

# Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2010 National Convention

## Legislative Workshop

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# Good Citizens Want to Know

Why Catholic Daughters need to be involved in the political world

## *Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II

- “... recover the basic elements of a vision of the relationship between civil law and moral law...”
- “... in no sphere of life can the civil law take the place of conscience ...”
- “...civil law must ensure that all members of society enjoy respect for certain fundamental rights...rights which every positive law must recognize and guarantee.”

“It is therefore urgently necessary, for the future of society and the development of a sound democracy, to rediscover those essential and innate human and moral values which flow from the very truth of the human being and express and safeguard the dignity of the person: values which no individual, no majority and no State can ever create, modify or destroy, but must only acknowledge, respect and promote.”

Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II

Pope Benedict XVI on June 17, 2010

“...human reason, above all if it accepts the inspirations of the Christian faith, is a promoter of a civilization that recognizes the dignity of the person, the intangibility of his rights and the strength of his duties.”

“...Nor can we practice the Gospel of life only as a private piety. ...must live it vigorously and publicly...”

“...we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically....”

*Living the Gospel of Life:*  
*A Challenge to American Catholics,*  
United States Conference of Catholic  
Bishops

“...responsible citizenship is a virtue,  
and participation in political life is a  
moral obligation.”

*Forming Consciences for Faithful  
Citizenship: A call to Political  
Responsibility from the Catholic  
Bishops of the United States*

# *Operation Morningstar...*

... is a CDA issues-oriented program to encourage Catholic women to speak out on legislation while it is being considered. Since it is difficult to change a law after it has passed, “our Catholic influence needs to be projected to the legislators during the debate, before the laws are enacted.”

# CDA is a 501(c)(3) organization

## (tax exempt by the IRS)

Catholic Daughters of the Americas does  
“not participate in or intervene in any  
political campaign on behalf of [or in  
opposition to] any candidate for public  
office.” (*Bylaws*, page ii)

One local court or just one member who  
violates this rule puts the entire national  
organization in jeopardy of losing tax-  
exempt status.

# In the name of Catholic Daughters

- No Local/State court officer or another court member may verbally or by written word issue a statement for a specific candidate or party.
- No officer or member may promote a program, a website, or any other type of communication that promotes a specific party or candidate— even without naming the party or candidate— as information available can be partisan without naming a candidate or party.

# CDA National Legislative Policies

“If an issue arises on a national level, the state or territorial court legislative chair should contact the CDA National Legislative Committee to determine if the committee has taken a position. A state’s position should not conflict with the National Legislative Committee’s position.”

*Tools of the*

*Trade*

# Research provides the key

Many reputable organizations provide valuable information:

- American Life League
- Right to Life
- American Family Association
- Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute
- National Organization for Marriage
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

# Are contacts with legislators and members of Congress effective?

YES!

- One U.S. Representative said...“One letter triggers our knowledge. Believe it or not, five or six letters can constitute significant support for an issue.”
- He further noted that “congressional staff often develops important new legislation based on the suggestions of a single constituent.”
- All the more reasons to write to Congress and state legislators!

# State Legislative Issues

“State or territorial court legislative chairs may issue alerts or disseminate information on strictly state issues to local courts or territorial court members, upon approval of the state or territorial court regent. Send a copy to the National Legislative Chair together with a copy of the sources of the communication.”

Tools of the

To summarize:

As an organization, CDA has a civic duty to speak about legislative issues, but because of tax-exempt status, CDA may not campaign on behalf of any individual.

# The current issues:

- Protect human life
- Defend marriage
- Promote abstinence
- End taxpayer funding of abortion
- Stop human trafficking
- Stay tuned on end of life issues
- Inform people on stem cell research
- Oppose repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”
- Oppose funding abortions at military installations

# Protect human life

“Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person—among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.”

Paragraph 2270,  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

“Before I formed you in the womb  
I knew you, and before you were  
born I consecrated you.” Jer 1:5

“My frame was not hidden from  
you, when I was being made in  
secret, intricately wrought in the  
depths of the earth.” Psalm  
139:15

Paragraph 2270,  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

“Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law...”

Paragraph 2271,  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

“The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society...”

“The moment a positive law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil legislation ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law.”

Paragraph 2273,  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

# Personhood

- Personhood—every human being has a right to equal protection under the law.
- The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment says “nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”
- A state by state initiative to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

# Spiritual adoption

- Bishop Fulton J. Sheen is being considered for canonization. He suggested that Americans spiritually adopt unborn children by praying for them for nine months.

# Defend marriage

“[Marriage] is something more than a mere contract.... It is an institution, in the maintenance of which in its purity the public is deeply interested, for it is the foundation of the family and of society, without which there would be neither civilization nor progress.”

—*Justice Stephen Johnson Field, Maynard v. Hill, 125 U.S. 190, 210-11 (1888)*

# Second Vatican Council

*“But God did not create man a solitary being. From the beginning ‘male and female he created them’ (Genesis 1:27).*

*This partnership of man and woman constitutes the first form of communion between persons.”*

– Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (1965), no. 121

# *Made for Each Other*

12-minute film from USCCB

“Without a proper understanding of the meaning of marriage, the topic of rights, equality, and non-discrimination cannot be dealt with adequately. In fact, the topic will remain at a superficial level and be misconstrued. Only when marriage is understood can its preservation be grasped as fundamental for the protection of basic human rights and the common good.”

# *Made for Each Other...*

- “... The crucial starting point is sexual difference. While sexual difference alone doesn't say everything there is to say about marriage, it's indispensable for understanding marriage's meaning. In fact, sexual difference provides the essential foundation for recognizing why marriage is exclusive to one man and one woman. The difference is the

# *Made for Each Other* Talking Points

1. It's important always to *consider the human person*. Every human person, man and woman, is made in the image and likeness of God and has inviolable dignity.
2. *The difference is the difference*. Sexual difference is essential to marriage.
3. Attempts to redefine marriage to include persons of the same sex miss *the fundamental question at stake*: What is marriage?

# Talking Points...

4. Marriage is the permanent and exclusive union of one man and one woman, for the good of the spouses and for the procreation and education of children.
5. The two-in-one-flesh union and the fruitful love of marriage are only possible through the sexual difference and complementarity of husband and wife, man and woman.

# Talking Points...

6. *Marriage is not a construct* of religion or the state, despite the cultural and historical variations over time. Marriage is grounded in the nature of the human person, created male and female by God.
7. So-called same-sex “marriage” and other forms of same-sex “unions” are contrary to right reason (the natural moral law) and revealed truth. They are contrary to the truth of the person and the language of the body.

# Talking Points...

8. *Treating different things differently is not unjust discrimination.* Standing for the truth of marriage does not ignore rights or the equal dignity of human persons. Rather, it is a stand for the rights of husbands and wives, the unique responsibilities of mothers and fathers, the good and rights of children, the dignity of all human persons, and the common good.
9. The question of rights begs the question of marriage. *There are many ways to protect basic human rights; sacrificing marriage is not one of them.*

# Marriage is a social institution

“Marriage is first and foremost a social institution, created and sustained by civil society. Law sometimes *creates* institutions (the corporation is a prime modern example). But sometimes the law *recognizes* an institution that it does not and cannot meaningfully create.

“No laws, and no set of lawyers, legislators, or judges, can summon a social institution like marriage into being merely by legal fiat. Marriage and family therefore can never be reduced to a legal construct, a mere creature of the state.”

# Society needs the family

High rates of divorce, unmarried childbearing, as well as violent or high conflict marriages, hurt children. An abundance of social science evidence shows that all three of these forms of family breakdown hurt children.

One key purpose of marriage is to prevent the damage that occurs to children when their mothers and fathers fail to build lasting, loving unions.

# Promote abstinence



Dr. Miriam Grossman

- author
- physician
- psychiatrist
- legislative witness

*You're Teaching My Child What? A Physician Exposes the Lies of Sex Education and How They Harm Your Child*, a book about what is taught in comprehensive sex education.

*Unprotected: A Campus Psychiatrist Reveals How Political Correctness Endangers Every Student*, a book about how misinformed, naïve and vulnerable young women are.

# Dr. Miriam Grossman

“My mission is to expose and combat the manipulation of healthcare to advance social agendas. I challenge my colleagues who shamelessly promote high risk sexual behavior and pornography to vulnerable teens and college students. I ask them: what are we fighting? Viruses and bacteria, or sexism, racism, and homophobia? The struggle for social justice is a noble one, but has no place in a clinic or counseling center.”

# End taxpayer funding of abortions

President Obama issued an Executive Order regarding abortion funding and conscience protection. The USCCB response: “In sum, the Executive Order cannot and does not fix the statutory problems of direct funding of abortion at CHCs [Community Health Centers], and of funding insurance plans that cover abortions; it cannot and does not make up for the absence of conscience protections that are missing from the statute; and it does not strengthen the conscience protections that are there...”

# More from USCCB

“Thus, the shortcomings of the Act remain, and correspondingly, the need for fixes remains. Only Congress, with the consent of the President, has the legal authority to make those fixes. Congress and the President should act promptly to do so; they should not await courts’ likely invalidation of the few provisions of the Executive Order that even purport to be fixes.”

# Only Congress can legislate

In other words, the President can't rewrite the law; only Congress can write laws. Despite what the President has said, taxpayer money will go to pay for abortions, and conscience protection for health care workers has been lost. More than a dozen states' attorney generals have filed suit against the health care reform legislation.

# Stop human trafficking

*A Crime So Monstrous* by E. Benjamin Skinner “There are more slaves today than at any point in human history,” Skinner writes in this devastating book. By slaves he means people coerced by violence to work for no pay. Some prostitutes fall into this category, but a majority of slaves, he says, are domestic servants or forced laborers. Skinner reports from centers of the modern slave trade, including Haiti, Sudan, Romania, Turkey, India, the Netherlands — and Miami.” *The New*

# Human trafficking defined

...one person holding another in forced service. US State Department says it takes many forms

**Forced Labor:** Immigrants are particularly vulnerable to forced labor, but individuals also may be forced into labor in their own countries.

**Sex Trafficking:** When an adult is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution – or maintained in prostitution through coercion – that person is a victim of trafficking

# Types of human trafficking

**Bonded Labor:** Debt bondage occurs when traffickers unlawfully exploit an initial debt the worker assumed as part of the terms of employment.

**Debt Bondage Among Migrant Laborers:** Illegal costs and debts on migrant workers in the source country, often with the support of employers in the destination country, can contribute to debt bondage.

**Involuntary Domestic Servitude:** Domestic workers, often socially isolated, are often subject to nonconsensual exploitation, untreated illnesses and

# Human trafficking

**Forced Child Labor:** The child is in the custody of a non-family member who has the child perform work that financially benefits someone outside the child's family and does not offer the child the option of leaving.

**Child Soldiers:** Government forces, paramilitary organizations, or rebel groups abduct children and use them as combatants, porters, cooks, guards, messengers, or spies.

**Child Sex Trafficking:** Two million children are subjected to prostitution in the global commercial sex trade.

# Stay tuned on end of life issues

Florida Catholic Conference,

“Catholic Declaration on Life and Death Advance Directive (Health Surrogate Designation/Living Will),”

1. I be provided care and comfort, and that my pain be relieved;
2. No inappropriate, excessively burdensome nor disproportionate means be used to prolong my life. This can include medical or surgical procedures;

# Catholic Directive...

3. There should be a presumption in favor of providing nutrition and hydration to me, including medically assisted nutrition and hydration, as long as this is of sufficient benefit to outweigh the burdens involved to me;
4. Nothing be done with the intention of causing my death; and
5. Spiritual care be provided, including sacraments whenever possible.

# Artificial nutrition and hydration

In 1985, a study group of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences released “Medical Guidelines,” which said, “If the patient is in a permanent, irreversible coma, as far as can be foreseen, treatment is not required, but all care should be lavished on him, *including feeding.*”

# Pope John Paul II's defense

John Paul II gave an "Address to Participants in the International Congress on 'Life-Sustaining Treatments and the Vegetative State: Scientific Advance and Ethical Dilemmas.'" Some of the scientific papers presented showed that persons alleged to be 'vegetative' were often misdiagnosed. Some of the patients provided evidence that they had been conscious and aware.

# More from JP II

John Paul II said that feeding and hydrating people tubally is morally required unless one can show that doing so is futile and unduly burdensome.

# USCCB stands for feeding/hydration

“... the administration of food and water even by artificial means is, in principle, an ordinary and proportionate means of preserving life. It is therefore obligatory to the extent to which, and for as long as, it is shown to accomplish its proper finality, which is the hydration and nourishment of the patient. In this way suffering and death by starvation and dehydration are prevented.”

# Inform people on stem cell issues

Adult stem cells can come from any part of the body—skin, eyes and more. They do no harm to the person and can be grown and used without fear of rejection.

Embryonic stem cells require the destruction of a four-to-five day old embryo. They often result in cancer, especially teratoma tumors, where body parts randomly start to grow—a set of teeth, a hand, etc.

# Adult stem cells provide cures

“Dozens of people who were blinded or otherwise suffered severe eye damage when they were splashed with caustic chemicals had their sight restored with transplants of their own stem cells -- a stunning success for the burgeoning cell-therapy field, Italian researchers reported Wednesday.”

-Associated Press, June 28, 2010

# Embryonic stem cells

Killing a human being for research is never justified and hearkens to the days of Nazi Germany where medical researchers performed shocking experiments on people in the name of science.

# Oppose repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'



National Defense Authorization Act for 2011 includes repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the military.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for Military Services and the American Legion oppose the change.

# Archbishop Timothy Broglio

“A number of chaplains and commanding officers have expressed concerns about the effects of a change.” “...a repeal of the current legislation has the potential of being enormous and overwhelming. Nothing should be changed until there is certainty that morale will not suffer. Sacrificing the moral beliefs of individuals or their living conditions to respond to merely political considerations is neither just nor prudent especially for the armed forces at a time of war.”

# Respect, not special rights

The archbishop said homosexuals deserve respect and must not be harassed or intimidated. “However, unions between individuals of the same gender resembling marriage will not be accepted or blessed by Catholic chaplains. Furthermore no restrictions or limitations on the teaching of Catholic morality can be accepted. First Amendment rights regarding the free exercise of

Show compassion; don't condone

“... Catholic chaplains must show compassion for persons with a homosexual orientation, but can never condone—even silently—homosexual behavior.”

“Does the proposed change authorize these individuals to engage in activities considered immoral not only by the Catholic Church, but also by many other religious groups?”

# Archbishop Broglio concludes

“This Archdiocese exists to serve those who serve and it assists them by advocating moral behavior. The military must find ways to promote that behavior and develop strong prohibitions against any immoral activity that would jeopardize morale, good morals, unit cohesion and every other factor that weakens the mission.”

# Oppose funding abortions at military installations

- Also included in 2011 Defense Authorization bill is the Burris Amendment which would fund elective abortions at military installations. Call Senators immediately on both of these bills.

# Beware good intentions...

- “**RESOLVED**, that the Catholic Daughters of the Americas support and encourage the use of prayer, silent or verbal, at all public events within their communities.”??
- Do we really want to participate in Muslim, Hindu and other prayers because that could logically follow?

- “Governors of 35 states have already filed suit against the Federal Government for imposing unlawful burdens upon them. It only takes 38 (of the 50) States to convene a Constitutional Convention.”??
- Do we really want this current crop of legislators to rewrite our Constitution? Aren't we better off with the protections we have in place?

# In conclusion

- See the attached handout called “Reputable Websites,” realizing that nothing is 100 percent reliable, and CDA is not officially endorsing any of them. The list is provided as a means for you to do further research.