

The Fortnight for Freedom Campaign

by Steven Ertelt | Washington, DC | LifeNews.com | 6/20/12

The Fortnight for Freedom campaign the nation's Catholic bishops started against the Obama HHS mandate, which forces religious groups to pay for abortions and birth control drugs for their employees, begins Thursday (June 21st).

The United States Catholic bishops are readying American Catholics for what may be the largest campaign of civil disobedience since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. In addition to 12 lawsuits against the Obama Administration including 46 plaintiffs from dioceses, hospitals and universities, the US Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are urging Catholics to openly defy the Obama HHS Mandate.

The USCCB is distributing bulletin inserts nationwide, which reference Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his call for civil disobedience in response to unjust laws.

According to the USCCB, "Bishops in their own dioceses are encouraged to arrange special events to highlight the importance of defending religious freedom. Catholic institutions are encouraged to do the same, especially in cooperation with other Christians, Jews, people of other faiths and all who wish to defend our most cherished freedom."

John Jansen of the Pro-Life Action League urges everyone to participate and commended the Catholic bishops for leading what is not a Catholic-only fight.

"The U.S. Bishops have been steadfastly outspoken against the HHS Mandate's assault on religious freedom, and their leadership and messaging has been widely praised by Catholics and non-Catholics alike," he said. "As part of their response to the HHS Mandate, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has called for a Fortnight for Freedom—a time of prayer, education and action on religious freedom from June 21 to July 4."

"We wholeheartedly support the Fortnight for Freedom, and we encourage you to take part," he added.

Eric Schiedler, of the Pro-Life Action League, stressed the election component of the event. "As we approach the crucial elections in the fall all people of faith must make it clear to our leaders that we will not allow our religious freedom to be compromised," he said.

Matt Smith, President of the Catholic Advocate, also urges people to get involved.

"It doesn't matter if you live in Alaska, Montana, Florida, or Maine – you'll be united with concerned citizens from all over America for 14 days of prayer, education, and action in support of religious liberty," he said.

Smith said people can get involved without having to leave their homes, such as with his group's Virtual Vigil for Religious Liberty.

"There are many ways for you to answer the Bishops' call during the Fortnight for Freedom without leaving your home. There will be dozens of opportunities for you to get involved including: contacting your members of Congress to demand they vote in favor of legislation that defends religious liberty; sharing facts with your family and friends on Facebook and Twitter; joining fellow Catholics and people of faith in special prayers; and participating in many other activities to support our efforts defending religious liberty for all Americans," he said.

"The bishops have urged us all to consider the 'Christian and American heritage of liberty' during this time, and we think participating in our virtual vigil is one great way for people of faith from across the United States to come together," Smith added.

"Our goal is to unite those standing for our liberties in a national way by their attendance at the virtual vigil in Washington, D.C.," added Smith. "We also encourage participation in the various activities being hosted in dioceses across the country but for those unable to attend an event they can be a part of the fortnight through the vigil."

Brian Burch of CatholicVote.org, also urged people to join the cause together. "The Fortnight for Freedom is a powerful nationwide campaign launched by our Catholic Bishops. They are asking you and me to pray, study and engage in civil and responsible public action. The Fortnight is in direct response to the notorious HHS mandate that would compel all Catholic hospitals, charities and schools — and all private businesses — to provide health services in direct contradiction to Church teaching on human life," he said.

In addition, the Family Research Council has called for Two Weeks for Freedom," a call for cooperation between all Christians in the fight for religious freedom.

*Note: This article is provided as background to Fr Joseph W. Grace's July Newsletter contribution: **To Be On the Right Side**

Fortnight for Freedom

This newsletter highlights two important articles: The Fortnight for Freedom Campaign (FFC) by Steven Ertelt (taken from the internet) and To Be on the Right Side by our Chaplain, Fr Joseph Grace. They are related and feature important aspects of what the FFC is about and how to get involved as a Catholic. Please read them carefully as they deal with what is involved with erosion of freedom of religion and the governments Health and Human Services involvement. The Knights of Columbus has much additional information on the internet. Here are some sites you might visit:

http://www.kofc.org/un/en/columbia/detail/2012_06_chaplain_lori_en.html, http://www.kofc.org/en/resources/chaplains/report06_12.pdf,
<http://www.kofc3294.org/2012/06/21/fortnight-for-freedom/>

Elected Officers for the Council

Officers of Council 560 elected for 2012-13 will officially begin duties on July 1. We offer congratulations and thanks to all who agreed to fill the positions.

Officers continuing in positions are as follows:

- Financial Secretary – Dan Waechter
- Recorder – Ed Kseniak
- Chancellor – Rex Stanley
- Treasurer – Kevin Durbin
- Advocate – Phil Nix
- Warden – Tom McGraw
- Inside Guard – Jack Holland
- Outside Guard – Jack Gardella



New Grand Knight Tom McComish



New Deputy Grand Knight Jim Carnes

Knights Participate in the Solemnity of Corpus Christi

The 4th Degree Knights participating in Corpus Christi Masses at St Mary on June 10th included Joe Reinhard, Jim Carnes, Tom McComish, and Art Wessell. Those Knights at St Francis included Tom Eulitt, Jack Holland, Joe Jenkinson, Bill Moore, Leroy Rhea, and Randy Stout.



St Mary group from L to R: Jim Carnes, Art Wessel, Joe Reinhard, and Tom McComish



St Francis group from L to R: Jack Holland, Randy Stout, Leroy Rhae, Fr Christopher Weldon, Bill Moore, Joe Jenkinson, and Tom Eulitt



Some photos of the Corpus Christi procession with stations on the St Mary Campus

Another Great Knights Breakfast

The 4th Degree Knights held yet another great breakfast on Sunday, June 3rd. Thanks to all who participated. Spread the word about the best breakfast in Muncie. Mark your calendars for the next breakfast on July 1st. We hope you will join us at the Family Center for food and friendship. Please tell your friends and support the Assembly and its hard work for you. See you soon.



On the serving line with lots of good food for all...



Knight Randy Stout cooking up some scrambled eggs. Good job Randy!

Knight Fred Mathews is our 4th Degree Financial Secretary. He also welcomes everyone to the first Sunday breakfast each month. See you soon...



Knight Art Wessel with wife Sue at the breakfast. He wouldn't miss it...



Knight Dan Waechter with his family enjoying our special K of C breakfast.



Breakfast visitors Jon and Jan Hendrix from St Francis said the breakfast was terrific!

Council Awards Scholarships

The Knights of Columbus, Council 560, recently announced the 2012-2013 Scholarship Awards. Students that applied were of high quality and the committee headed by chair Jim Cheslik worked hard to come up with a short list. Award recipients were selected by vote of the membership at a recent business meeting.

Recipients of the Knights of Columbus, Council 560 scholarships were Erica Clohessy, Suzanne Weber, and Kayleigh West. Scholarships were awarded based on academic excellence, extracurricular record, and church activities.

Erica Clohessy, a Muncie Central High School graduate, is the daughter of Michael and Carole Clohessy. She will be attending the University of Dayton studying pre-medicine. Suzanne Weber, a Cowan High School graduate, is the daughter of Marilyn and the late Patrick Weber. She will attend Ball State University to study physical therapy. Kayleigh West is a 2011 graduate of Delta High School and the daughter of Dale and Christy West. She will be a sophomore at the University of Saint Francis where she is studying nursing.

Fortnight for Freedom Prayer

A suggested prayer...

Almighty God, Father of all nations, for freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus.

We praise you and bless you for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good.

Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties;

By your grace, may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our Patroness, and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2012



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