

GERARD

HEALTH FOUNDATION LLC

October 1, 2007

Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J.
President, College of the Holy Cross
1 College Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Dear Father McFarland:

I am writing to inform you of the evil nature of an event that is scheduled to take place on the Holy Cross Campus on October 24, 2007 that features Planned Parenthood and its allies (see attachment #1 for the program agenda and list of speakers). On that day, The Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy (Alliance) is presenting an event entitled “2007 Teen Pregnancy Institute, Messages that Matter: Strengthening Prevention and Supporting Young Families.” I believe you were probably misled about the nature of the lead organizations involved and their true mission.

What I find appalling about this event as do many other alumni of Holy Cross with whom I have communicated is that the sponsor as well as a number of participant organizations advocate for or support policies completely contrary to the Catholic faith and teachings. For this reason and more that I will talk about, I am asking you to immediately cancel this event.

First though, it is appropriate to mention that the event sponsor, *Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy*, will be presenting its Leadership Award to Governor Deval Patrick for “...individual policy makers who have made a significant contribution to teen pregnancy prevention and/or other services...” Yet, the Governor in June decided not to accept \$700,000+ available from the Federal government to teach abstinence-until-marriage education.

The National Abstinence Education Association ran an advertisement I have included as attachment #2 asking people in the Commonwealth to call Governor Patrick and request him to accept these Federal funds, just like preceding governors have done. Hundreds and perhaps thousands of calls were directed to the Governor’s office urging him to accept the federal funds. He refused citing a preference for “comprehensive sex education programs” which are revealed below. He has also requested 1 billion dollars for “life sciences” research which includes destructive embryonic stem cell research which the Catholic Church opposes. Governor Patrick does not belong on the Holy Cross campus.

Not surprisingly, the Alliance has for years advocated against federal funding of abstinence-until-marriage programs. If you access their web site <http://www.massteenpregnancy.org/about/who.html> they state that the Alliance has opposed since 2002 federal funding of abstinence-until-marriage programs as the Alliance considers the programs "...not only inadequate, but in fact detrimental to the health of ...young people..." Can you believe it? Abstinence is detrimental to the health of young people? No wonder Governor Patrick was the choice for its award this year!

In addition to the event sponsor, you should be aware of other speakers and conference workshop leaders representing organizations that are even worse examples of groups that should not be using the Holy Cross name to support their agenda. These are:

- *Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts* operates multiple abortion clinics in Massachusetts including one in Worcester. The group's national headquarters states in its 2005-2006 Annual Report that it conducted 264,943 abortion procedures in 2005. Undoubtedly, many of these abortions occurred in Massachusetts and some even not too far from your campus. Its web site is www.plannedparenthood.org/ma.
- *NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts* is a leading pro-choice organizer and advocate in Massachusetts. Its stated mission is to guarantee every woman the right to a "legal and accessible abortion." Its web site is www.prochoicemass.org. Stacie Garnett, a workshop speaker is the director of Access and Outreach programs at NARAL Pro-Choice.
- *Judicial Consent for Minors Lawyer Referral Panel* supports efforts by minors seeking legal consent to obtain an abortion. Jamie Sabino, the workshop speaker, is a past board member of Planned Parenthood and supports the efforts of the Panel in obtaining judicial authorizations for abortions on minor children. There is no web site for this group, but we can provide the archival information we found during our research. In addition, Attorney Philip D. Moran, a Holy Cross graduate, has debated her and is familiar with her work to help minors get around the state parental consent law. Attorney Moran can be reached at (978) 745-6085.
- Dr. Douglas Kirby, the keynote speaker for the event, is an employee of ETR Associates. ETR Associates is a Planned Parenthood spinoff. It was originally the education department of Planned Parenthood in Santa Cruz, California. Dr. Kirby is a proponent of so called "comprehensive sex education" and ETR Associates is a leading distributor of these programs and information about contraceptives. He co-authored research on the ETR publication "Safer Choices 1 & 2." Project Reality, a leader in abstinence education, reviewed this publication and found a total of 10 mentions of the word abstinence and 772 mentions of the work condom. The full results of their review can be found on their website <http://projectreality.org/news/index.php?newsid=57>. Other problems with comprehensive sex education are detailed below. ETR Associates' web site is www.etr.org.

- Megara Bell representing Partners in Sex Education has previously appeared on other Massachusetts college campuses billed as a sex therapist. She has shown explicit sexual information and promoted sexual items some have labeled “sex toys.” There is no web site for this person or organization, but we can provide the archival information we found during our research.

Teen pregnancy is a serious problem in this country and abortion violates all of the tenets of our faith. Will Holy Cross allow organizations which essentially promote teen sex and abortion to come on campus in violation of our very beliefs? If you are not already convinced you should cancel this event, let me provide some more background information on comprehensive sex education programs to aid you.

Carol Everett, a former abortion clinic manager and author of the book “Blood Money: Getting Rich Off a Woman’s Right to Choose” stated to me that she and other “comprehensive sex educators” would urge kids to have sex and to use condoms and birth control devices knowing the kids would come to her for these devices. Then, when the condoms or devices were not used properly or failed, the kids would come back to her for their abortions. Carol will repeat what I just said if you call her on (512) 255-2088 or email her at carol@heidigroup.org

Publishers of comprehensive sex education programs will tell you they talk about abstinence in their programs. However, the truth is that abstinence is barely mentioned. The Heritage Foundation evaluated comprehensive sex programs in 2004 and found that they devoted less than 4.7% of their pages and content to abstinence education. This study is included as attachment #3.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a report on comprehensive sex education earlier this year in which it reviewed nine (9) curriculums currently delivered to the nation’s children. I quote some of the content the Department cited from its review of these programs:

- “Showering together is a green light (no risk) activity.”
- “Continue stimulating one another, relax and enjoy the fun, wait a while and start playing again using the condom as part of the play.”
- When buying condoms, “...wear shades or a disguise so no one will recognize you...”
- “Abortion is a fairly simple procedure for ending a pregnancy within the first few months.”
- “Express your feelings with greater physical intimacy: deep kissing; petting; touching above the waist, touching below the waist, touching without clothes on; touching the other person’s sexual organs, having sexual intercourse – vaginal, oral, anal.”
- “Understand that contraception is a way to gain control over one’s body, one’s life and one’s future.”

The complete U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study is included as attachment #4.

Last week Rod Murphy, the Director of Problem Pregnancy in Worcester, sent a very brief e-mail to you alerting you to this program. Ellen Ryder, your Director of Public Affairs, replied to Mr. Murphy indicating that the College evaluates all requests by individuals and organizations and implied that the Alliance's meeting was approved in part because Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Boston was an Alliance member. Therefore, I am sharing this letter with Cardinal O'Malley and the Chairman of the Board of Catholic Charities of Greater Boston, Mike Gilleran, and the Chairman of the Board of the Trustees of the Archdiocese of Boston, John Kaneb. Since I am sharing this letter with them I thought it also appropriate to share the letter with Bishop McManus.

I am deeply saddened and very troubled by the practices these organizations support and intend to bring to your campus on October 24, 2007. Hopefully you can communicate with Cardinal O'Malley and Chairman Gilleran and Chairman Kaneb and make the right decision to cancel this event. If funds are required to enact this cancellation, I will provide these funds and/or all legal fees associated with any potential lawsuit. Please let me know by October 6th of your decision as we simply must pursue all possible avenues to prevent this evil event from taking place on the Holy Cross campus.

Very truly yours,

Raymond Ruddy '65

Cc: Sean Cardinal O'Malley
Bishop Robert J. McManus
Chairman Michael Gilleran, Esq
Chairman John A. Kaneb

Attachments