

## **Bishops are the first ones called to be untiring preachers of the Gospel of Life**

I've worked in the pro-life movement for 40 years, for 39 years at national level in the United Kingdom for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, SPUC, the first pro-life group to be established anywhere in the world, and the largest pro-life group in Europe.

For 36 of those 39 years I have worked for the pro-life movement on a full-time basis, firstly, from 1978 as SPUC's general secretary, and secondly, from 1996 till now, as the Society's chief executive. SPUC was formed in 1966, and 6 years before Roe v Wade, in 1967, abortion was legalised in Britain. I am also joint vice-chairman of the International Right to Life Federation founded by Dr Jack Willke, who's so well-known to Legatus, and whom many regard as the father of the pro-life movement worldwide. May God rest Barbara, his late wife and fellow worldwide pro-life apostle, and may God comfort Jack as he mourns the loss of his beloved Barbara last April. Josephine and I have been delighted to renew at this Convention our friendship with Jim Hughes, my fellow vice-chairman of the International Right to Life Federation, and his wife Ginny.

I studied, briefly, for the priesthood in Ireland, in the Salesian novitiate in County Meath at the ripe old age of 16, but decided quite quickly that the priesthood was not for me. 16 years later I met Josephine Clarke in Harrow, in north west London, who, with most of her 14 brothers and sisters grew up in Wilkinstown, County Meath, in Ireland, to which we returned for our honeymoon in 1984. We have four children and five grandchildren, we live in north London, and I am overjoyed and so grateful to Legatus that Josephine could be with me for this great Convention.

My pro-life organization, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, SPUC, was formed in 1966 to campaign against the legalisation of abortion by statute in Britain. Over the decades, we have also built and run major campaigns against abortion in Ireland and in the European institutions, the European Union and the Council of Europe. Like yourselves in the US, we have achieved some extraordinary successes, and saved many lives, and we have also experienced terrible setbacks and involving deeply disturbing advances in the culture of death. These campaigns have opened our eyes to other related evils and injustices, such as euthanasia, assisted suicide, corrupting sex education in schools and, recently, to so-called same sex marriage.

SPUC, as a pro-life organization, has fought against same-sex marriage legislation for two reasons. First, statistical evidence on abortion clearly shows that marriage as an institution protects children, both born and unborn. Secondly, same-sex marriage represents an attempt to redefine marriage, thus **undermining** marriage as a growing body of academic research clearly shows. This **undermining** lessens the protection for unborn children which true marriage provides.

In particular, the homosexual rights agenda is targeted at our children and at our grandchildren in their school years. I am sorry to have to share with you so early on in my talk that homosexual militants are being invited into schools in Britain, including into Catholic schools with the blessing of the local bishop, to train teachers

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how to educate little boys as young as four years old that they might grow up to marry a man or that they might grow up to marry a woman – and the same with little girls.

Two introductory points, ladies and gentlemen. I want to say something about the geopolitical significance of Britain and of Britain's foreign policy in relation to the laws which my country passes on abortion and with related evils; secondly, and in connection with Britain's foreign policy, I want to say something about the geopolitical significance of the role played by the Catholic bishops' conference of England and Wales concerning abortion and related evils.

One third of the world's population (approximately 2.3 billion people) live in common law jurisdictions or in systems mixed with **civil law**. In particular, common law originated in **England** in the early Middle Ages,<sup>[8]</sup> and remains the basis of the legal system **in England and in those countries** which trace their legal heritage to England, such as former colonies of the British Empire.

The British Foreign and Commonwealth website states:

“Fifty-three countries are members of The Commonwealth. Our countries span Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific and are diverse – they are amongst the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries ... Leaders of member countries shape Commonwealth policies and priorities.”

For decades, Britain and its foreign office have successfully exported so-called abortion law reform through common law jurisdiction and British Commonwealth countries from Australia to South Africa and elsewhere.

The British Government is now committed to promoting worldwide homosexual law reform and same-sex marriage legislation through the Commonwealth, the European Union and other international bodies. Currently, the web site of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual toolkit to promote these legal changes world-wide.

British Prime Minister, David Cameron has threatened to withhold UK aid from poor countries that do not conform saying in connection with the homosexual rights agenda, and I quote: “British aid should have more strings attached”

Furthermore, the British government and the European Union have enacted a body of law on the equal employment rights of male and female homosexuals, and bisexuals and transsexuals, which is to be enforced with the threat of severe legal sanctions. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has produced *Diversity and Equality Guidelines*, a policy statement which (whilst it includes elements of Catholic doctrine) welcomes, seeks to implement and states that it will monitor this Government policy within the Church, including in Catholic schools.

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A pro-abortion document<sup>1</sup> prepared at the request of the EU Commission on the right to conscientious objection, links rights relating to sexual orientation to other supposed rights, including the “right” to abortion and the “right” to euthanasia and assisted suicide. The EU Commission document quotes, in part, the *Diversity and Equality Guidelines* of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales in a generally approving way.

Thus the policy of the Catholic bishops’ conference of England and Wales in its *Diversity and Equality Guidelines* is helping the British government to promote the homosexual rights agenda, throughout Europe via a document from the European Commission which, in its turn, links homosexual rights to abortion rights.

Rest assured, my friends, that SPUC is leaving no stone unturned in raising these matters in Rome, not only because of the implications for our children and grandchildren in Britain, but also because what the government gets away with in British schools, including in Catholic schools, they are committed to promoting in other countries throughout the world.

If we don’t preserve the institution of marriage, we will not be able to begin to protect unborn children. True marriage exists prior to the State, prior to legislation, and it’s crystal clear to me, as chief executive of pro-life educational and political campaigning group, that parents, the primary educators, and the family are even more important than legislation in protecting the right to life of the unborn.

And in this context I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks as a parent to the Catholic bishops of Nigeria:

Last week, the Catholic bishops of Nigeria publicly thanked Goodluck Jonathan, Nigeria's president, for signing into law the Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Bill, 2011, which prohibits same-sex marriages, civil partnerships, and the promotion of homosexuality. The media statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria describes the new law as:

"as a right step in the right direction for the protection of the dignity of the human person".

Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama, president of the bishops' conference, commended President Jonathan for his:

"decision...not to bow to international pressure in the promotion of unethical and immoral practices of same sex union and other related vices"

and spoke of: "the conspiracy of the developed world to make our country and continent, the dumping ground for the promotion of all immoral practices, that have continued to debase the purpose of God for man in the area of creation and morality, in their own countries."

As a pro-life leader, as a parent and as a Catholic, I am very grateful to the Nigerian Catholic bishops' defence of families. Standing up against the worldwide homosexual

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<sup>1</sup> *The Right to Conscientious Objection and the Conclusion by EU Member States of Concordats with the Holy See*, EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights, 14th December 2005

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agenda is crucial for the protection of children. Bishops around the world should follow the Nigerian bishops' lead and speak out for strong policies against the subversion of the truth and meaning of human sexuality.

Also inspiring in this connection are the words of San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, speaking to young people before the 10<sup>th</sup> annual West Coast Walk for Life last month. According to LifeSite News Archbishop Cordileone tied marriage and abortion together, noting “the whole point of marriage...[is] to connect husbands and wives to each other, and to any children they bring into the world ... Marriage is primarily about the children, not the adults, such that you cannot ... be consistently pro-life without being pro-marriage ... In God's design, it all fits perfectly together”.

Dear members of Legatus, when our Catholic bishops show courage in defending our families, not least in the face of the new homosexual rights agenda tyranny, we must not be slow in thanking them, defending them and working with them to remain strong in our children's defence.

But neither must we be slow ... neither must we be slow ... **not** in begging, **not** in pleading, but in **insisting** at the highest level within the Church that bishops are appointed who will uphold the teaching of the Church in opposing the greatest crime against children in history, the wholesale killing of children in the womb, and who will defend and assist parents in protecting the innocence of their born children.

I am the leader of a non-religious, human rights group, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. But I speak to you today – as I hope to speak to everyone every day – as a Catholic. The moral principles regarding the sanctity of human life exist prior to, and separately from, the Catholic Church. They are moral principles inscribed in the hearts of all men and women and, indeed, they are written into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Abortion is not a crime against humanity because the Catholic Church says so. It's a crime against humanity because our ordinary human reason says so.

However, here at the Legatus Convention in Orlando, I will draw unashamedly from the teachings of the Catholic Church which guard and defend the moral law on the sanctity of human life and its transmission.

I want to offer to you today a perspective on the current world situation on abortion and the role of Catholic Church officials through experiences from our side of the “pond”, including our experience in Ireland, which you may like to compare and contrast with the situation in your own Country or State.

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In July last year the Irish Government introduced catastrophic abortion legislation into that country, a country which, with strong support from SPUC over the decades, has staunchly and bravely resisted such anti life laws whilst all around it other countries - in particular my own - caved in to the barbarians.

In 2011, 84% of the population in Ireland identified themselves as Catholic. How in Ireland, in Catholic Ireland, has legislation been passed which is amongst the most extreme in the world?

The Irish government's abortion legislation, which was passed last July by the Irish Parliament by 127 votes to 31, strips the right to life from children before, and even during, birth in a broad range of circumstances. Threats to the life of the mother need not be inevitable or immediate. It compels medical personnel to participate in abortion in some ways, while offering no protection to other professionals who may be involved in the abortion process. It compels maternity hospitals, including Catholic hospitals, to provide abortions.

There is nothing in this legislation including the suicide provision [section 9], that would rule out the aborting of the unborn from implantation to birth; there is nothing in it to rule out even partial birth abortion.

Ireland's abortion legislation is entitled Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013.

With my tongue only partly in my cheek, I respectfully suggest to Legatus that you launch at your next Convention a George Orwell Prize and award it to the Irish Government for their utter hypocrisy!

Before going any further, I want to pay tribute to the faithful remnant in Ireland, to those working in the pro-life movement, and to those praying their Rosary, and praying before the Blessed Sacrament. They have been, and they continue to be, an example and inspiration throughout the world. I believe that although they are a minority, they are, relative to the overall population of Ireland, as big a minority of dedicated Catholics as can be found anywhere in the world – and I salute them. What has happened in Ireland in recent months is not their fault and it's not unique in terms of what the world is experiencing in virtually every country in the world: The culture of death is currently having an overwhelming impact on society and throughout the world – and any analysis of what has happened in Ireland, and indeed what's happening in Britain and here in the US, which does not take on board that great big geopolitical fact is, in reality, dangerous wishful thinking.

Let me explain. For the past 20 years, SPUC has had full-time lobbyists, working at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and elsewhere in the world. SPUC's UN

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lobbyists tell me that for most of those 20 years, the pro-life movement and the Holy See at the UN, with which we work closely, could rely on pro-life support from the South American and other nations. No longer is that the case, as one country after another fall like dominoes and legalizes abortion.

What happened on abortion in July in the Irish Parliament last July did not happen in isolation.

There is an unequivocal determination on the part of the world's most powerful politicians and UN officials to promote access to abortion on demand in every country of the world. Let me begin with President Obama. In a speech on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2009, Wellington Webb, appointed by Barack Obama as special adviser to the US mission to the United Nations, confirmed that the Obama administration would be promoting legalised abortion throughout the world, targeting adolescents in a worldwide abortion drive. Your former Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, confirmed in Congressional hearings in answer to a question from Congressman Chris Smith that abortion on demand worldwide was indeed the policy of the Obama administration. It's also the policy of the British administration, as I've mentioned, and of the European Union.

I recall the prophetic words of Cardinal James Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See, in his lecture to the Catholic University of America in November 2008, who said that on the Presidential election day, "America suffered a cultural earthquake". The Cardinal argued that the then President-elect Obama had campaigned on an "extremist anti-life platform" and predicted that the near future would be a time of trial. "For the next few years, Gethsemane will not be marginal. We will know that garden," Cardinal Stafford told his audience. That earthquake, that Garden of Gethsemane, are now being experienced in Ireland in accordance with Barack Obama's clearly expressed plans and in accordance with the foreign policy of the British government. Neo-colonialism is not dead on the part of the US and British governments – pushing for abortion, a crime against humanity and the greatest possible crime against children, throughout the world.

Secondly there's an unequivocal determination on the part of the world's most powerful politicians and UN officials to destroy conscientious objection on abortion and on other right to life issues.

President Obama's and the British government's pro-abortion allies at the United Nations have been in top gear in recent years. In September 2010 at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Peter Smith and Pat Buckley, SPUC's UN lobbyists, reported to me that Ban Ki Moon the UN Secretary General, and Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, had launched a report "on discrimination against women, in law and practice, and how the issue is addressed throughout the United Nations human rights system". In their report they called for the policing of nations worldwide to "address the refusal of physicians to perform legal abortions". This is the international context in which Ireland's abortion

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legislation has been drafted and a clear indication of how other countries which dare to refuse to legislate for abortion will be dealt with and bullied by the international community. It's also the international context of course in which the Obamacare legislation has been drafted which Dr William Donaghue yesterday dubbed the abortion mandate. The words of His Grace Archbishop Chaput of February 2012 are ringing in my ears: "[T]he Health and Human Services' mandate, including its latest variant, is belligerent, unnecessary, and deeply offensive to the content of Catholic belief ... The HHS mandate needs to be rescinded ... The onus is entirely on the White House, which also has the power to remove the issue from public conflict. Catholics should not be misled into accepting feeble compromises on issues of principle."

Thirdly, there is an unequivocal determination on the part of the world's most powerful politicians and UN officials to destroy parental rights over their children's education and formation.

On Monday this week I was in New York visiting SPUC's experienced team of lobbyists at the UN. During my visit, I met Archbishop Chullikatt, the papal nuncio to the United Nations and he was clearly worried about the growing number of pro-abortion and homosexual rights groups who are "flooding" the UN, as the archbishop put it. He urgently wants more pro-life groups to join SPUC's lobbyists at the UN. I pay tribute here to Archbishop Chullikatt, and his fantastic team, who really do stand up for the unborn and for parents, the primary educators, in their mission at the United Nations. Just two days after my meeting, last Wednesday, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child published a report which attacked the Catholic Church's teachings on abortion, contraception and homosexuality, under the guise of a critique of the Church's handling of child sex abuse cases. The report, among other similar things, recommends that the Catholic Church:

- identifies "circumstances under which access to abortion services can be permitted" (section 55)
- "overcome[s] all the barriers and taboos surrounding adolescent sexuality that hinder their access to sexual and reproductive information, including on family planning and contraceptives" (section 57a)
- "ensure[s] that sexual and reproductive health education and prevention of HIV/AIDS is part of the mandatory curriculum of Catholic schools" (section 57c)

Now there is nothing in the Convention on the Rights of the Child that can reasonably be construed as approving, still less requiring abortion or access to abortion for children on the part of nation states or the Catholic Church. However, this does not stop the UN's compliance committee for the Convention on the Rights of the Child from putting huge pressure on the Church, to which all too many Church officials in Britain and Europe succumb, and putting huge pressure on countries like

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Ireland, and on developing nations throughout the world to make abortion accessible to children and to women throughout their reproductive years.

The title of my talk this evening “Bishops ... are the first ones called to be untiring preachers of the Gospel of life”, the words of Blessed John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*, is not a momentary inspiration on my part; it’s the fruit and conclusion of my four decades of work at the national and international level in the pro-life movement.

Over the past forty to fifty years throughout the world, the pro-life movement has had its achievements, it’s saved many lives and protected the welfare of countless mothers and countless fathers whom we must never forget. For example, across the pond in the UK we’ve kept the British Abortion Act and similar legislation out of Northern Ireland for over four decades, working closely with politicians of all major parties and faiths. There is more unity in Northern Ireland on abortion between people of different faiths than in any other part of the world in which I’ve worked.

In addition, SPUC has fought and won many costly legal battles. Most recently last April in the Scottish courts a landmark legal victory confirmed that pro-life senior midwives can refuse to oversee abortions performed by other midwives. Sadly the midwives’ employers have announced that they will appeal to the Supreme Court in London. This is absolutely not an appeal for money, my dear Legatus friends. We are working very hard in Britain to raise the funds for this case that has so far cost SPUC £250,000 and will cost us perhaps the same again as we fight on at the Supreme Court. But we will take that risk because Connie Wood and Mary Doogan, the pro-life midwives at the centre of the case, have made huge personal sacrifices in terms of careers, reputation, and finance to fight this battle; because unless we support pro-life health care staff they will be driven out of midwifery, nursing and medicine; and because mothers and babies deserve the best of care and that’s what Connie and Mary are committed to providing.

And the magnificent US pro-life movement has enjoyed countless successes not least in recent years and you don’t need a man from Britain to tell you what they are. Let me say, simply, that the European pro-life movement thanks God every day for what you are doing.

However, I believe that we cannot defeat that culture of death on our own – as the recent experience of Ireland, of Brazil, of The Philippines and so many other countries so eloquently and so tragically testify, as they succumb to pressure from the most powerful countries in the world, in particular, the USA and the EU.

Yes, in the US and the UK we have had our pro-life successes. We must be full of hope but we mustn’t kid ourselves, ladies and gentlemen:

- The forced abortion regime in China is funded by the taxpayers of virtually every nation on earth as the IPPF, Marie Stopes International and UNFPA, funded by governments worldwide, co-operate with the China government’s policies.



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- Developing nations worldwide are under pressure from our powerful western governments to legalize abortion, population control measures, and a homosexual rights agenda which threatens our children.
- And in our own nations countless millions of abortions take place annually, recorded under the abortion statistics, and unrecorded under the guise of so-called contraceptive drugs and devices so overwhelmingly accepted throughout society and widely in use even within the Catholic community.

**Let's not kid ourselves.** The pro-life movement, however hardworking, however well-informed, however blessed and strong we may be in our initiatives, the pro-life movement cannot defeat the culture of death on our own .

**Let's be quite clear about this,** if you put all our membership lists and all of our finances together, we are infinitesimally tiny in comparison with the worldly power, riches, and reach of the culture of death.

When we're working at our best, pro-life organisations are catalysts for action on the part of the wider community, and we often punch way above our weight in terms of the human resources available to us. What we lack in numbers, we endeavour to make up for with our nearly five decades of experience, expertise, and spiritual commitment and support.

But we cannot defeat the culture of death, which threatens constantly to overwhelm us, on our own. Pro-life organizations and the wider community must be fortified by unequivocal, unyielding voices of Catholic Church officials and bishops throughout the world.

Tragically, some of the most pernicious influences where legalised abortion is concerned come from officials within the Catholic Church.

Staying with the Irish example for a while longer, **a key figure** in the Republic of Ireland is Father Patrick Hannon, emeritus professor of moral theology in St Patrick's College, Maynooth. He wrote an article which was published in time for the passage of the Irish abortion law in July/August 2013 edition of The Furrow. The Furrow magazine describes itself as "a monthly journal for the contemporary [Catholic] Church ... [which] ... enjoys an international reputation as a courageous and impartial forum for discussing the challenges facing the Church today and of the resources available to meet them". On its website, The Furrow tells us it "was founded in 1950 at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare by the late J. G. McGarry, a Professor in the College, and it continues as a vibrant voice for renewal of the Church across the world."

I am assured by a Catholic priest friend of mine in Ireland that the July/August 2013 edition of The Furrow would have been read widely by priests and bishops in Ireland in the days and weeks prior to the passage of Ireland's pro-abortion legislation. Whether or not that is a mere coincidence I do not comment. Referring to the legislation, Fr Hannon's article concluded: "A legislator who is a Catholic, and who wishes to honour the legacy of Catholic tradition in these grave matters, is both

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obliged and free to examine each side of the argument and come to his or her own conclusions about what human rights and the common good require at this time.” Here is a green light for a Catholic politician to vote in favour of legalised abortion.

Fr Hannon’s position is contrary to Catholic teaching and to the sources he cites to support his position. I will point to just three of the problems with Fr Hannon’s argument in support of his conclusion, identified for me by Rev Fr Dr John Fleming, a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

1. “Hannon confuses the moral opinions of some, such as the proportionalist Fr McCormick, with official Church teaching.
2. “Hannon distorts the teaching of St Thomas Aquinas by selective quotations.
3. “Hannon ignores the stated position of the Magisterium on the duties of a Catholic politician.”

Father Hannon sets up the teaching of the Catholic Church against secular authorities that disagree with church teaching and then concludes that the Catholic politician is free to make up his or her own mind. Moreover, he suggests, without argumentation, that a Catholic politician is honouring “the legacy of Catholic tradition in these grave matters” by making up his or her own mind on the abortion issue. It is contrary to reason to claim that one is honouring the legacy of Catholic tradition by repudiating the authoritative teaching of the Magisterium by deferring to other opinions which violate the right to life of unborn children.

Now in a spirit of friendly dialogue with the Catholic bishops of Ireland, if it was not possible for you to forbid the distribution of such a wicked article at such a critical time not only for Ireland but for the world and for the universal Church, can you not *now* contact every priest in Ireland to point out the fundamental, schoolboy, egregious errors in Fr Hannon’s text? Should you not do so as a matter of urgency?

I appeal today to church leaders in the United States and to church leaders throughout the world, to church leaders in Rome, to all Catholic Bishops in the World, as the chief executive of the oldest pro-life organization in the world, I appeal to you remember the words of Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* (82) that you “... are the first ones called to be untiring preachers of the *Gospel of Life*”. Silence, and silence includes equivocal or half hearted words, in the face of the daily slaughter, the maiming of mothers’ and fathers’ lives, simply will not do: the silence and equivocation that we have seen for the most part on the part of the Irish bishops over the past 40 years as Irish mothers have travelled to Britain for abortion. If it were Catholic priests or Jews who were being killed, or threatened with being killed, by national laws in Britain or in other parts of the world – would we expect, any day of the week, ever to enter a Catholic Church for Mass without the matter being mentioned, or being prayed about at that Mass?” Would we not be denouncing, and rightly denouncing, the killing of Catholic priests or Jews, in every pulpit in the world – notwithstanding the past sins and scandals associated with members of the

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Catholic church? The Jew, the priest, the unborn child are all created in the image and likeness of God.

Also, in the spirit of friendly dialogue, I implore all Catholic bishops throughout the world to speak out clearly and categorically that politicians who vote for and publicly support abortion legislation such as that just passed by the Irish Parliament, must publicly retract and refute the position they have adopted before receiving the Body Blood Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion in Whose image every unborn child targeted by wicked abortion legislation is made? It's an absurd rationalization to suggest that bishops speaking up clearly and categorically on the public sacrilegious reception of the Holy Eucharist is turning the Sacrament into a battleground or circus, as has been claimed. I ask you again, if Catholic priests or bishops were targeted by the legislation passed by the Irish Parliament, for example, so that they could be executed with impunity, would you or would you not say publicly that politicians who voted for or who supported such legislation, without apologizing, retracting and refuting their position, may not go forward to receive Holy Communion? What is the difference in God's eyes between the sanctity of life of a priest or a bishop or the sanctity of life of an unborn child?

How can I fail to mention at this point the strength and witness of Cardinal Raymond Burke, honoured by Legatus in 2012 with the Cardinal John J O'Connor award, who has spoken out consistently in defence of the Holy Eucharist – and not without huge cost to himself; and many other bishops in the US who have done the same as well as a small handful of courageous Catholic bishops in Britain.

In a speech I gave in Ireland last year I predicted that if the Irish bishops don't get this right very soon, it would not be too long before the first direct abortion under this new legislation takes place in a hospital where the chairman of the board is a Catholic bishop and that same Catholic bishop turns a blind eye to what has happened. At this point, I cannot fail to mention the courageous witness of Bishop Thomas Olmstead of Phoenix Arizona who was so clear about the *latae sententiae* excommunication of Sr Mary McBride Director of St Josephs hospital over an abortion on so called health grounds: Bishop Olmstead's statement was **“I am gravely concerned by the fact that an abortion was performed several months ago in a Catholic hospital in this diocese,”** Olmsted said in a statement sent to The Arizona Republic. **“I am further concerned by the hospital's statement that the termination of a human life was necessary** to treat the mother's underlying medical condition.

**“An unborn child is not a disease.** While medical professionals should certainly try to save a pregnant mother's life, the means by which they do it can never be by directly killing her unborn child. The end does not justify the means.”

It's time for all responsible Catholics to challenge church officials at the highest level to appoint bishops will carry out the duty spelled out for them in Pope John Paul II's *Evangelium Vitae* (82):

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“Faced with so many opposing points of view, and a widespread rejection of sound doctrine concerning human life, we can feel that Paul's entreaty to Timothy is also addressed to us: "Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching" (2 Tim 4:2). This exhortation should resound with special force in the hearts of those members of the Church who directly share, in different ways, in her mission as "teacher" of the truth. May it resound above all for us who are Bishops: we are the first ones called to be untiring preachers of the Gospel of life”.

In calling on our bishops to play their role, we are not only doing what's vitally necessary to seek to overturn pro-abortion legislation in Ireland and in other parts of the world, the parents amongst us are acting as the primary educators of our children. Remember what Pope Benedict said on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012:

He said: “Parents must be always free to transmit to their children, responsibly and without constraints, their heritage of faith, values and culture.”<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, Pope Benedict's strong statement is not universally supported by church officials – and the weakness of Church officials in many parts of the world is completely disastrous for unborn children, for parents and for their families.

Tragically, in Britain, induced abortion and birth control drugs and devices are provided to children at school, including at Catholic schools, under the age of 16. This is happening with the co-operation of the Catholic authorities.

In my own country and throughout the world we are witnessing the fulfilment of the prophetic message of *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI's historic encyclical which celebrated its 40th anniversary six years ago. Speaking about the inseparable connection between the unitive and procreative aspects of sexual intercourse he wrote: “Finally, careful consideration should be given to the danger of this power passing into the hands of those public authorities who care little for the precepts of the moral law. Who will blame a government which in its attempt to resolve the problems affecting an entire country resorts to the same measures as are regarded as lawful by married people in the solution of a particular family difficulty? Who will prevent public authorities from favoring those contraceptive methods which they consider more effective? Should they regard this as necessary, they may even impose their use on everyone.” When Pope Paul VI wrote these words, he was referring to governments imposing birth control practices on whole societies. His words apply, tragically, with terrifying consequences for our families, to Catholic bishops' conference of England and Wales who co-operate with government policy of imposing birth control practices on families like mine.

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<sup>2</sup> Message of Pope Benedict XVI on the World Day of Peace 1 January 2011.

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Throughout Britain, Ireland and Europe, the failure of Catholic bishops to teach their flocks on matters relating to the fundamental right to life is directly responsible for great confusion and, consequently, for the failure of the overwhelming majority of Catholics, both clerical and lay, to provide truly effective resistance to the greatest legalized slaughter of human beings in the history of the world. Countless millions of unborn children are being killed each year and the policy of very many Catholic bishops in Europe is contributing hugely to this deplorable situation.

Parents therefore have an urgent, absolute right to totally clear teaching on the truths expressed in *Humanae Vitae* in these areas, in particular on the inseparability of the unitive and procreative aspects of sexual intercourse. With humility, and as the chief executive of a non-religious, human rights pro-life group, I personally believe the time is ripe for the Catholic Church to declare the teaching of *Humanae Vitae* to be an infallible document of the Church. I submit that the tragic evidence of the past half century overwhelmingly makes the case for doing this.

During the last few months alone I have had meetings with the heads of three major dicasteries at the Vatican about what's happening in England and Wales with the authority of Catholic officials. I appeal to the influential members of Legatus to be aware of the problems we face in Britain and in Ireland and elsewhere in Europe in the positions adopted by many of our Catholic bishops. Remember the geopolitical significance and influence of Britain which reaches out to possibly a third of the world's population. I appeal to you to use your influence at the highest levels of the church to beg the Pope to appoint bishops who will uphold the teaching of the Church in our countries. We must work more closely together. We really must. Catholics in Britain, and in Ireland, and throughout Europe, where there are very similar problems, urgently need the support of our American Catholic brethren, not least the influential members of Legatus, to take up our cause. Churchill, Britain and Europe needed America to come to our aid in the Second World War. You came to our aid. You laid down your lives and you saved the world for freedom and we loved America for what you did. We still love America. This is World War 3, it's now a war on unborn children, parents as the primary educators, and the innocence of our born children. And Britain and Europe need America's Catholics help to help us save the Catholic Church in our countries in order that we can win this war. Please contact me if you think you can help and I will happily send you further information. We need Catholic church leaders like Archbishop Chaput whose words about Obamacare I recall once more: "The onus is entirely on the White House, which also has the power to remove the issue from public conflict. Catholics should not be misled into accepting feeble compromises on issues of principle"

There needs to be a declaration of total resistance to abortion, backed by open prayer, openly led by all bishops throughout the world, leading the faithful and the general public in the US, to oppose the tyranny of Obamacare, leading the faithful and the general public in Ireland to oppose the Irish government's new abortion law even if it means the closure of Catholic hospitals, and even if it means health professionals and others losing their jobs, and leading the general public in Britain to support two

## **Bishops are the first ones called to be untiring preachers of the Gospel of Life**

courageous pro-life supervisor midwives in Glasgow, Scotland, whose battle for the right to keep their jobs without being obliged to supervise abortions, comes up in the Supreme Court in the United Kingdom later this year.

We mustn't think that pro-life organizations on their own, all of them marching in perfect step with each other, can achieve anything definitive against the culture of death on our own. We must do everything we possibly can, not least by prayer and fasting, to involve church leaders in the war against the culture of death. I was delighted that the bishops on the Bishops' panel at the Convention yesterday spoke about the need to work in partnership with the laity. The only thing I would add, Your Excellencies, is that we need your leadership. You have the charism, the grace of your ordination as bishops, and of the sacrament of your priesthood, and when you speak the truth you speak to Catholics and to non-Catholics with inspiring authority.

*Hiems Transit.* When I was in Ireland last year, I saw those words carved into the wall outside St Kieran's College in Kilkenny. *Hiems Transit.* The motto of the college is *Hiems Transit* ("Winter has passed") and it's taken from The Song of Songs (2:11) in the Old Testament and it refers to the 'winter' of the Penal Laws era.

*Hiems transit* "Winter has passed" should be the motto of pro-life Catholics today. God's Frozen People – the Catholic laity throughout the world must start burning with righteous indignation, calling openly and respectfully and in a spirit of dialogue with their bishops, to get out there, to preach the Gospel of Life, take the lead, protect the Holy Eucharist from those who openly seek to destroy the body of Christ in the body of unborn children, protect and assist parents in seeking to educate and protect their children from the Obama-style politicians and ideologues in different professions who seek to destroy them. Winter is over. *Hiems transit.* Catholic bishops in Rome, in Ireland, and throughout the world, must now lead the entire world back to Christ and back to unequivocal respect for every single human life who are made in the image of God and destined for eternal happiness with Him. I will happily take your questions.