



Saint Thomas More
1478-1535

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Dear Fellow Catholic:

As we continue to wait and pray for confirmation that our \$109 million pro-life victory in Oregon is final (more about this later), the work of defending Catholic liberty goes on elsewhere.

Here are a few recent developments.

Prosecuted for Carrying A Sign

When Joe O'Hara was given a citation for "harassment" by a Pennsylvania State Trooper he couldn't believe it.

All Joe had done was to carry a pro-life protest sign on the public sidewalk near a local abortion mill in Allentown. You have probably seen this sign, or one like it: it shows what happens to babies in late-term abortions; it tells the truth about the horror of abortion.

Who had been harmed by this sign? In fact, who was the complaining witness? Are you ready for this? The complaining witness listed in the citation was . . . SOCIETY! That's right. Joe O'Hara had been criminally cited for offending "society" with his sign.

For doing nothing more than exercising his basic First Amendment rights as an American, Joe was now facing a court proceeding and legal expenses, with a potential fine or even a jail sentence.

So, Joe did what many other pro-lifers and other Catholics have done when their rights are under assault. He called us!

The first thing we did for Joe was to contact the local State Trooper barracks and speak with the watch commander. The commander informed us that his captain had created a "zero tolerance" policy for pro-life signs he deemed "offensive," and that he intended to use criminal citations to get rid of "offensive" signs at this particular abortion clinic.

Imagine that! The police in this area actually had a "zero tolerance" policy for pro-life protest signs they did not like! And the State Police were going to make sure that "society" wasn't offended by the signs.

My friend, this incredible development is only part of a national trend by the abortion cartel and law enforcement agencies to use any means to squelch pro-life activity.

Well, the next thing we did for Joe was to send the captain of the State Trooper barracks a stiff letter, explaining his obligations under the First Amendment and citing Supreme Court cases which forbid the State to punish speech based on its content.

We warned the Pennsylvania State Police that another demonstration involving the same signs was going to take place the next day, and that any attempt to prosecute Joe O'Hara or the other demonstrators would be met by a federal law suit.

What happened next? Well, the Pennsylvania State Police backed down. They withdrew the citation against Joe O'Hara. And, the next day at the abortion mill, the patrol cars buzzed around the demonstrators who were carrying the same type of sign, but there were no citations and no harassment by the Troopers.

The press account of this victory in the Allentown Morning Call says it all:

The American Catholic Lawyers Association on Friday fired off a letter to Capt. Theodore D. Kohuth of the Pennsylvania State Police barracks in Bethlehem.

Christopher A. Ferrara, the association's chief legal counsel, warned police that Supreme Court precedent forbids punishment of political speech based upon its content or upon vague allegations of being "offensive" or "harassing" to others.

Upon further review, Kohuth on Tuesday determined that a trooper erred in giving O'Hara a citation.

So, this time there was a happy ending. But what if the Association had not been there to help Joe? And what of all the other assaults on the First Amendment liberties of Catholic pro-lifers like Joe around the country?

He Stepped on a Pro-Abort's Heel.
Now they Want to Take the Family Farm!

In our past newsletters we have been telling you how the federal statute known as FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act) is being used to crush the pro-life movement.

Well, we have just agreed to take on an emergency appeal to the Second Circuit on behalf of a Catholic family of twelve in Utica, New York, the Kraegers.

Only a few weeks ago, Mr. and Mrs. Kraeger and two of their ten children were hammered by a federal judge with an \$80,000 judgment for damages and penalties under FACE obtained by New York's Attorney General. The judgment was based on alleged "obstruction" of a Utica abortion mill and "threats" by the Kraegers against abortion mill employees.

The "obstruction" consisted of such things as standing on the public sidewalk while demonstrating in front of the abortion mill's front steps. The pro-aborts whined that this was a "blocking" of access to "reproductive health services."

And -- get this -- "obstruction" and "force" were also found because Mr. Kraeger stepped on the heel of an employee of the abortion clinic.

The court even found that Mr. Kraeger was guilty of "obstructing" access to "reproductive health services" because he confronted an abortion mill employee at a Catholic parish where this accomplice to baby-killing had been invited to give a talk!

So, FACE now requires Catholics to stay clear of pro-aborts when they speak at Catholic parishes! The pro-aborts are surrounded by floating "FACE zones" wherever they go!

As for the alleged "threats," the court found that a box of pro-life literature sealed with a piece of duct tape was -- I kid you not! -- a "bomb threat"! Yet a clinic employee opened the box, even though she claimed at trial that she was afraid it contained a "bomb."

Based on nothing but this kind of "evidence," the Kraegers face the loss of the only real asset they have: their home and family farm, where they live and conduct the family businesses.

The only way the Kraegers can pay the damages and penalties is through the forced sale of

the land and house on which they and their many children depend for survival!

You see, this is the strategy that the abortion cartel is using under FACE: to bring financial ruin to anyone who stands up to Big Abortion.

Well, we are going to fight this outrageous judgment -- all the way to the United States Supreme Court if necessary. And the Kraegers will not have to pay one penny for legal fees or expenses -- thanks to your support of our work.

Waiting and Praying for the News From Oregon

As this letter reaches you, we are still waiting and praying for the news that our smashing victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals -- which tossed out an insane \$109 million verdict against our clients under FACE -- has become final. Here, at last, pro-lifers have won a major First Amendment victory against the crushing advance of FACE. Pray that we can keep it!!!

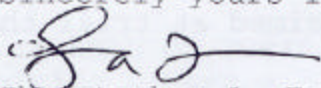
You Are the First Line of Defense

I know that these are uncertain times -- for the economy, for our nation, and for the world. I also know that many Catholic apostolates are suffering a decline in support in recent months -- this one included!

But consider how the forces of death are never wanting for foundation money and millions of dollars in donor support from the pro-death culture. And consider how little it takes for an organization like this one to fight back effectively -- like we did in Oregon!

As always, it is you, as the instrument of God's providence, who keep us in the battle. Please, help us to battle on for the rights of Catholics and the reign of Christ the King.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Christopher A. Ferrara
Chief Counsel

P.S. Only your support makes it possible for us to handle matters like helping the Kraegers save their family farm from a forced sale to pay a pro-abort judgment. Only your support made it possible to win reversal of the \$109 million verdict against pro-lifers in Oregon -- a victory that's driving the pro-aborts wild! Please, continue to remember us in these difficult times.