

An Important Message from Cardinal Wuerl

Dear Brother Priests and Parishioners,

We have all heard much over the past few years about the cause of reforming health care in the United States. Until now, federal law has never prevented Catholic institutions like the Archdiocese of Washington from providing for the needs of their employees with a health plan that is consistent with Catholic moral teachings. However, the Department of Health and Human Services is currently considering adopting regulations that would threaten that freedom.

Under the proposed HHS regulations, virtually all Catholic hospitals, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, and charitable organizations would be required to provide coverage for sterilization procedures and contraception, including drugs that may induce abortions, unless they stop hiring and stop serving non-Catholics. The regulations would place many Catholic employers in the untenable position of having to choose between violating the law and violating their conscience.

This is an issue of fundamental, national importance. Recently the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* ran a letter published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and signed by over four hundred prominent Catholic leaders calling on Congress to reconsider this unprecedented assault on religious liberty.

Given the importance of this matter, I encourage you to visit the USCCB website and also to invite others to do the same. No freedom is more precious and deserving of vigilance than our freedom of conscience.

With every personal good wish, I am

Faithfully in Christ,
Donald Cardinal Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun., Jan. 8 Y.F.F. classes resume; 9:30 AM
 Tues., Jan. 10 RCIA/Adult Education, 6:30 PM. C. Center
 Sun., Jan. 15 No Y.F.F. classes – Martin L. King Holiday
 Fri., Jan. 20 Meeting for all Eucharistic Ministers, 7PM,
 In Church
 Mon., Jan. 23 Meeting for all daily and Sunday mass
 Lectors, 7PM, in Church.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION NEWS

- Sun., Jan. 8 Meeting for Parents of all 2nd Grade
 students planning to make their Sacrament of
 Reconciliation at St. George, 9:45am, Comm. Center.

TEEN YOUTH GROUP

Teens: It's time for a field trip! Join us on **Saturday, January 21** for a trip to St. Peter's in Waldorf for the FUSION Concert with Steve Angrisano. Tickets are \$10 plus money for dinner on the way up. We'll leave Leonardtown at 5:30pm and return at 10. We need at least four teens to attend, so let Karen know as soon as possible if you want to go.

More details to follow soon. **Karen: karenafarr@yahoo.com or 240-298-3520**

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL NEWS

- Tue., Jan. 31 **Open House at L.F.S., 8am-2pm** in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week. (Doors are always open for visits at any time.) 20410 Pt. Lookout Rd.; 301-994-0404.
 Fri., Feb. 3 **EASY MONEY RAFFLE at Italian Night. Grand Prize \$2,500. Tickets \$25.** (301-994-2545)
 Sat., Feb. 25 **Annual Auction-Sponsors** needed 301-994-0404.

AREA NEWS

- Sun., Jan. 8 **All You Can Eat Breakfast, Valley Lee Firehall, 8-11 AM.** Adult \$8; Child 6-12 \$4; Under 5 Free. Sponsored by 2nd Dist. VFD & RS Auxiliary. 301-994-9099
 Sun., Jan. 8 **Fr. A. White Home & School Breakfast. 8-11:30am.** \$8 age 13 to adult; \$4 age 4-12; under 4 FREE.
 Mon., Jan. 23 **Annual March for Life.** Info: 301-862-2479 or patforlife06@yahoo.com. Watch bulletin for more details.

Church Missions in the United States Collection Jan. 7/8

This new endeavor supports home mission dioceses in the U.S. and our African American and Native American Catholic brothers and sisters whose parishes financially struggle even in the best of times. Thank you for whatever you can do.

SCHEDULES:	ALTAR SERVERS	ORGANIST/ CANTOR	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	GREETERS	SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat., Jan. 14 5:00 PM	E. Carpenter J. Newman	B. Carpenter B. Carpenter	M. Kibler K. Owens	C. Galli P. Browne A. Fenwick	G. Adams Volunteer	First: 1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19
Sun., Jan. 15 8:30 AM	K. Carpenter E. Carpenter W. Hooper	B. Carpenter J. Heather	N. Neel B. Walker	Deacon Carpenter P. Bowes B. Adams	J. Rodgers B. Thompson	Second: 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20a
Sun., Jan. 15 11:00 AM	A. Hills C. Cartwright A. Knott	J. Lenderman C. Kolman	T. Buckler T. Galligan	Deacon L'Heureux A. Taylor M. Taylor	J. Robison J. Quirk	Gospel: Jn 1:35-42

Daily Mass Lector, Jan. 9, 10, 12, 13 M. Goldsmith, N. Neel, A. Fenwick, B. Walker
Meals on Wheels, Jan. 10, 11, 12 M. A. Hammett & M. J. O'Connor, K. Owens, J. McKay

