



THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

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**CONSISTENTLY PRO-LIFE**

**A Reasoned Rationale for the Withdrawal of Support from the Race for the Cure**

CHARLESTON, November 1 – There is significant confusion in some minds regarding the decision of the Diocese of Charleston and Bishop England High School to withdraw active support from the Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure. Morning show hosts and letters to the editor twist facts, obscure truth and call the Church hypocritical. It is, hopefully, simply a matter of ignorance that is the basis of these wild accusations.

A 2001 independent audit ordered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment showed that Planned Parenthood's family-planning arm was using state funding to subsidize rent payments of the abortion provider in violation of Colorado law. If Planned Parenthood would violate the law and use state government funds to subsidize its abortion efforts in one state, is it not possible that it would use private donations to do the same thing, especially where there is no law specifically prohibiting the practice?

As for the Church being hypocritical on women's health, it's no secret that the Catholic Church leads the pro-life effort and is the largest support provider to women who have suffered the trauma of an abortion with outreaches through Project Rachel and Catholic Charities. It's also no secret that the Church is the largest nonprofit health care provider in the world. To say the Church isn't concerned about the health of women is absurd.

Two analogies help to illustrate this point: Would it not be unconscionable to ask the NAACP to support an organization, which in turn supports the KKK, simply because that organization also supports BOND? Would it not be outrageous to ask the ACLU to support an organization, which in turn supports a neo-Nazi group, because it also supports Americans United for Separation of Church and State? The end does not justify the means, period.

The Church did not say, "Don't participate in the event!" It simply said that in good conscience, it could not proactively support to the effort. Race organizers were notified several weeks in advance of the race date. The BE parking lot and grass were still be available to participants.

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Lastly, 29 of 38 statistically significant studies worldwide show a demonstrable link between abortion and breast cancer. (<http://www.lifeissues.org/AbortionBreastcancer/index.html>) Doesn't it beg the question of whether the Komen Foundation is being consistent with its principles?

Hopefully, this short clarification of the facts surrounding the Church's decision helps those of good will to see why an un-principled stand is the one that, in the end, turns out to be the hypocritical one.

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