can find the information you need in the flyer that is available at the doors of the church. Third, join us this Thursday evening, January 21, at 7:00 pm for a Holy Hour for Life. Friday marks the 37th anniversary of the dreadful Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court that legalized abortion. Let us pray for an end to this specter over us and our society.

One day the Lord will ask each of us to tell him what we did for the least among us. By God's grace and mutual encouragement may we be able to do just that.

God bless each of you.



Mrs. Fay

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 Ellen “Nell” Hoarty, Elmer Layman, John Daly and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

Msgr. Fay will celebrate the CatholicTV Mass on Tuesday, January 19, 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.

Come to Pray for Life – Please join us this coming Thursday evening January 21, 2010 at 7:00 PM as our parish joins with thousands of others in the 2010 Archdiocese of Boston Holy Hour For Life. The 2010 Holy Hour for Life will unite the Archdiocese of Boston in prayer, asking forgiveness, on behalf of all people, for sins against the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion and many other offenses against human life. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information please see today’s bulletin insert.

Take Home a Christmas Flower – Many of the beautiful poinsettias that have adorned the church during the Christmas Season are available for your taking in the upper and lower sacristies. Please feel free to take one or some home with you today. We would be grateful if you take only the flowers in the sacristies and not touch those that still decorate the church.

Our own Gregory Vozzo who has been serving the parish the past year and one half will be ordained to the Diaconate by Cardinal Seán O’Malley on Saturday, January 30, at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross (1400 Washington Street, Boston). You are most cordially invited to this happy event.

Please remember the St. Vincent de Paul boxes as you leave Mass today.

We Welcome Father Stephane Baik, a priest of the Archdiocese of Seoul, Korea, who will be a resident in the rectory through July of this year. Father Baik is a professor of the New Testament at the Archdiocesan Seminary in Seoul. He is in Boston to do research at Boston College and to strengthen his command of English.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**
– Catholic Schools Week is celebrated throughout the country this year from Sunday, January 31 through Saturday, February 6. This year’s theme is “*Dividends for Life*” We will celebrate the gift of our own **Saint Columbkille Partnership School** on Sunday, January 31 at the 9:30 am Mass and we invite the families of the parish to join us.



Second Collection for Haiti: “The human tragedy in Haiti calls all of us to action to help the people impacted by the earthquake.” In an effort to provide direct support there will be a second collection this weekend for Catholic Relief Services. CRS will coordinate with local agencies to determine how best to provide help where it is most needed. If you are not prepared to donate this week you may do so at anytime by simply putting your donation in an envelope and marking it “Haiti Relief Collection”. Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Church in Latin America will be the beneficiary of the second collection next week. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Thursday, January 28 – 7:00 pm Healing Mass

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Jan. 9 – Jan. 10): \$6,593

Grand Annual (to date): \$55,350
257 donors

St. Vincent de Paul (Jan. 9 – Jan. 10): \$156.00

Thank You for Your Generosity

JANUARY 17, 2010

**From the Letter to the Ephesians by St. Ignatius
of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr (d. circa 100 AD)**

It is right for you to give glory in every way to Jesus Christ who has given glory to you; you must be made holy in all things by being united in perfect obedience, in submission to the bishop and the presbyters.

I am not giving you orders as if I were a person of importance. Even if I am a prisoner for the name of Christ, I am not yet made perfect in Jesus Christ. I am now beginning to be a disciple and I am speaking to you as my fellow-disciples. It is you who should be strengthening me by your faith, your encouragement, your patience, your serenity. But since love will not allow me to be silent about you, I am taking the opportunity to urge you to be united in conformity with the mind of God. For Jesus Christ, our life, without whom we cannot live, is the mind of the Father, just as the bishops, appointed over the whole earth, are in conformity with the mind of Jesus Christ.

It is fitting, therefore, that you should be in agreement with the mind of the bishop as in fact you are. Your excellent presbyters, who are a credit to God, are as suited to the bishop as strings to a harp. So in your harmony of mind and heart the song you sing is Jesus Christ. Every one of you should form a choir, so that, in harmony of sound through harmony of hearts, and in unity taking the note from God, you may sing with one voice through Jesus Christ to the Father. If you do this, he will listen to you and see from your good works that you are members of his Son. It is then an advantage to you to live in perfect unity, so that at all times you may share in God.

If in a short space of time I have become so close a friend of your bishop – in a friendship not based on nature but on spiritual grounds – how much more blessed do I judge you to be, for you are as united with him as the Church is to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ to the Father, so that all things are in harmony through unity. Let no one make any mistake: unless a person is within the sanctuary, he is deprived of God's bread. For if the prayer of one or two has such power, how much more has the prayer of the bishop and the whole Church.

JANUARY 17, 2010

A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

We thank you, God our Father,
for those who have responded
to your call to priestly ministry.
Accept this prayer we offer on their behalf:

Fill your priests
with the sure knowledge of your love.
Open their hearts to the power
and consolation of the Holy Spirit.
Lead them to new depths of union with your Son.
Increase in them profound faith
in the Sacraments they celebrate
as they nourish, strengthen and heal us.

Lord Jesus Christ, grant that these, your priests,
may inspire us to strive for holiness
by the power of their example,
as men of prayer who ponder your word
and follow your will.

O Mary, Mother of Christ and our mother,
guard with your maternal care these chosen ones,
so dear to the Heart of your Son.
Intercede for our priests that,
offering the Sacrifice of your Son,
they may be conformed more each day
to the image of your Son,
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: *St. John Vianney, universal patron of priests.*

R.: *Pray for us and our priests.*

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ORACIÓN POR NUESTROS SACERDOTES

Te damos gracias, Dios nuestro Padre,
por aquellos que han respondido
a tu llamado para el ministerio sacerdotal.
Acepta esta oración que ofrecemos en su nombre.

Llena a tus sacerdotes
con la seguridad de conocer tu amor.
Abre sus corazones al poder
y consuelo del Espíritu Santo,
condúcelos a nuevas profundidades
de unión con tu Hijo.

Llénalos de profunda fe
en los sacramentos que ellos celebran,
que nos alientan, nos fortalecen y nos sanan.

Señor Jesucristo, haz que estos tus sacerdotes,
puedan inspirarnos a luchar por la santidad
con el poder de su ejemplo,
como hombres de oración que escuchan tu palabra
y siguen tu voluntad.

O María, Madre de Cristo y madre nuestra,
protege con tu cuidado maternal a estos llamados
tan queridos al Corazón de tu Hijo.

Intercede para que nuestros sacerdotes,
que al ofrecer el sacrificio de tu Hijo,
puedan parecerse cada día más a tu Hijo,
nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Amén

Celebr.: *San Juan Vianney, patrón universal de los sacerdotes.*

R.: *Ora por nosotros y por nuestros sacerdotes*

Masses for the Week

Sunday, Jan. 17 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Donata & Donato Tempesta &
Family, Mem.
7:30 am Mary Mullen, 40th Ann.
9:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
11:15 am Mary & William Grealish, Jr., Mem.
12:45 pm Berta Canovas & Paula Perez, Mem.
5:00 pm Thomas Moynihan, 1st Ann.

- Mon.** 7:00 am Cyriac Joseph, 13th Ann.
Tue. 7:00 am Michael Collins, Mem.
Wed. 7:00 am Lucia Cellucci, 62nd Ann.
Thu. 7:00 am The Ridge Family, Mem.
Fri. 7:00 am Children Who Have Died Through
Abortion
Sat. 7:00 am Barbara & Hubert McKiernan, Mem.

Sunday, Jan. 24 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Elviera & Salvatore Cutone, Mem.
7:30 am Tamo Sacchetti, 29th Ann.
9:30 am Anthony C. & Crescenzo Pettiglio, Mem
11:15 am Donato Derubeis, Mem.
12:45 pm Juan & Blanca Homar, Mem.
5:00 pm *Missa pro Populo*

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