



Feast of St. Gregory the Great
March 14, 2012

“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution...Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.” 1 PETER 2.13, 17.

“Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” ACTS 5.29

Dear Resurrection:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins!

In this season of Lent, we as a Resurrection Clergy Team come to you with great pastoral concern for the recent HHS (Health and Human Services) mandate requiring religious institutions’ insurance plans to cover “cost free” abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception.

It is our deepest desire that you become men and women who live by and under the Word of God. Accordingly, we encourage you, as Peter teaches, to show “proper respect” and submission to “every human institution.” This is why we pray regularly for our governmental leaders and give them the proper respect due their office.

And yet, when the government mandates actions that are contrary to God’s Word, we as God’s servants must encourage you, in Peter’s words, to “obey God rather than men.”

For us as American Christians, what does this look like in light of the recent government decisions? We are calling you to a three-fold response.

1. Pray

- a. Pray that the mandates will be overturned.
- b. Pray for unity among Christians as we respond to our government.
- c. Pray for a real collegiality among many different religious leaders who share a passion for our constitutional right to the free exercise of religion.

2. Learn

- a. Please read through the links provided on our website: www.churchrez.org/religiousfreedom
- b. Listen to Fr. Kevin’s Sermon from March 11.
- c. Attend our special CLT class on Religious Freedom (see website for details).

3. Act

- a. Consider joining many Resurrection leaders and members in Chicago at the Rally for Religious Freedom...see details about how to meet up on our website.
- b. Contact your representatives. See the website for a sample email and contact information.
- c. Consider signing the Manhattan Declaration (www.manhattandeclaration.org)

As a clergy team, we are thankful for the many Christian leaders who, with great thoughtfulness and courage, are taking a stand. We joyfully stand with them. And, with great hope, we put our trust not in men but in the Lord Jesus Christ.

With our love and blessings,

Resurrection Clergy Team

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Fr. Stewart Ruch, III

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