



LifeTimes Litterae

An e-newsletter of the Office of Marriage, Family & Respect Life
Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls | Online at www.sfatholic.org | February 20, 2012

CATHOLIC ADVOCATE NETWORK Updates

Obama admin responds to lawsuit: don't rule yet because we might change mandate later

By Kathleen Gilbert | LifeSiteNews.com

"Days after saying the birth control mandate was "final," the Obama administration has told a federal court it shouldn't rule on a lawsuit against the new rule because the administration may decide to change it at an unspecified later date.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which is representing Belmont Abbey College in the case, said Friday that the administration's response lacked any constitutional defense of the mandate, which would force religious organizations, including charities, hospitals, and even religious orders, to cover birth control, sterilizations, and abortifacient drugs." [Click to Read on....](#)

NCBC Statement on the HHS Mandates and the So-called Compromise

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (the NCBC) consistently has voiced its strong opposition to the mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that all employers provide insurance coverage free of charge to their employees for contraceptives, surgical sterilizations, and abortifacient drugs and devices. There was widespread outrage to this measure which was seen by many as an attempt to force religious organizations to violate their moral convictions and religious beliefs by providing drugs, procedures and devices that they considered to be immoral because they violated human dignity. The opposition was so strong and from so many different quarters that President Obama proposed what he called a "compromise" on Friday, February 10. The NCBC has been involved in providing analyses of the "compromise" to its various constituents and collaborating with others involved with trying to influence public policy. As soon as the government documents were actually made available and studied, it became obvious that there was no true compromise at all but rather some slight modifications to procedure that left the substance of the mandate entirely intact. In fact, the day the "compromise" was announced, the mandate was entered into the federal register with no changes. [Click to Read on....](#)

Studies: Birth Control, Contraception Don't Cut Abortions

By Keith Riler | LifeNews.com

"Contraception reduces unintended pregnancies" has joined its fantastic make-believe friends "death with dignity," the "efficacy" of embryonic stem cells, the "certainty" of man-made global warming, and the "positive" multiplier effect in the leftist vernacular. Hopeful that repetition supplants truth, choirs of liberal faithful are singing." [Click to Read on....](#)

Featured Articles

Getting Ready for Lent

foryourmarriage.org

"The forty days of Lent can seem like a long time, especially if one is giving up a favorite food or video game. It's helpful to have a friend to keep us going. He or she can encourage us, challenge us, and pick us up if we falter. And if that friend happens to be our spouse, so much the better!" [Read on....](#)

Disability: A Thread for Weaving Joy

By Archbishop Charles Chaput | www.thepublicdiscourse.com

"While some people resent the imperfection, the inconvenience, and the expense of persons with disabilities, others see in them an invitation to learn how to love deeply without counting the cost. God will demand an accounting. Adapted from remarks delivered at the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life." [Read on....](#)



LIFE Runners Raising Awareness and Funds

liferunners.org

Pat Castle, a Sioux Falls native stationed at Scott AFB in Illinois, started the LIFE Runners group with Rich Reich in 2008. After four years, LIFE Runners is committed more than ever to assisting pro-life agencies through running one marathon a year. The pro-life team consists of runners from across the nation, all ranging in ages and abilities. On the back of each blue running jersey are the words: "REMEMBER the Unborn Jer 1:5", inspired by Castle seeing the word REMEMBER on the sidewalk in front of the Holocaust Museum the day before the 2009 Boston Marathon.

Their goal for 2012 is to recruit 262 LIFE Runners for the St. Louis Marathon (October 21) and to raise \$50,000 for various pro-life organizations. For more information about joining the team as a runner, prayer partner, or sponsor, contact Pat Castle at contact@lifegroup413.org or visit the website.

One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies Prayer Campaign

www.saintmichaeltarchangelorganization.org

Mark your calendars!!! The St. Michael the Archangel Organization is again organizing a prayer event May 4-6, 2012, with the goal of having the faithful register to pray one million Rosaries for unborn babies. You can register to pray and also print out a flyer to share with others at the above website.



Recommended Reading

Familiaris Consortio

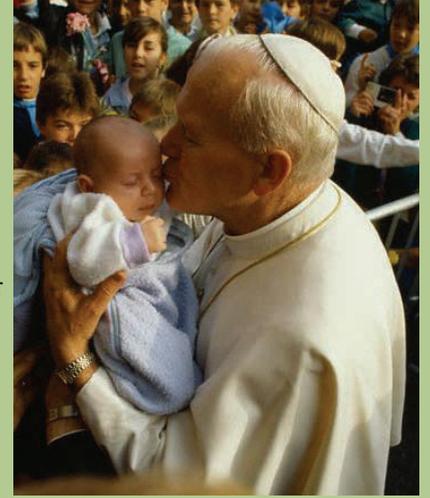
“The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World”

By Blessed John Paul II

“The family in the modern world, as much as and perhaps more than any other institution, has been beset by the many profound and rapid changes that have affected society and culture. Many families are living this situation in fidelity to those values that constitute the foundation of the institution of the family. Others have become uncertain and bewildered over their role or even doubtful and almost unaware of the ultimate meaning and truth of conjugal and family life. Finally, there are others who are hindered by various situations of injustice in the realization of their fundamental rights.

Knowing that marriage and the family constitute one of the most precious of human values, the Church wishes to speak and offer her help to those who are already aware of the value of marriage and the family and seek to live it faithfully, to those who are uncertain and anxious and searching for the truth, and to those who are unjustly impeded from living freely their family lives. Supporting the first, illuminating the second and assisting the others, the Church offers her services to every person who wonders about the destiny of marriage and the family.

In a particular way the Church addresses the young, who are beginning their journey towards marriage and family life, for the purpose of presenting them with new horizons, helping them to discover the beauty and grandeur of the vocation to love and the service of life.” [Read on....](#)



Meditation

“The Church is deeply convinced that only by the acceptance of the Gospel are the hopes that man legitimately places in marriage and in the family capable of being fulfilled. Willed by God in the very act of creation, marriage and the family are interiorly ordained to fulfillment in Christ and have need of His graces in order to be healed from the wounds of sin and restored to their “beginning,” that is, to full understanding and the full realization of God’s plan.” ~ Blessed John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, 3

Prayer

“May Christ the Lord, the Universal King, the King of Families, be present in every Christian home as He was at Cana, bestowing light, joy, serenity and strength. On the solemn day dedicated to His Kingship I beg of Him that every family may generously make its own contribution to the coming of His Kingdom in the world — “a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, and peace,” towards which history is journeying.” ~Blessed John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, 86

Please Join Life Chain Link!!

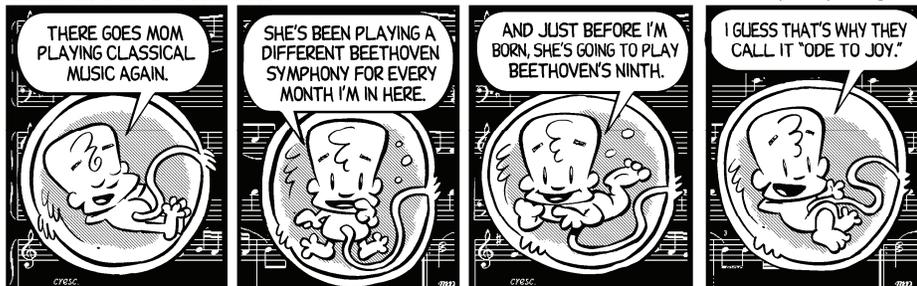
If you would like to join with others at Planned Parenthood to pray for an end to abortion, and specifically for those who seek and perform abortions in our state, please visit the [Life Chain Link Page](#) of the diocesan website to learn more, and then [contact us](#) to sign up, or sign up online at:

www.my.calendars.net/lifechainlink.

If you are already praying as part of this effort, please add your name and the day(s) and time(s) that you are praying to this new online calendar.



Umbert the Unborn



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UPCOMING EVENTS

[CLICK HERE](#) for a complete listing of events supporting and defending marriage, families and life in our diocese.

Travis & Kelly are also available to give talks, workshops, retreats, discussions or presentations on a variety of issues.

[Click here to learn more.](#)