

Obama Administration is trying to strong-arm Catholics

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=5751>

Last week, Catholic Churches across America did something that was unthinkable until the present administration took power in the White House. A letter was read to congregants from the Bishop of Marquette stating a refusal to obey the law.

Obamacare will require that all employers provide health care insurance that will include funding for contraception, abortion and sterilization. Churches themselves would be exempt from this requirement (at least for now), but ministries of the church – schools, hospitals, etc. – would not be exempt.

The letter stated, “We cannot – we will not – comply with this unjust law.”

Even with a strong pushback by the Catholic Advocate PAC last year, the federal government has backed off only slightly, giving Catholic hospitals and others just one more year to comply with the law. Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York stated, “in effect, the president is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences.”

Ironically, 2011 was a good year for the passage of 83 pro-life state laws across the nation, up from 23 that were enacted the year before. This was made possible by gains that Republicans made in the 2010 elections.

Although the number of abortions per year has been in decline, the statistics are still quite grim. The National Right to Life Committee recently estimated that there had been over 54 million abortions performed since the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. Planned Parenthood’s most recent annual report boasted the receipt of \$487.4 million in taxpayer’s funding and the performance of 329,445 abortions.

The new law will also affect private employers whose consciences will be violated. Christian business owners will now be confronted with the prospect of assisting an employee with getting an abortion, simply by providing insurance, and insurance providers who believe that abortion is murder will now be forced to pay for it.

It is evident that Obama, who has recently made comments about being a Christian and claims to read his Bible and pray every day, is obsessed with abortion, as most of the Democratic leadership is. Nancy Pelosi has been reported to have said that the church’s “conscience thing” would endanger women’s health, despite the fact that abortion poses a far more dangerous risk to a woman’s health than pregnancy does.

Why should we be shocked at the lack of conscience and the disregard for human life? The latest issue of the Journal of Medical Ethics included an article by two bioethicists who believe that killing people who are “universally and irreversibly disabled” or have “no abilities to lose”

would not be morally wrong. They wrote, “If killing were wrong just because it is causing death or loss of life, then the same principle would apply with the same strength to pulling weeds out of a garden. If it is not immoral to weed a garden, then life as such cannot really be sacred, and killing as such cannot be morally wrong.”

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court recently refused to hear a case regarding New York City’s ban on allowing schools to rent facilities to churches for services. A federal appeals court’s decision upholding the ban will stand because of the U.S. Supreme Court’s refusal to hear the case. The case came about after the Bronx Household of Faith, that had rented a school since 2002, was affected by the city’s ban. The church’s attorney stated, “it’s a sad day for religious liberty. Churches and religious other groups should be allowed to meet in public buildings on the same terms as other community groups and they’re being denied that in New York City.”

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling claimed that the use of schools by churches amounted to an “unintended bias in favor of Christian religions.”

I coined a phrase some time ago that is fitting – “what the public sees, the public owns” - intending it to apply to government’s attempt to control the design of buildings to meet zoning laws. In this case, the judge said, “in the end, we think the board could have reasonably concluded that what the public would see, (emphasis added) were the Board not to exclude religious worship services, is public schools, which serve on Sundays as state-sponsored Christian churches.”

Our government has been saturated with people who have accumulated power and who no longer have a conscience. At what point will the attacks against the church and against Christians stop in this country? Will they ever stop?

There is no election more important in history than those coming this November. It very well may determine whether the church and Christians will be driven underground or not.

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