



Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
 201 Broadway
 Norwich, Connecticut 06360
 (860) 887-9294

MOST REVEREND
 MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

May 14, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

On May 9, 2007, the Bishops of Connecticut wrote to Governor Rell urging her to veto Senate Bill 1343, which would require Connecticut's Catholic hospitals to provide the Plan B medication in all situations, including situations in which the medication can only act as an abortifacient by impeding the implantation of a fertilized ovum. This requirement is in direct opposition to our religious belief that life begins at the moment of conception and as such is a serious violation of a basic tenet of the Catholic faith.

Contrary to the assertions by others, Senate Bill 1343 does not represent any compromise: it would still require that Catholic hospitals allow the administration of Plan B in all situations on hospital premises. Even though the Bill would allow Catholic hospitals to contract with an agent or contractor to administer the medication, such action would still involve the hospital in the administration of Plan B on the hospital premises in situations and a manner that are contrary to Catholic religious beliefs and moral values.

It is not for the State of Connecticut, or its General Assembly, or respectfully, its Governor, to judge whether the religious beliefs of Connecticut's bishops are correct, or to choose between those beliefs and the beliefs of others. That Connecticut's bishops choose to follow certain religious tenets in a manner different from others does not alter the genuine character of the religious tenets or the importance to the Connecticut bishops of the manner in which they follow the tenets.

Senate Bill 1343 is an assault on religious freedom that violates a fundamental right upon which our country was founded and that is protected in the United States and Connecticut Constitutions as well as in Federal and state statutes.

Senate Bill 1343 is a very dangerous precedent that threatens the religious freedom of every citizen and religious organization in Connecticut. If this Bill becomes law, what next? Please urge your local legislator to see the light. Senate Bill 1343 is simply bad policy and bad law!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael R. Cote

Bishop of Norwich

readings for the week

Sunday: Ascension of the Lord: Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
 Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19
 Saturday: Mass in the morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25
 Next Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
 Day: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

youth group at cornerstone

Some members of the Youth Group will be going to Cornerstone on Saturday, May 26 to help prepare and serve lunch. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:50 am.

did you know...?

Did you know that the Youth Group is collecting empty soda cans and bottles and turning them into cash for their activities? All recyclable cans and bottles that carry a 5-cent deposit will be taken. For more information, or to schedule a drop-off time, please contact Rella at 875-4563 or rella@sacredheartchurch.net.

The Youth Group is also collecting empty ink cartridges for printers and used cell phones. If your company is discarding ink/laser cartridges, please consider asking them to donate the empties to the Youth Group.

welcome to sacred heart parish!

The following families have recently registered in our parish:

Brian & Diane Hayes and children, Jocelyn & Jayden
 Forest & Barbara Nutini
 Joseph & Anne Tindal and children, Samuel & Abigail

We welcome these families and look forward to getting to know them as we come together to worship.

mass of healing

Pentecost Pontifical Mass of Healing will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Patrick on Sunday, May 27th Prayer for Release of the Holy Spirit at 1:00 p.m., a Pontifical Mass with Bishop Michael Cote as celebrant and homilist at 2:00 p.m. For more information please call the Spiritual Renewal Center at 887-0702.

* Note: Some groups meeting at Sacred Heart including but not limited to *Brownies*, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book* and *Narcotics Anonymous* are not part of and not acting on behalf of the parish or Diocese

thank you

Dear Sacred Heart Parish,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$300.00 to Haitian Ministries!

Your donation is incredibly important to us and will be used to support our organization in its mission of "helping Haitians help Haitians" through support of Haitian-initiated projects. These funds support our ministry and our programs serving the poor of Haiti.

Each year, through your generosity, we are becoming more effective in making real change in the lives of Haiti's poorest and most vulnerable. Our programs touch the lives of thousands of children who otherwise would not be able to go to school, eat a nutritious meal, or receive vital medical attention. In our outreach at Norwich Mission House, we are continuing to welcome more travelers to visit Haiti and see the work of the ministry first hand. Please contact me if you wish to travel with us and feel free to check our website (www.haitianministries.org) for our upcoming events.

Last month we had our first annual "For the Love of a Child" Gala and raised over \$60,000 in donations for children in Haiti. Many of the attendees decided to sponsor a child in our programs for a year - providing support for food, shelter and medical care for \$275 a year. We are very excited about this new sponsorship program and hope to expand to include all of the children in our ministry!

With your help we are making a difference in Haiti and on behalf of our board of directors, staff and the people of Haiti I thank you for your generosity.

Best wishes,



Emily Smack
Executive Director

mass for those dedicated to education

The Annual Mass for Those Dedicated to Education will be held on September 9, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at The Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich with Bishop Michael Cote as the celebrant. The committee is **seeking additional volunteers** to help plan and organize the Mass. The meetings are held in the Bishop Hines Conference Center at the Chancery and the dates are as follows: Monday, May 21, 2007 at 4:00 p.m., Monday, June 25, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., Monday, July 23, 2007 at 10:30 a.m., and Monday, August 27, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.. For more information please call The Chancery office, 860-887-9294.

east catholic make-up entrance exam

Wednesday, May 23, 2:45pm (for 8th graders who haven't already taken the exam)

Exam fee is \$20, non-refundable, payable on the exam day. Pre-registration is not required

Questions? Call: Mrs. Jacqueline M. Gryphon, Director of Admissions at 649-5336x238. East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road, Manchester, CT 06040-18998

memorial day mass at saint bernard cemetery

On Monday, May 28, 2007, Memorial Day, we will hold a Mass at St. Bernard Cemetery at 11am. for all those buried in our cemetery and for all our deceased parishioners. Please bring your lawn chairs. In the event of rain, Mass will be held at St. Bernard Church.

banns of marriage

II Wes Gohn & Lindsey Daniels

your help, please

One of the requests for our 50th Anniversary is to **fix up the gardens** around the Church and perhaps to **make an outside Prayer Garden**. For this, people are needed.

There will be a meeting with Father Stan of anyone who wishes to help with the Church gardens at 7:00pm **on Tuesday, May 22nd** in the Fellowship Rooms. Refreshments will be served.

2007 annual bishop's appeal "the gift you have been given, give as a gift"

If you have not yet responded to Bishop Cote's invitation to support the 2007 ABA. please do so today. The ABA provides broader and more extensive services than those available at individual Parishes. Your support is vital to our Diocesan mission to be Jesus' heart of mercy, voice of hope and hands of justice. Without your help this work would not continue. Please be generous. Thank you.

MAY 20, 2007

the work of the church

- SATURDAY** SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
5:00pm Mass: *Henry Jakielo*, requested by Phyllis Plover
- SUNDAY** SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:00am Mass: *For Those in Whose Memory Easter Flowers Were Given*
10:30am Mass: *Anna Viscogliosi*, requested by her daughter, Lori Calabrese, and Family
- MONDAY**
9:00am Mass: *Gaspere Davia*, requested by his wife, Maria
- TUESDAY** RITA OF CASCIA
9:00am Mass: *Leon Archambault*, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family
- WEDNESDAY**
9:00am Mass: *Anthony & Maria Minissale*, requested by Frank & Maria Neri
- THURSDAY**
4:30-6pm Sacrament of Reconciliation, living room
7:00pm Mass: *Omer Perriolat*, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family
- FRIDAY** BEDE, DOCTOR / GREGORY VII / MARY
MAGDALENE DEI PAZZI
9:00am Mass: *Maria & Joseph Cuda*, requested by Frank & Maria Neri
10:30am Mass and Anointing at Vernon Manor
- SATURDAY** PHILIP NERI, PRIEST / PENTECOST
5:00pm Mass: *Angelo & Doloresse Bernabucci*, requested by Richard & Rella Bernabucci
- SUNDAY** PENTECOST
8:00am Mass: *Cathleen Doyle*, requested by Joe & Elaine Brown
10:30am Mass: *Kathleen Horvath*, requested by her family

meetings

- SATURDAY** **Vernon Garden Club Plant Sale**
7:00pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, Northeast Rooms
- SUNDAY** **Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass**
- MONDAY**
Offices Closed
- TUESDAY**
10:30am Baptism Prep II
7:00pm **Flower Committee**, South Community Rooms
7:30pm **Volunteers for Pictorial**, Library
- WEDNESDAY**
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous***, South Community Rooms
- THURSDAY**
10:00am **Bible Study**, South Community Rooms
7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**, Eucharistic Chapel
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book***, South Community Rooms
- SATURDAY**
7:00pm **YOUTH GROUP AT CORNERSTONE**
- SUNDAY** **Narcotics Anonymous***, Northeast Rooms
Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass