

Brothers – THIS IS A CALL TO ARMS. from Fr Timothy Harris, T.O.R.

Brothers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in the commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the country, ***Now is the time for Good Men of Faith to come to the Aid of their Country!***

Brothers, I am sure by now you are aware of the great threat that is now facing our beloved Catholic Church in the United States. But this threat is not just against the Catholic Church, it is an attack against the very religious freedoms that our nation was founded upon that many of us have defended proudly.

I am referring to the passage of the ruling issued by the ***Health and Human Services Department*** of the Obama administration that is requiring all employers and all insurance companies who offer health insurance to include in their coverage, “services” that are against God’s will and that contradict the tenets of our Catholic Faith. This coverage for alleged “preventative care for women” is absurd. The very foundation of such a statement is that the conception of a new life is some form of disease or illness that needs to be treated.

This ruling, in the words of Bishop Paul Loverde of the Arlington Diocese “does intolerable violence to our First Amendment rights” and is a complete disregard for statements made by our current president in regards to the executive order he put forward in March of 2010 in regards to his health care plan. The following excerpt is from the white house press release issued in regards to this executive order:

For Immediate Release March 21, 2010
STATEMENT FROM COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR DAN PFEIFFER

Today, the President announced that he will be issuing an executive order after the passage of the health insurance reform law that will reaffirm its consistency with longstanding restrictions on the use of federal funds for abortion.

While the legislation as written maintains current law, the executive order provides additional safeguards to ensure that the status quo is upheld and enforced, and that the health care legislation’s restrictions against the public funding of abortions cannot be circumvented.

The President has said from the start that this health insurance reform should not be the forum to upset longstanding precedent. The health care legislation and this executive order are consistent with this principle.

Read more here: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/03/21/90781/obamas-executive-order-on-abortion.html#storylink=cpy>

The inherent problem with that executive order was that it could not stop ObamaCare from funding abortions because it does not have the authority of a congressionally enacted statute. The white house knew this when it issued this order to try and placate the ProLife proponents for real protection of all life in any true health care legislation. He issued this order so that the administration’s health care reform could finally be approved in congress. And now we see the bold deception that was apparent to many of us at the time playing out in this first attack, of what I believe to be many attacks, against the practice of our moral religious freedom.

Lads, now is the time to get off of our arses and to prove to ourselves and our beloved nation that the oath we have taken as Hibernians to support the Church and the Catholic Faith, a faith given to us by Jesus Christ through Saint Peter and the Apostles, was not mere words. I have attached to this Chaplain's Corner a copy of the letter issued by the Catholic Bishops of Virginia. Please read this now. You should have heard this letter read at Mass this past Weekend. If not, you need to ask your pastor why. Our bishops are stepping up to the front line to do battle against the evil that is present in our land. It is an evil that seeks to destroy the very foundation of who we are as a people. Our nation was founded on the Judeo-Christian belief in the dignity and sanctity of all people, being created equal and being endowed with rights from their Creator. Primary in these rights, our founding fathers put forth in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution in its First Amendment, is the freedom to practice one's faith. Now is the time to assure that the practice of our beloved faith does not allow the government to make us into second class citizens. There is a battle and it is upon us.

I embrace with great joy my Irish-American heritage. And I humble thank God each day for His gift to me of our Catholic Faith. The ability to celebrate that faith is a fundamental freedom that our Constitution provides for us. However, we now need to stand up to defend and demand that freedom. Remember that ***freedom is never free***. As an Irishman, I am hesitant to quote an Englishmen. However, I want to end with a quote attributed to Edmund Burke, a member of the British Parliament.

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing!

My home division, the Col. Thomas J Cunningham division, has begun to mobilize to stand up for what is right and true and just. I encourage, nay I call upon each of us, to mobilize and follow the immediate recommendations that the bishops have put forward in our families, our parishes, our divisions and our state. Here are several links to help us in our direction so that, as Irishmen, we do not wonder off of the path. May the Lord Give You Peace.

www.usccb.org/conscience

www.vacatholic.org