

### **Defending Our Religious Liberty March 6, 2016**

After promising that the Little Sisters' religious beliefs would be protected, the government created a new regulation requiring the Little Sisters to change their healthcare plan to offer services that violate Catholic teaching. But 1 in 3 Americans do not have a plan that is subject to the mandate HHS is fighting so hard to force the Little Sisters of the Poor to follow. Exxon, Chevron, and Pepsi -- as well as other large corporations -- are exempt from the mandate, because they never changed their plans and are grandfathered. And the government is not even requiring our own US military to provide these services through their family insurance.

The government is arguing that since it has offered to reimburse the costs of the services it wants the Little Sisters to provide, they should have no moral objection to offering them. The Little Sisters are saying this is not about money, but conscience, and whether they should be forced to change their healthcare plan to offer services they have a moral objection to when those services could be provided more effectively through the government's healthcare exchange.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

### **Holy Family Summer Camp 2016**

#### **Theme: Oceans of Mercy**

The Sisters of Charity of our Lady Mother of the Church are having their annual Summer Camp from July 28-July 31 located at Holy Family Motherhouse in Baltic, CT. The Camp is for girls from ages 11-15. Come join us for a wonderful spiritual experience and lots of fun!

Contact Sister Mary Kathleen, SCMC at 860.423.5122 or [smarykathleen@gmail.com](mailto:smarykathleen@gmail.com) or Sister Rafael, SCMC at 860.822.8241. All forms are on our website: [www.sistersofcharity.com](http://www.sistersofcharity.com) God Bless you and we hope that the Ocean of Christ's Mercy fills you with peace and joy!

You are invited to our **9th Annual Gala**, to be held April 23, 2016 at Great Neck Country Club, Waterford, CT. Reception at 6:00pm followed by dinner (4 menu options). Live and silent auction! MC's will be Fox 61 personalities John Charlton and Lorenzo Hall. Live entertainment during reception. For more details or to order tickets, see our website at [www.outreachtohaiti.org](http://www.outreachtohaiti.org), or call 860-887-1019 x817.

## **The Cross of Mercy**

The Cross of Mercy will be displayed for the entire Year of Mercy.



The purpose of the Cross is to provide all our parishioners the opportunity to display their Works of Mercy. As you perform a Work of Mercy we ask you to write it down on the cards provided and using a push pin attach it to the Cross. The cards should be nameless. Cards, push pins and pencils will be provided. Let's be mindful of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

A great Act of Mercy would be to contribute to the Happy House project for Haiti in support of the catechism classes. Containers are available at both entrances.

## **Divine Mercy Chaplet**

We will begin reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on Friday March 4, and every Friday thereafter, following the 9 A.M. Mass. Please join us.

Sr. Mary A. McCarthy, President of Mercy High School, Middletown, CT has announced the names of the following students as honor roll students for the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period. Giana Pirolli - First Honors  
Congratulations to Giana for a job well done.