

THIS IS NO TIME FOR ANEMIC CATHOLICISM

Dear Parishioners,

On January 20th a truly disturbing development occurred in the United States of America: the Obama Administration passed a decision through the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) that will force the Catholic Church to provide and *pay for* contraceptives, sterilizations and even *abortifacients* as part of our own health care plans. Thus, the president is trying to compel the Catholic Church to finance things that run counter to her moral code - including killing newly conceived human persons. It is an absolute and total outrage.

According to the new HHS regulation, we must comply by August 2013 or there will be stiff penalties. There is indeed a 'religious exemption' but it's so pathetic & narrowly-defined that almost none of our myriad institutions will meet the requirements. It is in fact a sneering mockery.

The Catholic Church runs thousands of schools, universities, hospitals and health care institutions in America and through them does a tremendous amount of charitable works for millions of people in this nation, even for non-Catholics. But now Obama's government is telling the Church to either violate her principles or face *punishment*. This would be devastating for the Church in America and detrimental to the nation. At least two things are wrong with it: It is a direct attack against the moral law and the Catholic Faith. And it is also an attack on religious liberty as enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which is intended to keep the feds out of our pews.

Now it is not a secret that many Catholics have sadly ignored the Church's moral guidance concerning the immorality of contraception. They have thus placed themselves in a weak and compromised position. How can they be called upon to defend the Faith? There are so many among our ranks who have never shown themselves willing or capable of coming to the defense of their own religion. But maybe at this point even those individuals will wake up and realize that the enemy is at the gates and there is no more time for anemic Catholicism.

A godless ideology is entrenched in the White House. There were many among us who saw it coming, of course. For what has been percolating under the surface for years has now burst forth in an overt anti-Catholic legal persecution in the United States of America; because when religious freedom is undermined it is the Holy Catholic Church, which is undeniably the greatest religious force in the nation, that must become the primary target.

If you value your Catholic identity and have even a minimal love for Holy Mother Church, you should care deeply about this.

Father de Rosa

PS An easy way to write to your congressmen to protest is through this link: <http://www.nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=292>