



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE, WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

UPDATED: NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

U.S. House Keeps Abortion Funding Out of Health Care Reform

Tell Senators:

- **Follow the House's Lead on Removing Abortion Funding**
- **Protect Conscience Rights**
- **Ensure Affordable Health Coverage**
- **Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance**

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case for genuine health care reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage.
- It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language on this issue. This Amendment ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as part of needed health care reform.
- The Senate must address other essential moral priorities: protecting conscience rights; making health coverage more affordable and accessible for those in need; and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied health care coverage needed for the good of their families and the health of society.

ACTION: Contact Senate and House Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"Please adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment that upholds longstanding policies against abortion funding, and please protect conscience rights in health care reform. Health care must be made more affordable and accessible to those in need, and immigrants must not lose or be denied health care coverage."

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House-passed health care reform bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. Please work to ensure that this essential provision is included in any final bill sent to the President."

WHEN: The Senate schedule is uncertain. **Act today! Thank you!**

For more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' position on authentic health care reform, visit: www.usccb.org/healthcare. 11-13-09

~ THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES 100 YEAR CELEBRATION ~

THE HOLY EUCHARIST - ARTICLE 1: WHY ARE WE HERE?

I am glad to offer brief reflections in the bulletin, over the next several months, on the Eucharist and Catholic Charities. I hope they give you information about the Mass and Catholic Charities which will inspire you all week long. A basic question on the Mass for all us is: Why are we here? Why do we gather week after week for this liturgy we call the Mass? There are probably a lot of answers to that question. Some of us come because it's a habit. Others come out of obligation. Some come because their parents insist on it. Some come for a time of relative peace and quiet. Others come to seek the Lord. Some come because they are burdened with problems. Others come because they are grateful for God's gifts and many of us come for several of those reasons combined. More basic than all of those reasons, however, we all come because God has called us here. It was God who chose us to be members of the Church. It was God who called us to share God's own life through baptism. It was God who called us to carry on the mission of Christ in the world today. We come in response to God's call and we come for Eucharist, which comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. We gather here each week to give God thanks and praise.

Sometimes we may forget that. It's easy to focus on what we hope to get out of coming to church rather than on giving thanks for what God has already given us. The most important thing we find when we gather here is the presence of Christ himself. Christ reveals his presence to us in various ways. He is present in our very gathering, living in each of us who are his tabernacles. He is present as the leader of our worship. He speaks directly to us when God's word is proclaimed in our midst. He offers us his own Body and Blood as our food and drink so that we will be more closely united with him and with one another. We come because Christ is here and because he calls us. Through baptism we all became members of his body, and we come here to remember who we are. Here we are reunited with one another and with him who is our head and when we leave here, we go forth carrying Christ with us, taking him to our world that is in such need of his presence and his love. He teaches us and feeds us here to strengthen us to be Christ-bearers all week. Let us go forth from this place to love and serve the Lord.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST - ARTICLE 2: A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Most Catholics are aware that we cannot celebrate the Eucharist without a priest but this can have an unfortunate side effect. Sometimes it leads us to think of the Mass as something that the priest does for the rest of the church. In fact, the Mass is something that we all do together. We need a priest to lead us, but he needs us to worship with him, too. The first part of the Roman Missal, called the General Instruction, says that "the celebration of the Eucharist is an action of the whole Church." It goes on to say that the people who gather for Mass form "the People of God, purchased by Christ's Blood, gathered together by the Lord, nourished by his Word. It is a people called to bring to God the prayers of the entire human family, a people giving thanks in Christ for the mystery of salvation by offering his Sacrifice. Finally, it is a people made one by sharing in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood. Though holy in its origin, this people nevertheless grows continually in holiness by its conscious, active, and fruitful participation in the mystery of the Eucharist" (#5). We've heard that term a lot in recent years, haven't we? "Full, conscious, active participation by all the people" in the Mass---that's what the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's called the "aim to be considered before all else" (CSL, #14) in the reform and promotion of the liturgy. The council was so concerned about this because it recognized that this kind of participation "is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit." It is by our taking part in the offering of the Mass that we are to become more and more like Christ. It is our primary path to holiness. The council fathers insisted such participation is our right and duty by reason of our baptism, because through baptism, we have become "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9). We all share in the priesthood of Christ, and it is Christ who offers his sacrifice to the Father whenever Mass is celebrated. Thus the council said this full participation is "called for by the very nature of the liturgy." All the baptized form Christ's body and it is the whole Christ, head and members, who offers the sacrifice of the Mass. One of the most important things we might learn in our faith is the importance of the assembly at Mass. Sometimes we think that our presence or our participation doesn't matter much but each one of us is important to the celebration of the liturgy. We each have a role to play that no one else can do for us. Only together can we offer God proper worship. Let us all lift up our voices and our hearts to the Lord as we share in Christ's sacrifice.

~ CATHOLIC CHARITIES 100 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ~



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

Catholic Charities USA celebrates 100 years of service in 2010. What a blessing this is and how much good has been done to serve the poor in those years. I am privileged to be the Director of Catholic Charities of Sacramento and look forward to this blessed 100 celebration. I will provide articles on a regular basis to inform and offer new possibilities.

Some brief historical facts on significant events/developments related to the history of Catholic Charities are as follows:

In 1727, the Ursuline sisters arrived from France to open an orphanage, school for street girls, and health facility in New Orleans. It is the first formal Catholic charity presence in the United States.

In 1845, the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States occurred in St. Louis, Missouri.

By 1900, more than 800 Catholic institutions in the United States provided care to children, the aged, disabled, and the ill.

In 1910, on the campus of Catholic University of America, the National Conference of Catholic Charities was founded to promote the creation of diocesan Catholic charities bureaus. Today Catholic Charities USA continues this legacy.

The National Conference of Catholic Charities, now Catholic Charities USA, was founded to promote the creation of diocesan Catholic charities bureaus, to bring about a sense of solidarity among those in charitable ministries, and to be "the attorney for the poor."

By 1922, thirty-five Central Bureaus of Catholic Charities had been founded. Today there are 1,700 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions.

In 1960, the Association of Ladies of Charity of the United States is founded in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, now Catholic Charities USA.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II addressed the annual meeting of Catholic Charities USA in San Antonio.

Immigration contributed to the growth in Catholic population in U.S. 250,000 in 1820, 1,000,000 in 1840, 5,000,000 in 1870.

In 1900, there were 827 voluntary charitable Catholic institutions in the United States.

In early 1900, there were two major issues for Catholic Charities: Child welfare and protecting their faith Immigration and developing supportive communities.

From 1850 to 1917, Mother Francis Cabrini established hospitals in New York, Chicago and Seattle.

From 1900-1910, the Catholic Church in America moved from mission status to a Church of 12 million. Today there are 65 million Catholics in the United States.

~ CATHOLIC CHARITIES MEDITATION ON FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT READINGS ~

Jeremiah 33:14-16 | 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 | Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

The reign of God is in the present moment, and the opportunities to see and enter into its fullness are all around us. Yet the fulfillment of God's desire for the created order is not yet realized. The reign of God is here and not yet. We live, so to speak, between the times. Advent is the time when we live in a heightened awareness about the tension between the now and the not yet.

The Prophet Jeremiah is an illustration of this reality, emerging from a tradition which, after the Jewish exile in Babylon, longs for a restored Israel. It is the cry of those who have experienced utter destruction and desolation and who cling to the boundless hope that the world will be put right once more. As human beings, we know what it is to fix our gaze on a dream that we so ardently desire, knowing that the realization of the dream may not occur within our own lifetime. Indeed, Moses as the first prophet stood on Mount Nebo and contemplated the land he would never enter, and the prophet Jeremiah today describes with the utmost conviction the dream that will never happen for his people.



Yet the evangelist Luke understands that in Jesus, the righting of wrongs and the restoration of the plan of God for creation are the fulfillment of the hopes; the dream has come true, just not in the way expected! This resonates with us. There is hardly an adult who has not seen how life takes unexpected turns in the way it creates our futures.

We have ample witness of the fulfillment of a dream —although, perhaps not in the way expected—in the experience of refugees resettled into the United States by the Catholic Charities network. After years, often decades, longing for release from the bondage of fear, insecurity, and the cramped uncertainty of refugee camps, thousands of refugees annually find themselves placed with little or no notice into the fast-paced world of 21st century United States. Behind the smiling faces of the welcoming team from Catholic Charities are untold stories of case workers spending countless hours scouting for affordable lodgings, cultivating relationships with employers willing to give refugee immigrants a start in their organizations, and hundreds of volunteer teams gathering furniture and soliciting household items to help stock the apartments of the new arrivals. Here is the face of Christ, transforming desolation and despair into a new order of compassion, solidarity and hope. Here, in this place, in this day, in the strength of a loving community, we need have no fear for the consoling power of God's rule. We need only remain vigilant, eyes peeled, not to miss it.



Prayer

For those who wait in hope of a life restored, for refugees and all those exiled by violence or economic hardship, that they experience the abounding love of the community, we pray to the Lord.

Comment

As we rejoice in the start of a new liturgical calendar, let us also celebrate the 100 years of service by the network of Catholic Charities across the USA, partnering with parish and community members to transform the lives of vulnerable families, children and adults.

PARISH DIRECTORY AT A GLANCE

MINISTRY	LEAD	TELEPHONE
Parish Council	Peter Rufing	478-1198
Liturgy Committee	Rex Rallanka	Rectory 444-3071
Finance Committee	Robert Ingenito	Rectory 444-3071
Cantor	Lola Krist	Rectory 444-3071
Choir-English	Rex Rallanka	Rectory 444-3071
Choir-Spanish	Jerry Vanoye	Rectory 444-3071
Docents	Denise Fracchia	Rectory 444-3071
Environment Committee	Chris Houlemard	Rectory 444-3071
Eucharistic Adoration	Isabella Cazares	391-1760
Evenings of the Engaged	Steve and Mariana Rose	421-2281
Festival of Trees & Lights	Valerie Chun	Rectory 444-3071
Gift Shop	Sister Jenny	444-5364
Hispanic Apostolate	Deacon Raul Leon	Rectory 444-3071
Hospitality Committee	Maria Balaskin	Rectory 444-3071
Knights of Columbus	Fr. Kiernan	Rectory 444-3071
Liturgical Ministries (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altarservers)	Mike Ognisty	Rectory 444-3071
Parish Vocation Committee	Matthew Mlakar	648-3073
Rectory Volunteers & Staff	Fr. Kiernan	Rectory 444-3071
Religious Education & RCIA	Sr. Jenny	444-5364
Social Committee	Dawn Ruffing	Rectory 444-3071
Social Justice Committee	David Clements	646-1800
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Deacon Jorge Usi	Rectory 444-3071
Ushers	Tom Waddock	Rectory 444-3071
Visiting the Sick	Deacon Raul Leon	Rectory 444-3071
Welcome Back Program	Tim Longdon	Rectory 444-3071
Youth Spanish Group	Edgar & Leticia Hilbert	440-6211 or 261-6504

I am grateful to all who serve our parish in these ministries. We need more to help in these areas and new ministries can develop as in God's grace people come forward. May the Holy Spirit lead us and the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, inspire us.

~CHRISTMAS ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM ~

Catholic Charities of Sacramento is seeking individuals or families interested in 'adopting' a local family in need for Christmas. Donors are asked to provide gifts as well as a grocery store gift card. This year we are anticipating that more families will be in need than ever before. Please call the Catholic Charities office at 916-733-0253 for more information. You may also visit our website at www.diocese-sacramento.org in the Social Service Ministry section to obtain a donor registration form or to apply online.

~ CATHEDRAL YOUTH GROUP ~

The Cathedral Youth Group (English and Spanish young people) meets every other Wednesday evening in the Lower Level from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday December 2, 2009. Please join the group for a young persons Catholic experience. For more information, contact Leticia and Edgar Hilbert at 457-1552 or Sister Jenny at 444-5364.

~ PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES ~

Join like-minded Catholics as we venerate the relics of St. James the Apostle and St. Teresa of Avila and Journey to Lourdes, Fatima, Lisbon, Santiago de Compostela, Avila, Madrid, Saragossa, Barcelona. We leave from SFO June 1st and return June 14th, 2010. For more info call Karen Chappellear, 652-7560.

~ "CHRISTMAS MEMORIES" ~

Friday ~ Dec. 11, 2009 at 7:00 pm



Featuring musical selections from our Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs!

**St. Clare Church
1950 Junction Blvd.
Roseville, CA 95747**

Admission is Free! All are Welcome!

~ NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY ~

December 31, 2009 from 8:00 pm to 1:30 am

St. Lawrence Church Hall

4325 Don Julio Blvd. ~ North Highlands, CA

Music by DJ ~ Nene Sablan

~includes~

Hors D'oeuvres, Party Favors, Mid-night Champagne Toast and Breakfast!

\$25 per person until December 1



\$30 until December 30

\$35 at the door

For tickets and information call:

St. Lawrence Church Office @ (916) 332-4777

~ H1N1 PRECAUTIONS ~

In order to lessen the impact of the H1N1 flu on all, Bishop Soto has advised all parishes in the diocese to temporarily discontinue communion under both species and to refrain from shaking hands with others during the Sign of Peace. During the sign of peace, it is suggested that a simple bow to others with a greeting will suffice.

CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

MON 11/30/2009 ST ANDREW, APOSTLE

Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4: 18-22

12:10 pm: Iluminada Garcia +

5:10 pm: Raul Luis Rodriguez +

TUES 12/1/2009 ADVENT TUESDAY

Is 11: 1-10; Lk 10: 21-24

12:10 pm: Mary Alice Wuydts +

5:10 pm: Chris Alvarez, S.I.

WED 12/2/2009 ADVENT WEDNESDAY

Is 25: 6-10A; Mt 15: 29-37

12:10 pm: Edward Molfino +

5:10 pm: Cesar Fernandez Coya +

THU 12/3/2009 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

Is 26: 1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

12:10 pm: Francis I Elliot +

5:10 pm: Virginia Brooks +

FRI 12/4/2009 ST JOHN OF DAMASCUS, DOCTOR

Is 29: 17-24; Mt 9: 27-31

12:10 pm: Sophie Lazzara +

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM

TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES 391-1760 OR 833-1948,

OR E-MAIL BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET

CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY

AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Please Print Clearly. Thank You!

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____
(Last) (First)

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

New or Change Address *Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!* Offering Envelopes Yes No