

Life, Liberty and the Little Sisters of the Poor

Becket Fund President Spoke in Madison

On February 26th, William Mumma described his group's legal work in several cases involving religious freedom, including the suit brought against the government by the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Becket Fund advocates, legally, for the free expression of all faiths in the U.S.

Speaking before an audience of both attorneys and layman at St. Paul Inside the Walls, the Catholic Center for Evangelization at Bayley-Ellard, Mr. Mumma pointed out that freedom of religion is not a political "wedge" issue because it is strongly supported across the political spectrum. He encouraged attendees to visit the Becket Fund website to find out more about the cases in which they are involved.

A member of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sister Margaret also spoke to the audience, stating that their mission of helping the elderly includes operating a number of homes, all of which are highly regulated, and which abide by all rules and laws. Because they care for any and all elderly, not just Catholics, the Department of Health & Human Services says they are not really a "religious" organization and must abide by the government mandate that says the order must include medical insurance coverage of items, such as abortifacients, that are morally objectionable. The Becket Fund is assisting the Sisters in their law suit.

Mr. Mumma was hopeful that the defense of religious liberty will continue to be upheld because of the long history of religious liberty in the U.S., which he observed is more strongly supported than in many other countries. America, he said, has a higher level of religious participation, more tested legal structures, and independent voices and groups to defend religious freedom.

If my people, who are called by name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:15.

40 Days for Life (Lent 2014)

LifeNet is asking for volunteers to come and pray for one hour per week for 6 weeks during Lent across the street from a high-volume abortion facility in Montclair. Call Chris Flaherty at 973-509-8123 or email: lifenetcf@verizon.net.

The Inside Story of *Roe v. Wade*

Clarke Forsythe has studied *Roe v. Wade* for 25 years. But his research took an interesting twist over the past decade due to the release of the personal papers of some Supreme Court justices who were part of that fateful decision.

Forsythe serves as the senior counsel at Americans United for Life & has authored *Abuse of Discretion* (\$28, Encounter Books). The author notes that a second decision, *Doe v. Bolton*, defined "health as any reason or factor related to the emotional well-being of the patient. Thus, it became an unlimited health "definition." This explains why we are one of only four nations (North Korea, China, Canada and the U.S.) that allow abortion for any reason after fetal viability.

Because two justices had recently resigned, the balance on the court tipped towards pro-abortion. Forsythe observes that oral arguments were heard in December 1971, and the issue was immediately pushed to sweep away abortion laws before the vacancies could be filled.

The author was surprised to find that the justices latched onto the medical myth that abortion is safer than childbirth. The Supreme Court blundered by deciding the case with no evidentiary record on abortion or its implications, and violated a long-standing principle of not deciding constitutional questions without an adequate record. In *Roe* and *Doe*, there was no evidentiary record at all.

Contrary to the normal conduct of the court, Forsythe explains that the justices not only invalidated legitimate state statutes but proceeded to write a detailed, national abortion law that it has continued to impose for 40 years. [Source: *Our Sunday Visitor*, Feb. 23, 2014.]

Rockaway's St. Cecilia's Life Runners

Life Runners picked up 11 legs of the second annual pro-Life "A-Cross the Country Relay" and fundraiser on March 5 and 6. The mission of Life Runners, established in 2008, is to pray, fundraise, run and walk as a team to end legalized abortion. Team members wear a royal blue jersey with words, "Remember the Unborn, Jer. 1:5." The Relay covers 4,100 miles, comprising 1,103 legs of about 5k each, and occurs each Lent from the east and west coasts, uniting at the finish line on Palm Sunday in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Man Charged with Murder for Lacing Girlfriend's Pancake with Abortion Drug

by Cheryl Sullenger | LifeNews.com | 2/27/14

The Kansas Attorney General's office has charged Scott Robert Bolling, 30, of first degree murder and three other counts after he laced his pregnant girlfriend's pancake with a crushed abortion pill, causing the death of Naomi Abbott's 8-week-old pre-born baby, which the mother wanted.

Troy Newman, president of Operation Rescue, said: "The abortion pill is far too easy to obtain in this country and it is time for new laws that prohibit the Internet or mail order sale of RU-486 and Cytotec," said Newman. "This is the second time a case like this has hit the headlines within weeks and we can only expect more if the sale of these dangerous abortion-inducing drugs are not immediately banned from sale to anyone with an Internet connection or a postage stamp." Cytotec, also known as Misoprostol, is a labor-inducing drug while the RU-486 abortion drug goes by the alternate name Mifepristone.

"The Bolling murder case also focuses a laser light on inconsistencies in how we, as a society, view human beings at the earliest stages of development," said Newman. "If the death of Naomi Abbott's baby is murder, then the death of every other baby should be considered murder, too. How one feels about a pre-born baby simply does not magically confer humanity onto the child. Pre-born babies are in fact human beings at an early stage of development and each one deserves the same protections under the law."

THE OSCARS: Best Supporting Actor Jared Leto Thanks Single, High School Dropout Mom For Not Aborting Him

During his acceptance speech, Leto told the story of his mother who fought to create a better life for him despite her status as a high school dropout and single mother.

Leto won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his controversial role in portraying a transgender diagnosed with AIDS in *Dallas Buyers Club*. Leto first thanked his mother: "In 1971, Bossier City, Louisiana, there was a teenage girl who was pregnant with her second child. She was a high school dropout and a single mom, but somehow she managed to make a better life for herself and her children. ... That girl is my mother and she's here tonight. And I just want to say 'I love you mom, thank you for teaching me to dream.'"

Time magazine's Isaac Guzmán called the acceptance speech "amazing" while *Mashable*'s Neha Prakash described his words as "beyond perfect." *PolicyMic* dubbed it "incredible," ABC News (via AP) noted the speech as

unselfish and "touching," and even celebrity blogger Perez Hilton gushed, "his speech will leave you in tears!" Nice to see the the media press pause on their routine language and coverage in order to celebrate life, even if briefly. [Source: Katie Yoder, LifeNews.com, 3/3/14.]

Pro-Life Women's Group Seeks Young Pro-Life Women for Leadership Award

by Mallory Quigley | LifeNews.com | 1/31/14

Do you know a young woman who is leading the fight to protect the unborn in your community, whether on her University campus, in your state legislature, in the media, or in a local pregnancy center? If so, please take a moment to nominate her for our Young Leader award!

This award is handed out every year at the Susan B. Anthony List Gala & Summit. The award seeks to honor young women who embody the pro-life legacy of Susan B. Anthony, and encourage a new group of young women leaders in their efforts to stand up for Life.

Susan B. Anthony was a trailblazer during her time for the rights of women. Anthony and the other suffragettes including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Victoria Woodhull, and Alice Paul, were also staunch advocates for the right to life of the unborn. Through Young Leader awards, the Susan B. Anthony List honors a new generation of trailblazers.

It is a great way to encourage the pro-Life work that is happening around the country. Past recipients include: Lila Rose, Founder of Live Action; Amanda Haas, President of Liberty University's CWA Chapter; Rachel Burgin, State Representative (FL); Catherine Foster, Founded Advocates for Life; Laura Wegmann, Indiana's Right to Life Director; Grace Daigler, VP and Treasurer of Students for Life at Franciscan University; and Catherine Wilcox, a Non-Profit and Political lawyer.

Last year, awardee Jessie Liz Clement – then 14 years old – performed her pro-life song "HEY WORLD, an anthem for the unborn," at the event prior to the awards ceremony.

Rob Moll, author of "The Art of Dying: Living Fully into the Life to Come," says that proponents of

assisted suicide usually present us with a false choice. "These simplistic narratives assume the only choice is to be hooked up to painful and futile life support or to inject poison. Americans need to know the dignity that comes when we allow ourselves to be cared for by those who love us, who want to care for us, & by professionals who have dedicated their lives to taking care of people through medicine." [Source: BreakPoint.org]