

February 24, 2012

## **Media Alert**

### **Religious and Medical Leaders Send a Message to Congress: Support Religious Freedom and Conscience Protection**

**WHO:** Bishop John Noonan, Diocese of Orlando (English and Spanish speaker)  
Dr. Peter Morrow, President, Catholic Medical Association  
Dr. Patrick Mongan, Deacon  
Larry Ramirez, Senior Pastor, Resound Community Church (Spanish speaker)  
Leah Ramirez, Pastor, Resound Community Church

**WHAT:** News Conference on the HHS Mandate that Impacts Religious Freedom

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** St. James Cathedral Chapel  
215 N Orange Ave, Orlando

#### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

The Diocese of Orlando is hosting a news conference to voice concerns over the Health and Human Services ruling issued on January 20<sup>th</sup> mandating that contraception, sterilization and abortion inducing drugs be included at no cost to the insured in all health care plans.

On Feb. 10 President Barack Obama announced a revision that would exempt religious employers from paying for coverage of sterilization, contraception and abortion inducing drugs. However, the revision would compel insurance companies to offer such services. The bishops of the U.S. have rejected this plan, insisting that it still forces people to pay for “services” that violate their religious convictions.

The Catholic Church and others of good will have vigorously argued against the mandate and encourage a broader exemption to protect the conscience rights of religious institutions and ministries.

The news conference will be live streamed via radio station Buena Nueva FM. To listen to the news conference on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. click here: <http://www.orlandodiocese.org/en/bnfm-en-vivo>.

Following the news conference, Bishop Noonan will celebrate the White Mass at St. James Cathedral. In attendance will be doctors, nurses, hospital chaplains, ministers to the sick and others who care for the ill and dying. The purpose of the White Mass is to ask for God's guidance upon all those involved in the ministry of health care. This is the first White Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Noonan in the Diocese of Orlando.