



# Holy Name Society Newsletter

*Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus*

## OUR TIME TO BE VALIANT

**W**ith all its natural wonders, with all the impressive discoveries of scientists and artists, the world is still a fallen place, human beings are wounded by sin, and struggle is inevitable. The world really needs the redemption that Christ died and rose to establish.

In this fallen and struggling world, the Church always resembles Christ bound but confident before Pontius Pilate (cf. John 18:28 ff). Here in the United States,

we like to think that we are free, but that freedom too can be bound and restricted. The Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, phrased it this way, “Never before in our US History has the Federal Government forced citizens directly to purchase what violates our beliefs. At

*“Never before in our US History has the Federal Government forced citizens directly to purchase what violates our beliefs. At issue here ... is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom ...”*

issue here... is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for conscience and religious liberty.” (He spoke at the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life, Jan. 22, 2012, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.)

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## REFLECTION: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FORTNIGHT

**O** God, our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gos-

pel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom and conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united

voice to call all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in the decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome - for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us - that this great land will always be one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2012*

## THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- Promotes the honor and glory of our Divine God and the personal sanctification of its members by acts of love and devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus. This spiritual life of its members is a perpetual act of reverence and love.
- Promotes respect for the most Holy Name of God, faith in the Catholic Church and the Magisterium, loyalty to one's country, and respect for all lawful authority, both civil and religious
- Our members perform the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, tend the sick, visit those in prison, and bury the dead; as well as the Spiritual Works of Mercy: to convert sinners, instruct the ignorant, counsel the wayward, comfort the sorrowing, bear adversity patiently, forgive offenses, and pray for the living and the dead on a parochial, diocesan and national level.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**I** am pleased to be able to offer these comments on the on-going activities of your Executive Board of the National Holy Name Societies.

Beginning in October 2011, following the September Convention in Baltimore, and continuing each month since, the Executive Board of the NAHNS has held Monthly Conference Calls, to discuss a number of issues outstanding at the conclusion of the Convention. Rather than wait until the 2012 Spring Board Meeting, or the 2012 Annual Convention, we thought Monthly Conference Calls might be a better way of resolving several outstanding issues, which we then could present to all members at the Pittsburgh Convention.

One of the key items discussed has been the Appointment/ Selection of an Episcopal Moderator and a Spiritual Director. I have had several discussions with Father Bruno Shah, O.P., a Dominican Priest assigned in the Archdiocese of New York, and with our current Spiritual Director, Father Tom Hayes, O.P. Though Fr. Shah was interested in the position of Spiritual Director of the National Holy Name Societies, on June 5 he was assigned to the Charlottesville, VA Priory where he will be responsible for the Newman Center at the

University of Virginia. In discussion with Father Shah, his Provincial has already spoken with another Dominican Priest in the New York area, and it is likely we soon will have a new Dominican Spiritual Director to replace Father Tom Hayes, O.P., who resigned at the Baltimore Convention. Once we have a new Spiritual Director, we will concentrate on selection of a new Episcopal Moderator.

The Executive Board is currently proceeding with closing the Office of Communications in Baltimore. This Office was established several years ago as the repository for all historic documents since the founding of the National Holy Name Societies in 1970. My Goal is to vacate the facilities by June 30. At the present time, it looks as though we will be able meet this goal. This is being done to reduce expenses that can be reallocated to better promote the mission of the Confraternity and meet the needs of our members.

We are in the process of changing the way we offer Holy Name items to our Societies and to our members. After considering several different options, the Executive Board has selected AMAZON.COM for our on-

line Sales Store. Though our discussions with AMAZON are only in the preliminary stages, and we still have several items to resolve regarding our current Holy Name Sales Store run by John Chaklos, we anticipate later this fall being able to describe to you all the benefits we should derive by this change, perhaps at our Convention in Pittsburgh in September.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is hosting the 42nd Annual National Holy Name Society Convention, Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 22. The registration fee is **\$255 per person**. Registration fee covers the Thursday Evening Dinner and Boat Ride, President's Dinner, Saturday Banquet, Tours and all Convention Materials. Advanced registration is requested. Convention Registration must be received on or before **August 29, 2012**.

The Board is also working on several other items, which we hope to present at the Pittsburgh Convention. Our intent is to make the NAHNS more responsive to your needs, and offer some help and guidance for all our member Societies, to be more responsive to the needs of your members.

My best regards always,

*William W. Harris,*  
NAHNS President

*"Our intent is to make the HNS more responsive to your needs, and offer some help and guidance for all our member Societies, to be more responsive to the needs of your members."*

## OUR TIME TO BE VALIANT

(Continued from page 1)

Religious liberty is a natural right of the human person to civil liberty, i.e., to immunity, within just limits, from external constraint in religious matters by political authorities. This natural right ought to be acknowledged in the juridical order of society in such a way that it constitutes a civil right. (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2108)

The struggle for religious liberty is timeless. The Israelites in Egypt struggled with the Pharaoh, 1290 B.C. The zealous Maccabees (devout Israelite families, 165 B.C) struggled against the Hellenizers and the imposed worship of

the Greek gods. Confronted with a loaded question, Christ Himself wisely declared, “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s” (Mt. 22:21).

The early Christians struggled with the Jewish establishment and the Roman Empire. St. Justin Martyr (100-165 AD), Pope St. Gregory VII (d. 1085), St. John Nepomucene (d. 1393), St. Thomas More (1478-1535) and St. John Fisher (1459-1534) and many other saints defied their respective governments so as to defend religious freedom.

*“It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States come to realize the grave threats to the Church’s public moral witness ...”*

Consider the heroic Church in the formerly communist countries. Together we should also remember the

Martyrs of Mexico (St. Cristobal Megalanes and his companions) who died in the persecution of the Catholic Church in Mexico during the rule of President Plutarco Elias Calles in the 1920’s - 30’s.

Struggle could be the Church’s middle name, but why would we be surprised at the fallen world’s opposition to the Kingdom of God? Re-

member Christ before Pontius Pilate!

Cardinal DiNardo, in the same homily, quoted Pope Benedict’s observation and instruction about the current situation in the US. “It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States come to realize the grave threats to the Church’s public moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres. The seriousness of these threats needs to be appreciated at every level of ecclesial life. Of particular concern are certain attempts being made to limit the most

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## “THE PARABLE OF THE KOSHER DELI”

In his February 16, 2012 testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, outlined the bishops’ opposition to the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate through an extended parable of a country where a new law requires all businesses to serve pork, including kosher delicatessens.

When the Orthodox Jewish community expresses its outrage, Bishop Lori said, it’s met with arguments of “But pork is good for you,” “So many Jews eat pork, and those who don’t should just get with

the times,” and “Those Orthodox are just trying to impose their beliefs on everyone else.”

Bishop Lori’s parable had a happy ending, that people recognized “it is absurd for someone to come into a kosher deli and demand a ham sandwich,” “it is beyond absurd for that private demand to be backed with the coercive power of the state,” and “it is downright surreal to apply this coercive power when the customer can get the same sandwich cheaply, or even free, just a few doors down.”

“The question before the

United States government—right now—is whether the story of our own Church institutions that serve the public, and that are threatened by the HHS mandate, will end happily too. Will our nation continue to be one committed to religious liberty and diversity? We urge, in the strongest possible terms, that the answer must be yes.

Once upon a time, a new law is proposed, so that any business that serves food must serve pork. There is a narrow exception for kosher catering halls attached to synagogues, since they serve mostly members of that synagogue, but

kosher delicatessens are still subject to the mandate.

The Orthodox Jewish community—whose members run kosher delis and many other restaurants and grocers besides—expresses its outrage at the new government mandate. And they are joined by others who have no problem eating pork—not just the many Jews who eat pork, but people of all faiths—because these others recognize the threat to the principle of religious liberty. They recognize as well the practical impact of the damage to that principle. They know that, if the mandate stands,

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## HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

### St. Paul - Minneapolis Archdiocesan HNS

The Archdiocesan Association of Holy Name Societies of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis held its Annual Spring Awards Banquet at the Church of St. Albert the Great in Minneapolis. Fr. Joe Gillespie was the speaker for the event. He gave a talk on the foundations of the Confraternity and the importance of reverence to the Most Holy Name of Jesus and God. Several Parish Holy Name Men of the Year awards were presented to deserving members of the Holy Name Society who are making a difference in their parishes through their Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

### San Antonio, TX Archdiocesan Union HNS

Robert M. Muilenburg, Editor of "The Word", the official Newsletter of the San Antonio Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies recently updated the format of the newsletter. The new format is updated and very professional. It is a model for other Diocesan and Archdiocesan Union Newsletters.

The July Hour of Prayer will be hosted by San Martin de Porres Catholic Church, San Antonio on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Union is planning a Eucharistic Procession on October 14. The procession will start at Travis Park to St. Mary's Church in downtown San Antonio.

### Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS

The Lorain County Deanery of Holy Name Societies will be hosting a Blessed John of Vercelli Holy Hour during the month of August. The Holy Hour is open to all members of the Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS.

The Southwest Deanery HNS held its annual Awards Banquet on April 22 at St. Albert the Great Parish in North Royalton.

### Torrington, CT St. Peter Parish HNS

The Holy Name Society of St. Peter Parish donated \$3,500 to the Roof Fund of St. Peter Church. The funds came from the just concluded 37th annual Macaroni Supper fundraiser run by Holy Name Society members.

### Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS

The Diocesan Union Marian Tribute was held on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the St. Joseph Cathedral. Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, D.D. presided and Rev. David D. Baker, Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Victory, Lackawanna, was the homilist. The event was co-sponsored with the Diocesan Marian Commission, the World Apostolate of Fatima, the Buffalo Legion of Mary, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Apostolate and the Diocesan Union HNS.

### St. Dismiss Parish, SCI Huntingdon, PA HNS

The St. Dismiss Parish HNS, SCI Huntingdon, PA celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their Charter on May 26<sup>th</sup>. A special Mass for the Cause for Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli, O.P., Patron of the Holy Name Society, was celebrated.

Senior members of the Society were invited to give commentary of the Society's history and also provide personal reflections on the growth, development and impact of the Society on the Catholic Community.

### New National Promoter/ Director Philippines HNS

Fr. Ed Alaurin, O.P., University of St. Tomas, Manila, Philippines, has been assigned as the new National Promoter of the Holy Name Society in the Philippines. Fr. Alaurin replaces Fr. Reynaldo J. Adalid, OP who served the Philippines well in this post for many years. Fr. Alaurin can be reached via e-mail at [edalaurin@yahoo.com](mailto:edalaurin@yahoo.com).

### Our Lady of Lourdes, Manhattan HNS

A new Holy Name Society was started at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Manhattan. Thomas Collins is the new President. Let us all pray for the success of this new Holy Name Society and for each of the new members.

### Chicago Association of the HNS

The 32nd Annual Spiritual Assembly and Procession of Banners was held on Friday June 15th, at St. Cornelius Parish. The Officers Board meeting was held at Our Lady of Victory Church April 25th and the General Membership Meeting was held at Sacred Heart Church on May 19th.

Gary Lewis is the new Chicago Association of Holy Name Society advocate for the Cause for Canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli. He is available to help parish Societies promote efforts leading to the canonization of Blessed John of Vercelli.

### St. Joseph's Church, Joliet IL HNS

The Holy Name Society of the Church of St. Joseph promoted 40 Hours of Eucharistic Devotion by asking members to attend a special hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Activities of the HNS include sponsoring a Softball team, raising money for parish needs and promoting the St. Thomas More Lecture Series to help members grow in faith.

### St. Frances De Chantal, Bronx HNS

Seventy-two people attended the April weekend retreat at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House. The theme of the retreat was "Where is God in all this Mess?"

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

### New York AUHNS

The Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Union of the Holy Name Society met on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Church of Saint John the Evangelist.

One hundred fifty persons from seven parishes in the Bronx participated in the Archdiocesan Union's Annual Family Hour at the Church of St. Brendan. The theme of the Holy Hour was: A Renewal of Love for the Mass. Father George Stewart, pastor of St. Brendan's, gave the homily.

### NYC Police Department HNS

Over 850 active and retired police officers, members of their families and guests participated in the NYPD Holy

Name Society 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Mass and Communion Breakfast on April 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Cardinal Edward Egan was the main celebrant.

The NYPD Holy Name Society is active within the New York Police Department. The Society is composed of local, state and federal law enforcement officers from Metropolitan New York. The Society is very active in charitable, religious and community events with the goal of being a positive moral force within the law enforcement and community at large. Each year the NYPD Holy Name Society presents scholarship awards to qualifying college and high school bound students.

### Richmond Division HNS

The Archdiocesan Union's Richmond Division will hold a half-day retreat at Mount Manressa on October 21. Over 500 persons participated in the Division Communion Mass on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Church of Our Lady of Pity.

### Saint Thomas HNS – Otisville Correctional Facility

A number of Catholic activities were conducted to generate new members at the facility and achieve a greater sense of brotherhood among the members. Among them: a Residents Encounter Christ weekend, expansion of the monthly meetings, and fundraisers for various sponsored charities and community based organizations.

### Saint Teresa, Staten Island HNS

The Society presented a five part video series on "Catholicism: A Journey of a Lifetime" on each of five Monday evenings during Lent. Members participated in Friday evening Stations of the Cross.

### NYC Fire Department HNS

The FDNY Holy Name Society held its 88<sup>th</sup> annual Communion Breakfast on April 15<sup>th</sup>. After Mass in memory of fallen firefighters in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, over 800 active and retired firefighters, family members and guests paraded to the New York Hilton.

### 42nd Annual NAHNS Convention - Pittsburgh, PA

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The registration fee is \$255 per person. Registration fee covers the Thursday Evening Dinner and Boat Ride, President's Dinner, Saturday Banquet, Tours and all Convention Materials.

Advanced registration is requested. Convention Registration must be received on or before August 29, 2012. Please book your hotel reservations by August 29, 2012 at the Doubletree Hotel Pittsburgh Airport: (412) 329-1400 to take advantage of the discounted convention rate of \$125 per night (state and local taxes and fees will be applied to the rate).

Remember to ask for the Pittsburgh Diocesan Union of the Holy Name Society rate. Reservations must be made on or before August 29, 2012 to receive this special rate. For more information on the Convention Lodging please go to the NAHNS website (nahns.com) or call the Doubletree Pittsburgh Airport Hotel directly at: (412) 329-1400.

### 2012 Convention Highlights!

- NAHNS Executive Board Meeting and Committee Meetings
- NAHNS National Conference General Sessions
- Special Reports and Workshops
- Tour the Sites in Pittsburgh, including a Special Boat Tour

All Executive Board Members and Committee Members are requested to be at the Convention on Thursday morning, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. All Standing and Special Committees will be meeting in person starting at 9:00 a.m. The Executive Board members will have a closed Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## “THE PARABLE OF THE KOSHER DELI”

*(Continued from page 3)*

they might be the next ones forced—under threat of severe government sanction—to violate their most deeply held beliefs, especially their unpopular beliefs.

Meanwhile, those who support the mandate respond, “But pork is good for you. It is, after all, the other white meat.” Other supporters add, “So many Jews eat pork, and those who don’t should just get with the times.” Still others say, “Those Orthodox are just trying to impose their beliefs on everyone else.”

But in our hypothetical, those arguments fail in the public debate, because people widely recognize the following.

First, although people may reasonably debate whether pork is good for you, that’s not the question posed by the

nationwide pork mandate. Instead, the mandate generates the question whether people who believe—even if they believe in error—that pork is not good for you, should be forced by government to serve pork within their very own institutions. In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

Second, the fact that some (or even most) Jews eat pork is simply irrelevant. The fact remains that some Jews do not—and they do not out of their most deeply held religious convictions. Does the fact that large majorities in society—even large majorities within the protesting religious community—reject a particular religious belief make it permissible for the government to weigh in on one side of that dispute? Does it allow government to punish that

minority belief with its coercive power? In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no.

Third, the charge that the Orthodox Jews are imposing their beliefs on others has it exactly backwards. Again, the question generated by a government mandate is whether the government will impose its belief that eating pork is good on objecting Orthodox Jews. Meanwhile, there is no imposition at all on the freedom of those who want to eat pork. That is, they are subject to no government interference at all in their choice to eat pork, and pork is ubiquitous and cheap, available at the overwhelming majority of restaurants and grocers. Indeed, some pork producers and retailers, and even the government itself, are so eager to promote the eating of

pork, that they sometimes give pork away for free. In this context, the question is this: can a customer come to a kosher deli, demand to be served a ham sandwich, and if refused, bring down severe government sanction on the deli. In a nation committed to religious liberty and diversity, the answer, of course, is no. So in our hypothetical story, because the hypothetical nation is indeed committed to religious liberty and diversity, these arguments carry the day. In response, those proposing the new law claim to hear and understand the concerns of kosher deli owners, and offer them a new “accommodation.” You are free to call yourself a kosher deli; you are free not to place ham sandwiches on your menu; you are free not to be the person to prepare the

*(Continued on page 8)*

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?

**A**s Catholics we often wonder if the Catholic Faith will be properly passed on to the next generation. Our Churches are no longer filled with as many children, teenagers, and young adults as there were in the past. The younger families who do attend Mass seem to believe that they do not have to attend Mass every Sunday or on Holy Days of Obligation. Many of our former Catholics are now joining “non denominational” churches. There appears to be

a crisis of faith in the Catholic Church.

At the same time there are many children, teenagers, young adults and younger families who are attending Mass regularly every weekend. They seem to value their Catholic Faith with much enthusiasm. The picture is not all bad.

We have a job to do as Holy Name Society members. Before Jesus ascended to

Heaven, He told His followers; “Go out to the world and spread the Good News.” This is a duty that Jesus gave to all of his followers. There are three ways we can do this job. First we must continue to be loyal to our Catholic Faith and to our Bishops and the Pope. Secondly, we can invite our friends who no longer practice their Catholic Faith to return. Thirdly and most importantly, we should pray for those who seemingly have left the faith, trusting wholeheartedly that

God will answer our prayers.

Jesus has a mission for all of His followers. Our job is to fulfill this mission, to spread the Gospel. If we put our minds to it, and pray for His help, we can accomplish our mission!

*Fr. Thomas Haren  
Spiritual Moderator  
Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS*

# OUR TIME TO BE VALIANT

*(Continued from page 3)*

cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion. Concerted efforts have been made to deny the right of conscientious objection of the part of Catholic individuals and institutions with regard to cooperation in intrinsically evil practices. “

We should not be surprised that we have to struggle for religious liberty, but struggle we must, and, as Christ overcame Pontius Pilate, so the Church and the Kingdom of God will overcome this world as well.

Our strategy is basic: (1) prayer, (2) correct information, and (3) united action. We find these elements in the program called “Fortnight for Freedom.”

We must redouble our prayers for our homeland, for our beloved country, for these won-

derful United States of America. We need to find sources of accurate information about bills in Congress, presidential decisions, and movements and groups that try to bind and restrict religious liberty. Now is the time for concerted action; now is the time to join groups and movements recommended by our bishops; now is the time, as Pope Benedict says, “for courage to counter a reductive secularism which would de-legitimize the Church’s participation in public life and debate.”

This is really an old problem. In the Acts of the Apostles (5:17 ff), we read about St. Peter and his companions who were brought to trial before the Sanhedrin in Jeru-

*“In the Holy Name Society we too need to rejoice in being found worthy to struggle for religious freedom and ‘for the sake of the Name.’ This is our time to be valiant for Christ!”*

salem for teaching in the Name of Jesus. “After recalling the apostles, (the Sanhedrin) had them flogged, ordered them to stop speaking in the Name of Jesus, and dismissed them. So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the Name” (Acts, 5:40-41).

In the Holy Name Society, we too need to rejoice in being found worthy to struggle for religious freedom and “for the sake of the Name.” This is our time to be valiant for Christ!

*Rev. Paul Chovanec,  
Pastor, St. Justin Martyr Parish,  
Houston, TX*

## GO FORTH

**A**s Holy Name Society members, we are called to go forth as His disciples were asked by our Lord – go and preach the gospel to all the people as I have taught you. As members of this Confraternity we must also go forward and spread the word as it is written in the Holy Name Pledge. Remember, we are to love the lord our God with our whole heart, with our whole

mind and with our whole soul and to keep His Holy Name sacred and protected.

The future of the Holy Name Society in the United States as well as internationally depends on all of us, yes, we all must come together – united in fraternal charity – to share our collective love of the faith and our knowledge of the Confraternity. We must

present the information in a manner that others will want to join our ranks. It is, was and always should be our goal to make this a Society of love for His most Holy Name and a Society dedicated to spiritual growth for all of our members.

*Raymond W. Zientara  
Buffalo Diocesan Union HNS*

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SPREADING DEVOTION TO THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

## “THE PARABLE OF THE KOSHER DELI”

*(Continued from page 6)*

sandwich and hand it over the counter to the customer. But we will force your meat supplier to set up a kiosk on your premises, and to offer, prepare, and serve ham sandwiches to all of your customers, free of charge to them.

And when you get your monthly bill from your meat supplier, it will include the cost of any of the “free” ham sandwiches that your customers may accept. And you will, of course, be required to pay that bill.

Some who supported the deli owners initially began to cele-

brate the fact that ham sandwiches didn’t need to be on the menu, and didn’t need to be prepared or served by the deli itself. But on closer examination, they noticed three troubling things. First, all kosher delis will still be forced to pay for the ham sandwiches.

Second, many of the kosher delis’ meat suppliers, themselves, are forbidden in conscience from offering, preparing, or serving pork to anyone. Third, there are many kosher delis that are their own meat supplier, so the mandate to offer, prepare, and serve the ham sandwich still falls on

them.

This story has a happy ending. The government recognized that it is absurd for someone to come into a kosher deli and demand a ham sandwich; that it is beyond absurd for that private demand to be backed with the coercive power of the state; that it is downright surreal to apply this coercive power when the customer can get the same sandwich cheaply, or even free, just a few doors down.

The question before the United States government - right now - is whether the story of our own Church insti-

tutions that serve the public, and that are threatened by the HHS mandate, will end happily too. Will our nation continue to be one committed to religious liberty and diversity? We urge, in the strongest possible terms, that the answer must be yes. We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to answer the same way.

*Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut  
February 16, 2012 testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,  
Presenting the US Bishops’ opposition to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Mandate*



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