

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

When I was growing up some rules were never to be violated. Don't shove a stick in a hornet's nest! Don't throw gas on a fire! And--- Don't discuss religion or politics in public! Never one to follow rules, I think now may be the time to talk about the latest perfect storm. The combining recently, of religious freedoms and the politics associated with Obama care, made a perfect storm religion issue front and center in this year's election. This is a situation that has implications at every level of government, and in every community in America. One may not think that the recent decision to include free reproductive services coverage's under the Affordable Care Act is a big thing, but the secular progressive world is intolerant to those faith-based Catholic religious principles, and do not understand that these implications are a matter of individual conscience and religious choice. To accept the administration's secular interpretation of Catholic doctrine is to deny one's faith.

The recently enjoined law suits by 43 Catholic faith organizations is unprecedented in American legal history. When I was growing up, I could not imagine that a large church contingent would have to sue the federal government over freedom to worship. Religious freedom is a of matter of law, the fundamental element of the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Throughout the U.S. there are 195 diocese and over 78 million self proclaimed Catholics. To bring to question the foundation of faith for this segment of the population, smacks of the tyranny that led to the American Revolution.

One element that stands out in my mind is the lack of media coverage. I truly think that the minimal press coverage is being deliberately orchestrated. The media isn't covering this issue. After all, stirring up every Catholic Parish in America could not logically be seen as a keen idea.

Enter the 43 Catholic organizations, and their lawsuits for religious freedom. What is underway on the church side of this issue is a nationwide campaign to reach every American Catholic. Organizations like the Knights of Columbus are reaching out to each and every parish. For example, beginning June 21,

Catholics will be asked to participate in the "Fortnight for Freedom." This two-week period is dedicated to prayer, education, and public freedom. For more information, go to fortnightforfreedom.com.

To add more fuel to this fire storm, the recently released movie, "For Greater Glory" shows the persecution of Catholics and priests in Mexico during the Cristeros War 1926-1929. During the war the Mexican Federal government martyred several Catholic priests for saying the Mass. This movie is being shown across the country in English and Spanish. Interestingly enough, during his visit to Mexico, Pope Benedict began the beatification process for many of the martyred priests as Blessed Saints of the Church. Religious freedoms persecuted by a national government... not just ancient history!

You might think that this issue doesn't impact Humboldt County. We are far removed from Washington or those largely Spanish speaking regions of the country. Not so fast..... the vast majority Humboldt County hospital services are provided by faith-based.....Catholic entities. I want my religious freedom, and I will fight to retain it. I can navigate in this perfect storm because of my personal choice, my Catholic faith.

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.