



# ACTION ALERT

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NCHLA.ORG

## Co-sponsor Respect for Rights of Conscience Act

The 2010 comprehensive health care reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), poses new risks to religious freedom and rights of conscience. To correct these problems, Reps. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Dan Boren (D-OK) introduced the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act in the House (H.R. 1179), and Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) sponsored the companion bill in the Senate (S. 1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health care system “retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.”

*Recent developments have only confirmed the seriousness of these concerns.* On July 19, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommended to the Department of Health and Human Services a list of “preventive services for women” *required* to be covered under PPACA. Cardinal DiNardo, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, objected to mandated coverage not only for surgical sterilization but also for “all FDA-approved birth control (including the IUD, ‘morning-after’ pills, and the abortion-inducing drug Ella)” and for “education and counseling” to promote these among all “women of reproductive capacity.” Insurance plans will be required to cover these controversial practices without a co-pay from recipients. “The considerable cost of these practices will be paid by *all* who participate in health coverage. . . . [S]uch a mandate would require all . . . to carry health coverage that violates the deeply-held moral and religious convictions of many.” See: [usccb.org/news/2011/11-143.cfm](http://usccb.org/news/2011/11-143.cfm).

On August 1, HHS adopted the IOM recommendations in the form of an interim final rule (60 days for public comment). The rule allows an exemption for a “religious employer,” which Cardinal DiNardo charged is defined so narrowly “as to exclude most Catholic social services agencies and healthcare providers.” See: [usccb.org/news/2011/11-154.cfm](http://usccb.org/news/2011/11-154.cfm).

It is more important than ever that Members of Congress be urged to co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, as Cardinal DiNardo states in a July 22 letter to Congress at: [nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/1179-07-22-11.pdf](http://nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/1179-07-22-11.pdf). To see if your Representative or Senators are co-sponsors, please check H.R. 1179 and S. 1467 at: [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov).

**ACTION:** Contact your U.S. Representative and two Senators by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members’ local offices.
- Send an e-mail through NCHLA’s Grassroots Action Center at: [nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=292](http://nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=292).
- Additional contact info can be found on Members’ web sites at: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

**MESSAGE:** “Please co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). This measure ensures that the rights of conscience of all participants in our nation’s health care system will be respected.”

**WHEN:** Now is the time to build co-sponsors. Please act today! Thanks! Updated 8/3/11

# Get Involved!

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### at Sacred Heart Parish

Our **ADULT CHOIR** will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 8:00 PM in the church. The choir will sing the first two Sundays of the month at the 11:30 AM Mass. The remaining Sundays of the month at the 9:00 AM Mass. Any person high school age or older is welcome to become a member. The choir also sings for various Holy Days and concerts (including "Another Night On Broadway") throughout the year. New members are always needed and welcome. *Have you heard?* Heard the song of the congregation lately? Such a glorious sound! Certainly there are those of you in the pews that would enjoy and enhance our music program by being a part of the choir. Why not consider joining us? There is no need for special training, just a desire to praise God through sung prayer.

Our **ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR** will resume rehearsals Thursday, September 22, 6:45 PM. We will rehearse in the Music Room of Holy Savior Academy. The Adult Bell Choir will ring once a month at the 9:00 AM Mass. There is no need for you to read music as all the handbell music is color coded. We need 11 ringers for the group to play at its maximum potential, new members are welcome and needed. Any person high school age and older is welcome to join.

Our **ADVANCED YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR** will begin rehearsals Tuesday, September 13 at 2:15 PM in church. The rehearsals are from 2:15-3:15 PM. This choir accepts new members by audition only. The choir will rehearse weekly on Tuesdays afternoons and ring at the 11:30 AM Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month as well as on Christmas, and special occasions. For students that were in the Advanced Group, if you wish to return, you are welcome. Based on the number of ringers returning, we will know how many new members we can welcome. If you intend to return, please contact Mr. Mahoney at [Dan410@aol.com](mailto:Dan410@aol.com).

The **CHILDREN'S CHOIR** is for students in grades 1 and 2. The choir will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 20. Rehearsals will be 4:30-5:00 PM in the church. The Children's Choir will sing the first Sunday of each month at the 9:00 AM Mass as well as Christmas, Easter, and the "Night on Broadway" concert. \* Registration forms available online at the parish website, music ministry.

The **MIDDLE CHOIR** is for students in grades 3-8. The choir will also resume rehearsals on Tuesday, September 20. Rehearsals will be 3:30-4:15 PM in the church. The Middle choir will sing the second Sunday of the month at the 9:00 AM Mass and also 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at the 5:00 PM Mass. The Middle choir also sings for Christmas, Easter, and for the "Night on Broadway" concert.\* Registration forms available online at the parish website, music ministry.

The **FOLK GROUP** welcomes, vocalists, and instrumentalists to become a part of their ensemble. The Folk Group plays at the 5:00 PM Saturday evening Mass. The group meets for rehearsal at 4:30PM before Mass begins.

Questions about any of these choirs can be directed to: Dan Mahoney at 908.756.0633 ext. 139 or via email [Dan410@aol.com](mailto:Dan410@aol.com).

**VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE!**

*Parish information at your fingertips*



For details about our upcoming events  
See <http://www.ChurchoftheSacredHeart.net>  
and click on the **PARISH CALENDAR**

**WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?** For the past 3 years, Sacred Heart has been organizing, sorting and cataloging volumes of our archival documents. We are currently working on the archives from our various current and past organizations, groups, and councils. If any individual or group has material you would like to donate to our archives (or we can copy and return the originals to you) please bring them to the parish center, marked "archives" with your name and phone number. Items would include photographs (with date, event, and names of those in the photograph, if possible) old newspaper clippings (dated, with the newspaper indicated) minutes from meetings, correspondence, plaques, pins, programs, etc. If you have any questions about what might be archival material, call Sr. Kathleen at x142. Thank you for keeping our history alive!

**PILGRIMAGE TO GRAYMOOR** - The Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society will host a pilgrimage to the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor, Garrison, NY, on **Tuesday, October 18**. The bus leaves from the church parking lot at 8 AM, with ETA 5 PM. \$60 includes, bus, driver's tip, hot buffet lunch, water & snacks on board. Graymoor tour, Mass and time to explore on your own. The Society of Atonement was founded on Dec. 15, 1898, when Father Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana White set about turning the "howling wilderness" in a mountainous spot above the Hudson River into what they felt it to be, a Holy Mountain. Today, as a distinct religious community within the Franciscan family, the Friars of the Atonement follow their founders in simplicity, poverty and peacemaking. For info/reservations, call Kathy 908-756-3772 or Nancy 908-561-5917.

## THE PELICAN & THE EUCHARIST

From time-to-time people have questioned what is the central image that is depicted on the main Altar in our church. The ancient Christian symbol of the Pelican is carved in white marble and surrounded by inlaid gold mosaic tile. There is a good reason that this winged creature appears at the base of the Altar - the Table of Sacrifice. The Pelican is symbolic of Christ and the Church. It is a powerful image of the Eucharist. The mother pelican spreads her wings to shelter and protect her young. She has given them life. In a time of want and need, when the material resources of this world could not sustain her brood, the pelican made the penultimate sacrifice. She gave her very flesh and blood as food and drink for her young. So strong was her love that she would give her life for them. Jesus has given His very life for us that we might live. It is the greatest sacrifice, an act of unbounded, unconditional love. Christ feeds us with His very Body and Blood, and bids us come to the Eucharist as one family united in love and in the healing bond of reconciliation. (John 6, 53-58) . We are nourished and fed at this Banquet to grow strong in the life that is our God. From here we are sent to carry Christ to the world. **"See what you are, and become what you receive."** — St. Augustine of Hippo

