

Opposing the Obama Threat to Religious Liberty: It's Time to Fish or Cut Bait

By Ernest Ohlhoff, Outreach Director, National Right to Life

Events in 2012 may well determine the future of the pro-life movement for decades to come. If that sounds extreme, please read on.

During the past thirty-four years I have been part of or have witnessed much of the pro-life movement's history. While we have not reached our ultimate goal of returning legal protection to unborn children, the Movement has made steady progress in placing limits on abortion and in educating the public to the undeniable humanity of the unborn.

However, during the past three years, the Obama Administration has worked to undermine and actually in some cases reverse pro-life initiatives that went back as far as the administration of President Ronald Reagan, or even earlier. Were President Obama to have three more years, he no doubt would work doubly hard to roll back pro-life gains and strengthen pro-abortion forces.

His commitment to abortion on demand has never been in question. For example, on January 21, 2011, the day before the 38th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, President Obama reaffirmed his support for legalized abortion on demand. He pledged, "I am committed to protecting this constitutional right."

During his three plus years in office, Obama has blocked attempts to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood, orchestrated removal of a ban on government-funded abortions in the District of Columbia (later restored by Congress), restored funding for private organizations that perform and promote abortions overseas, and rescinded a regulation that would have protected health-care providers who refused to participate in providing abortions.

The Obama Administration's most damaging action to date, however, is the hydra-headed monster commonly known as ObamaCare. It contains a myriad of anti-life provisions and mandate powers through which the Administration can promote abortion, eliminate conscience clause protections, and establish mechanisms of government-dictated health care rationing.

Using the mandate powers in ObamaCare, President Obama is trying to force religious institutions and individuals of conscience to pay for health insurance plans that cover medical procedures and drugs contrary to their religious beliefs and consciences. By simple extension of these existing mandate powers, the Department of Health and Human Services could easily include abortion in a list of federally mandated "preventive services" to be covered by most health care plans.

President Obama has tried to claim that the current objections to ObamaCare come only from those who are opposed to contraception. Yet, as the Catholic bishops have repeatedly pointed out, the current debate is not about contraception or any other specific teaching of any religion. It is about the government trying to control how churches and religious believers live out their faith.

What Mr. Obama appears incapable of understanding is how deeply committed Americans are to the principles of religious freedom on which the United States was founded. Whether people identify themselves as Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Evangelical, Mormon, or Jewish, they understand

that the government does not have the right to force religious individuals, organizations, or churches to violate their consciences or act in a manner contrary to the teachings of their faiths.

For those new to the Movement, it is important to know that attacks on religious institutions by abortion activists are not new. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Bernard Nathanson and Lawrence Lader, who were founding members of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), cynically targeted the Catholic bishops as a way to tear down protective abortion statutes.

As he began his conversion to a full pro-life position, Dr. Bernard Nathanson revealed in his book, *Aborting America* a key strategy used by NARAL. Lader's strategy for breaking down opposition to the legalization of abortion centered on demonizing the Catholic bishops. In the book, we read that Lader said

"Historically...every revolution has a villain..."

"Not just all Catholics...that's too large a group... we have to convince liberal Catholics to join us, a popular front as it were...[the villains have] got to be the Catholic hierarchy. That's a small enough group to come down on, and anonymous enough so that no names ever have to be mentioned but everybody will have a fairly good idea whom we are talking about."

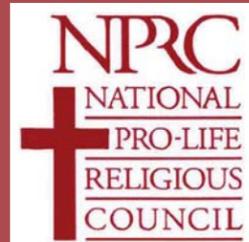
There is no accurate way to evaluate the impact of NARAL's anti-Catholic strategy put into play more than four decades ago. What we can say is that the statements of the current Obama Administration officials seem to be taken chapter and verse from the early NARAL playbooks. The attacks today on religious liberty bear strong similarities in their reliance on casting Catholic principles as examples of anti-woman, anti-progressive religious oppression.

By drawing a line in the sand--demanding that religious institutions violate their beliefs--he has created a chasm too wide to bridge.

Many legal analysts have also pointed out that the current mandates are only the first step. ObamaCare is riddled with provisions that will allow the administration to require funding of abortion via insurance coverage, as well as promoting euthanasia through health care rationing. Repealing ObamaCare may be the last hope for several decades to prevent our nation from sliding down a slippery slope into government-sponsored abortion and massive health care rationing.

Although the major media outlets and culture of death forces are trying to keep the public's focus on the red herring issue of contraception, many pro-life organizations and other groups of concerned citizens have recognized the threat and are coalescing in their opposition to these attacks on religious freedom. Americans have recognized that an attack on the conscience rights of anyone is an attack on all.

If the Obama administration is allowed to continue its relentless anti-life campaign, human rights and freedoms in this country may be compromised for decades to come. It is time for people of faith to fish or cut bait—to act or be acted upon.



Uniting for Life

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Photo Courtesy of LifeNews.com

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The National Pro-Life Religious Council

The National Pro-Life Religious Council (NPRC) is a Christian coalition which acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and works to encourage every Christian denomination to affirm and witness to the biblical standard of the value, dignity and sanctity of human life, and to foster ministry to those vulnerable to the violence of abortion or euthanasia.

Anglicans for Life

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)

Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of Religious Outreach, National Right to Life Committee

International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC for Life)

Lutherans for Life (LFL)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

National Clergy Council

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA)

Presbyterians Pro-Life (PPL)

Priests for Life (PFL)

Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality (TUMAS)/Lifewatch

United Friends for Life (UFL)

The Mandate Will Be Defeated

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life
President, National Pro-life Religious Council



The NPRC Family has raised its voice in favor of religious freedom, which has been under unprecedented attack, particularly through the HHS mandate that forces employers to provide insurance coverage for actions that many teach and believe are morally wrong.

Nine lawsuits, including the one launched by Priests for Life, have been filed against this unconstitutional mandate, making the argument that both freedom of religion and freedom of speech have been violated. You can find more information about these lawsuits at www.priestsforlife.org/hhsmandate/hhs-lawsuits.pdf.

Along with the lawsuits, there have been educational efforts, such as the nationwide webcast in which various NPRC members participated, and the nationwide rallies for religious freedom on March 23rd and June 8th, which also saw a lot of interdenominational participation.

Of this much I am confident: the unjust and unconstitutional mandate imposed on Americans by President Obama and his HHS will not stand!

It will be defeated, because people of conscience are standing up, taking to the streets, uniting with each other, and breaking the silence!

It will be defeated, because the Constitution of the United States is stronger than any Presidential administration!

It will be defeated, because people of faith know how to oppose injustice and to suffer any sacrifice rather than to let evil triumph!

It will be defeated, because on November 6th of this year, the people of America will go to the voting booths, and exercise their citizenship in an informed and responsible way!

The right to religious freedom, like the right to life, is rooted in the dignity of the human person. The right to life is more fundamental, of course, because one must be alive in order to be free. Together, let's defend life and liberty!

Stand Up For Religious Freedom Draw Thousands at Nationwide Rallies June 8



June 8th was the second Stand Up For Religious Freedom rally. Tens of thousands attended rallies in 164 cities. Speakers included bishops, ministers, congressmen, pro-life leaders and even a recorded message from Francis Cardinal George at the Chicago rally.

These rallies are in direct response to President Obama's Health and Human Services mandates requiring religious organizations and individuals of conscience to pay for medical services which violate their religious teachings and principles.

These mandates, if not removed, could eventually mandate surgical abortion coverage and health care rationing. Obama Care must be overturned.

Go to www.standupforreligiousfreedom.com for more information about the rallies.

“The coercive enforcement of China’s One Child Policy causes more violence against women and girls than any other official policy on earth and any other official policy in the history of the world”

Editor’s note. These are the remarks of Reggie Littlejohn, President, Women’s Rights Without Frontiers, at the Victims of Communism Commemoration Ceremony, June 12.



Reggie Littlejohn, President, Women’s Rights Without Frontiers

Dr. Edwards and honored guests, I am greatly humbled by being asked to speak on this somber anniversary commemorating five years of the Victims of Communism Memorial. It is fitting that the Memorial statue itself is a replica of the Goddess of Democracy erected by the students on Tianamen Square – a beacon of hope for those students before they were then so brutally slaughtered by their own government.

Indeed, this is the hallmark of Communist governments: the peacetime mass killings of their own citizens. It is estimated that the former Soviet Union under Stalin committed 20 million such killings, and that the Chinese Communist Party under Mao Tse-tung committed 65 million: together, 85 million. This number of murders of innocent civilians by their own governments boggles the mind.

And yet even this number is dwarfed by another, hidden category of victims of communism – victims of China’s One Child Policy.

Women’s Rights Without Frontiers has learned that a woman in Shanxi Province, China, was forcibly aborted at seven months of pregnancy on June 3, 2012 – just last week.

Feng Jianmei was beaten and dragged into a vehicle by a group of Family Planning Officials while her husband, Deng Jiyuan, was out working. The officials asked for RMB 40,000 in fines from Feng Jianmei’s family. When they did not receive the money, they forcibly aborted Feng at seven months, laying the body of her aborted baby next to her in the bed.

Feng Jianmei is not alone. The Chinese Communist Party estimates that it has “prevented” 400 million lives through its brutal One Child Policy. Every one of these 400 million snuffed out lives is a victim of communism.

Affecting 1.3 billion people, the coercive enforcement of China’s One Child Policy causes more violence against women and girls than any other official policy on earth and any other official policy in the history of the world.

1. Forced abortion is traumatic to women. This can happen up to the ninth month of pregnancy. Some forced abortions are so violent that the women themselves die, along with their full term babies. Forced abortion is official government rape.

2. Women who have violated the policy are often victims of forced sterilization, which can lead to life-long health complications. These forced abortions and forced sterilizations are often performed without anesthesia.

3. A document leaked out of China in November 2009 discusses methods of infanticide, including the puncturing of the skulls and injecting alcohol into the brains of full term babies, usually girls, to kill them during labor.

4. Because of the traditional preference for boys, sex-

selective abortion of girls is common – a form of “gendercide.”

5. Because of this gendercide, there are an estimated 37 million more men than women in China today. This gender imbalance is a major force driving sexual slavery of women and girls in Asia.

6. China has the highest female suicide rate of any country in the world – approximately 500 women a day. I believe this high suicide rate is related to forced abortion.

The One Child Policy is causing a slow-motion demographic disaster. Not only does the nation now suffer from a destabilizing gender imbalance, but also, there are not enough young people to sustain China’s rapidly ageing population. Why, then, does China continue this policy?

I believe that China’s One Child Policy is keeping the regime in place. It is social control, masquerading as population control. The Chinese Communist Party wields forced abortion as an instrument of terror to keep its people down. The infrastructure of population control coercion can be turned in any direction, to crush dissent. The use of a system of paid informants to identify illegally pregnant women tears at relationships of trust. If you cannot trust anyone, you cannot organize for democracy.

The true spirit of Communism is most clearly seen in the faces of the Chinese population control police as they drag women away, beat them, strap them down to tables, and force them to abort babies that they want, up to the ninth month of pregnancy. Whether China will turn and become a free, democratic nation, or whether China will continue down the path of totalitarian destruction, is the greatest issue of the twenty-first century and has vast implications for our own national security. Supporting democracy in China should be among the highest priorities of the leaders of the free world.

Associate Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become an Associate Member of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, Inc.

Enclosed is my fee of \$25.00 for membership as:
_____ an individual _____ a church _____ a group

I would like to make a tax deductible donation of \$_____ to help NPRC with its important work.

Mail to: NPRC c/o Development Office,
PO Box 61838, Staten Island, NY 10306-9811

Contact Person _____

Church or Group _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Denomination _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail _____

Bible Study Review... Pregnant with Promise

Reviewed by Jessica Lalley, Special to The Layman, First Posted Friday, July 8, 2011

Pregnancy... it’s a promise of hope. And with each pregnancy story, lies a celebration of the miracle of a God who knows us and loves us before we are even born.

This book is a study of the character of God who cherishes human life. I found this truth revealed in these (12) self-standing Biblical stories, leading us through pregnancies of women from both the Old and New Testaments and to the ultimate Holy Birth of Jesus Christ.

It is written by Marie Bowen, executive director of Presbyterians of Pro-Life, a voice for renewal in the PC(USA). She is married and the mother of three grown sons.

This is a great read for men and women of all ages that could be studied in a small group format or a Sunday School class. Personally, I can’t wait to read this again with a Christian mentor and study together one on one.

Each chapter is scripturally based and easy to read for those new to the Bible, with opportunities to take the study and questions deeper for the more apt Bible student.

The format for each lesson provides a commentary background and reference to Scripture so that you are directed

straight to the pure text of the Bible. Thought-provoking questions have us think about applying the lessons from these stories to our lives right now – a reminder of how God’s word is alive and eternal. You’ll learn about foreshadowing and prophecy into the New Testament as well as our current modern time.

It’s interesting how many of the actions and choices studied in Pregnant with Promise are still mistakenly made today!

Because these 12 lessons hit on so many parts of the Bible, leaving you wanting to know more and to dig deeper, it could even be an inspiration or springboard to “Read the Bible in a Year.”

We are reminded that God gives us life, sees us, and understands us. We are blessed beyond measure.



Pro-Life Movie *October Baby* Opens In Top Ten



A fabulous pro-life movie ‘October Baby’ had an extremely successful opening weekend that grossed \$2.8 Million. It was ranked eight in the top ten and placed third highest in per screen average revenue.

After a rocky start and being rejected by major studios the film finally got a break and opened in 390 theaters nationwide. Because of film’s impressive opening weekend the market was expanded to 500 theaters on April 13th.

October Baby is the story of Hanna a 19 year old home schooled student who is suffering from various emotional and physical problems and is told that her ailments may be the result of being born prematurely after a failed abortion. An inner motivation drives her to seek her biological mother against the advice of everyone in her life.

‘October Baby’ is the story of the tragic consequences of abortion and of the tremendous forgiveness possible through love.

Call your local theater and ask them to show the film. Patronizing ‘October Baby’ will send a much needed message to Hollywood that there is a market of well made decent films that show respect for life.

Pro-Life Movement Gears Up For Elections Democracy Is Not A Spectator Sport

Pro-life groups and groups of concerned citizens across the country are preparing for the November elections.

The privilege of living in a free democracy should not be taken for granted. Freedom isn’t free! It has been threatened in the past and will continue to be threatened in the future.

People of conscience should study the issues of concern and the positions of those seeking public office. It is up to each individual to work for the type of government they want in our country. It is also up to each individual to hold office holders accountable for their actions and inactions on important issues.

It is important that you make sure that your friends,

relatives, co-workers, and those in your church are registered to vote and provided every opportunity to actually vote.

It is surprising how many church attendees are not registered to vote. Work with your church and local National Right to Life affiliate to sponsor voter registration drives at your church.

Voting is truly a sacred privilege and every vote counts.

For more information go to the following web sites:

www.nrlc.org (National Right to Life)

www.priestsforlife.org

www.politicalresponsibility.com

www.voteprlifecoalition.com