



Una Fides

An Apostolate
for Today's Catholic

- ◆ PRAYER
- ◆ FELLOWSHIP
- ◆ STUDY

Newsletter

Since 2003

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July:

That World Youth Day in Brazil may encourage all young Christians to become disciples and missionaries of the Gospel.

Wisdom of the Saints for July

St. Bonaventure July 15th

"When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than that proceeding from the mouth."

St. Ignatius Loyola July 31st

"Go forth and set the world on fire."



Let Freedom Ring!

As the bells peal again to mark our nation's birthday, and we plan picnics and family gatherings, sparklers and fireworks, remember also the meaning of this day: celebrating the beginning of a country dedicated to the God-given rights of freedom and liberty. Our pledge promises "liberty and justice for all." Our anthem proclaims us to be "the Land of the Free, the Home of the Brave." In New York's harbor, Lady Liberty lifts her lamp in welcome to the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Freedom is the essential foundation of the United States of America and must be guarded and protected by all its citizens. As Elmer Davis famously cautioned: "This will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." Today, in the face of many external and internal crises, many of our freedoms are being exchanged for promises of safety and security.

Our Bishops ask us now to pray for wisdom - wisdom to know God's design for man's freedom and society. Our Bishops urge us to say a daily rosary as well as to fast and abstain on all Fridays for the intentions of life, marriage and religious liberty.

We Need to Wake Up!

*.... the latest IRS ugliness is a hint of the treatment disfavored religious groups may face in the future, if we sleep through the national discussion of religious liberty now. The day when Americans could take the Founders' understanding of religious freedom as a given is over. **We need to wake up.***
Archbishop Charles Chaput

It has been shocking to learn that the IRS has been discriminating against conservative groups. What has garnered scant media attention, however, is that religious groups were also singled out for discrimination. We now know that Justice is not blind. In fact, Catholics and evangelical Christians brave enough to speak openly about the tenets of their faith have become targets of the IRS. The current IRS scandal directly addresses the issue of religious liberty as Archbishop Chaput so strikingly stated.

However, it now appears the IRS also challenged some individuals and religious groups that, while defending key elements of their faith traditions, have criticized projects dear to the current White House, such as health care reform, abortions rights and same sex marriage.

*Terry Mattingly, Director
Washington Journalism Center,
May 22, 2013*

It is illustrative to examine the following revelations:

- Christian Voices for Life of Ft. Bend County, Texas was ordered by an IRS agent working out of the California office to explain the content of their prayers and prayer meetings. They were treated as if they were engaging in criminal activity. They were questioned extensively about their participation in 40 Days for Life and Life Chains.
- Coalition for Life of Iowa was interrogated for 10 months about the group's opposition to Planned Parenthood. The IRS made the following unusual request as a condition for approving their tax exempt status. They were to "have all Coalition Board members sign a statement that the Coalition will not 'picket' or 'protest' outside of Planned Parenthood or similar organizations and will not organize others to do so." They were required to sign this statement under penalty of perjury.
- Cherish Life Ministries were refused non-profit status because they did not present pro-abortion arguments alongside their pro-life arguments.
- National Organization for Marriage, a group promoting traditional marriage, had its confidential tax information leaked by the IRS to the homosexual activist group, the Human Rights Campaign. The National Organization for Marriage and the Human Rights Campaign are on opposite sides of the marriage issue. In a violation of federal law, donor lists from the National Organization for Marriage were leaked to the Human Rights Campaign, causing the pro-marriage group to be harassed and intimidated. At the time these documents were leaked to the Human Rights Campaign, its president was also the co-chair of President Obama's re-election campaign.



- The Reverend Billy Graham's two organizations, The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, were contacted by the IRS in September of 2012 and notified that a review of both organizations would be conducted for the year ending 2010. In April of 2012, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which is headquartered in North Carolina, had taken out full-page ads in newspapers throughout North Carolina, supporting the Marriage Amendment in that state. Below are excerpts from a letter that Franklin Graham sent to President Obama on May 14, 2013.

I write today to inform you this profiling by the IRS was not limited to conservative political organizations; indeed, it extended to religious charities- Jewish and Christian-as well....

In light of what the IRS admitted on Friday, May 10, 2013, and subsequent revelations from other sources, I do not believe that the IRS audit of our two tax organizations last year is a coincidence or justifiable.

- Dr. Anne Hendershott, a Franciscan University of Steubenville faculty member and one of the leading Catholic sociologists in the United States, wrote a series of articles pointing out the flaws and failings of the President's health care plan. She also wrote several pieces about the connection between groups like Catholics United, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, Service Employees International Union and the community organizing group ACORN, and she exposed the fact that George Soros was providing funding for dissident Catholic groups such as Catholics United and Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good.

Following the publication of these articles, Dr. Hendershott was notified by the IRS that they were auditing her "business" affairs dealing with her writing. As Dr. Hendershott is rarely paid for her writing, she thought this request was rather curious. She was repeatedly asked to name groups and organizations that were paying her and what their backgrounds were. Every deposit to her bank account was scrutinized, and had to be sourced. The request for information was relentless and even continued after the audit was completed. She felt intimidated and concerned for her family. The audit basically silenced her as she curtailed her writing on these controversial topics. The audit had a definite chilling effect on Dr. Hendershott's free speech. It is only now, in light of the growing IRS scandal, that she has come forward to speak about her ordeal with the IRS.

"When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.

When the government fears the people, there is liberty."

Thomas Jefferson

The IRS scandal is the latest salvo in the attack on our religious liberty. The major battle looms as the HHS Mandate goes into effect on August 1st. When it does, all people of faith will be forced to violate their beliefs and consciences if they comply with The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. When referring to how endangered our religious freedom is at the present time, Cardinal Dolan no longer talks about a "slippery slope," but rather a "ski slope."

We must all heed the call of our bishops and pray unceasingly for religious liberty. Our Shepherds continue to urge us to say a daily rosary as well as to fast and abstain on all Fridays for the intentions of life, marriage and religious liberty. Call your elected representatives and insist that they pass conscience-protection legislation.

Let's all commit to celebrate this Fourth of July on our knees.

Feeling the need for some encouragement? Check out his video clip:

<http://www.catholicvote.org/cv365>



The Mission of Una Fides is to build the Body of Christ by encouraging Catholic men and women to enrich, fortify, and embrace their faith through prayer, study, and fellowship

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