



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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Bishop's Office

January 31, 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With a heavy heart, I write to you today to call your attention to an important development which threatens the fundamental right to religious liberty for all citizens of any faith.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services announced on January 20, 2012, that almost all employers will now be mandated to offer employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and contraception.

As a result, unless the ruling is overturned, we Catholics will be required either to violate our consciences or drop health coverage for our employees.

As we have done in the past, so now we must make our voices heard on this important matter of religious freedom.

Therefore, I ask two things of you: First, as a community of faith, to commit ourselves to prayer and fasting that wisdom and justice might prevail, and that true religious liberty might be restored. Without God, we can do nothing; with God, nothing is impossible. Second, I ask you individually to visit www.usccb.org/conscience to learn about this assault on religious liberty, and to learn how to contact Congress in support of legislation that will reverse this administrative decision.

May God bless our efforts to do what is right.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

+Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

God's Love Endures Forever