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The purpose of this newsletter is to help educate, update, and inspire those interested in pro-life issues.

Do You Have Questions Or Comments On Anything In This Newsletter?
Would You Like To Recommend A Topic On The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?
Do You Feel Moved To Share A Personal Story About The Respect And The Defense Of Human Life?
Do You Feel Moved To Submit A Personal Story About Healing And Hope?

Submit feedback to defendlife@stpaulkensington.org.

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ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

http://www.prolifeministry.org/news/14-01-29_remembrance.html

The Director of the Archdiocese of Hartford Pro-life Ministry, Rev. Robert Rousseau, will celebrate the Annual Mass of Remembrance at St. Augustine Church in North Branford on April 29, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

"The Mass is a time for reflection on the lives of our children who have died. Many have died suddenly; some have died after illnesses. The causes are numerous but the resulting emotions of pain, longing and sorrow are the same. Even with the healing power of time with a sense of gratitude and joy for their lives, our deceased children remain in our hearts with a profound sense of sadness. Perhaps one of the most misunderstood and often overlooked losses, is that of miscarriage. Unless one has suffered such a loss, too frequently it is seen as less than other deaths of children. For those who have experienced miscarriage, it is no less painful. Parents

wish these children to be remembered and the Mass of Remembrance provides this opportunity. As an additional remembrance of these children, their names may be recorded in the Book of Remembrance which will be returned to the Cathedral of St. Joseph after the Mass. Refreshments will be served in the church hall following Mass.”

– Archdiocese of Hartford Pro Life Ministry

UPCOMING RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

<http://www.prolifeministry.org/rachel.html>

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. The upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreats sponsored by Pro-Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford are Mar 28-30, May 30-Jun 1, and Oct 24-26. Marie Laffin, RN, is the Site Leader and Facilitator for Rachel's Vineyard in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Marie may be contacted at 203-631-9030 or mlaffin@prolifeministry.org. All calls and emails are confidential.

U.S. BISHOPS ISSUES IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF A ONE-MINUTE VIDEO CALLED “LIFE MATTERS”

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/life-issues-forum/life-issues-forum-life-matters-all-year-long.cfm>

[The USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat] “..has released a new, fast-paced one-minute video called “Life Matters.” It features youthful Catholic participation in the 2014 March for Life and related prayer events. In addition to footage from Cardinal Sean O’Malley’s pre-March for Life Mass with over 700 young people from Boston, it includes short interviews with teens and young adults. From exuberant cheers (“We love babies, yes we do!”) to the quiet stillness of night prayer, they share their joy at participating in the March for Life and related events because “Life Matters!” “

Watch the videos:

“Life Matters” - <http://bit.ly/1lyE5gx>

“Call to Prayer” - <http://bit.ly/1if2dQ7>

U.S. BISHOPS ISSUE ‘SPECIAL MESSAGE’ ON HHS MANDATE

<http://www.usccb.org/news/2013/13-210.cfm>

At the conclusion of the last annual Fall General Assembly, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a “Special Message”. A Special Message is an important statement issued only at these meetings and is “considered appropriate in view of the circumstances at the time”.

A portion of the message is as follows.

“The bishops of this country have just concluded their traditional fall meeting in Baltimore and have spent time on issues important to them and their people. [...] Among those priorities is the protection of religious freedom, especially as threatened by the HHS mandate. Pope Francis has reminded us that “In the context of society, there is only one thing which the Church quite clearly demands: the freedom to proclaim the Gospel in its entirety, even when it runs counter to the world, even when it goes against the tide. Yet with its coercive HHS mandate, the government is refusing to uphold its obligation to respect the rights of religious believers. Beginning in March 2012, in United for Religious Freedom, we identified three basic problems with the HHS mandate: it establishes a false architecture of religious liberty that excludes our ministries and so reduces freedom of religion to freedom of worship; it compels our ministries to participate in providing employees with abortifacient drugs and devices, sterilization, and contraception, which violates our deeply-held beliefs; and it compels our faithful people in business to act against our teachings, failing to provide them any exemption at all. Despite our repeated efforts to work and dialogue toward a solution, those problems remain. Not only does the mandate undermine our ministries’ ability to witness to our faith, which is their core mission, but the penalties it imposes also lay a great burden on those ministries, threatening their very ability to survive and to serve the many who rely on their care. As the government’s implementation of the mandate against us approaches, we bishops stand united in our resolve to resist this heavy burden and protect our religious freedom. Even as each bishop struggles to address the mandate, together we are striving to develop alternate avenues of response to this difficult situation. We seek to answer the Gospel call to serve our neighbors, meet our obligation to provide our people with just health insurance, protect our religious freedom, and not be coerced to violate our consciences.”

WHAT DO THE U.S. BISHOPS HAVE AGAINST HEALTH CARE, ANYWAY?

<http://ncronline.org/news/politics/health-care-moral-imperative-urgent-national-priority>

The U.S. Catholic bishops have for decades advocated for access to quality, affordable, life giving health care for all. Health care to the Catholic Church is a “moral imperative and an urgent national priority” because it is a basic safeguard of human life and dignity. However, the Catholic bishops also make it clear that Health care policy must protect life, not threaten it. Health care laws must respect the consciences of providers, taxpayers, and others, not violate them. The new health care law misses the boat when it comes to these important matters and that is why the U.S. Catholic bishops do not support the law in its current form. There is so much misinformation about the Catholic position on the new health care law that a future newsletter will be devoted to the subject.

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE CT LEGISLATURE THIS SESSION!

<http://www.ctcatholic.org>

“The Connecticut General Assembly convened on February 5, 2014, and the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference (CCPAC) believes the Public Health Committee will once again consider a bill legalizing physician-assisted suicide during this current legislative session. The actual language of the bill, which has not yet been published, is expected to be similar to legislation proposed last year. The CCPAC will keep our Network informed on this legislation as it progresses through the legislature. Once the proposed bill is available, we will inform you (1) of the details of the legislation, (2) when the public hearing will be held and (3) how to contact the members of the Public Health Committee.”

This is such a critical issue facing the protection of life in Connecticut that members of the Archdiocese of Hartford Pro-life Ministry are preparing for a campaign that includes rallying support from all parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Members of St. Paul Parish will be attending a seminar on Saturday, March 22 to discuss the campaign. Information will be shared in a future newsletter.