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# Fight for Life and the Family in the Philippines

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## ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM

fiat voluntas Tua sicut in caelo et in terra

### *Rosary Crusade for the Philippines for the Defence of God's Law on Life and Family*

#### **CATHOLIC CHURCH UNDER ATTACK**

*Quezon City, Philippines*

After more than a decade of fighting for the anti-life agenda, proponents have zeroed in on the Catholic Church as its main enemy in legislating for aggressive population control, stating publicly that the Catholic Church is the biggest hindrance to Reproductive Health Bill.<sup>1</sup> Proponents and advocates rightly believe that, for the anti-life legislation to pass into law, they have to undermine the Catholic Church. Ben De Leon, the president of the Philippine Centre for Population and Development that pushes for feminist agenda “Women Deliver”, falsely asserts that the Catholic Church is in a “state of denial of all the realities” and alleges that young bishops and priests are in favour of the bill, alleging that one priest supporter told him “150 bishops vs 92 million Filipinos - who do you listen to?”<sup>1</sup> The Bill, known as the “The Reproductive Health and Population and Development Act of 2010” states in Sec. 3.j. that it is “beyond demographic target”, that it is principally about “rights.”<sup>2</sup> Obviously, it seeks to enshrine “women’s human rights” by dethroning God.

Since 1992 the anti-life agenda has been trying to push for population control. In 2002 it took on the cause of women’s rights in the name of the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of

Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)<sup>3</sup>

#### **Totalitarian Liberlasim**

The current Reproductive Health Bill (House Bill 96) proposed by communist congressman Edcel Lagman blatantly proposes in Sections 22 and 23 the imprisonment, or fine or both, of dissenters – particularly those who

(1) shall not participate in the programs and services on reproductive health including the promotion of “informed choice”; (2) shall “refuse to perform legal and medically-safe reproductive health procedures...” (including vasectomy, ligation, IUD insertion, and other contraceptive services) (3) shall “refuse to extend health care services and information...” (mandatory sex education, contraceptive advocacy); (4) shall “maliciously engage in disinformation” about the proposed law’s intent or provisions (exposing the motives behind the reproductive health agenda and exposing the evils of contraception).

It proposes that any public official who prohibits or restricts the delivery of “family planning” be removed from public service and denied any retirement benefit. It proposes also that the president or any responsible officer of a “juridical entity” that transgresses the proposed law be put

in jail or fined or both (in the Philippines, the Catholic Church is considered a “juridical entity”). It also proposes that any alien who offends the Reproductive Health Act shall be fined, jailed, or both, and then deported without further proceedings. Clearly, the prohibitions of the Reproductive Health Act are aimed directly at all conscientious Catholics, Catholic health care institutions, Bishops, and foreign missionaries.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Counterattack**

In response to this frontal attack, the priests of Our Lady of Victories Church, led by Fr. Thomas Onoda, are leading a Rosary Crusade to stop the passage of the Reproductive Health Bill. A series of conferences has also been organised at Our Lady of Victories Church on the sanctity of human life and the Catholic duty to defend God’s laws on Family and Life, a signature campaign underway too, and representatives from various lay organizations in Our Lady of Victories Church have attended conventions and conferences organized by prolife groups in the metropolitan area to promote the Rosary Crusade.

The aim of the Rosary Crusade is to plead for Divine Assistance in the defence of the sanctity of human life and family. The combat is primarily a spiritual one; our main adversary is the devil and, despite the supporters of the Bill having the backing of international organisations with enormous financial resources, the battle-

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Cardinal Vidal, assisted by Father Ghela, urges fellow Filipinos to participate in the Our Lady of Victories Rosary Crusade to stop the oxymoronically titled Reproductive Health Bill.



Archbishop Aniceto supports Father Onoda, prior of Our Lady of Victories, in the promotion of the rosary crusade on a popular video website.

field is in the church pews. The Crusade was launched on 31st October 2010 and hopes to raise at least 1 million rosaries by 16th January 2011, the Feast of the Holy Infant.

### Persistence of the Enemy

Over the years, the “reproductive health” attack has taken various forms.

In 2002, it called for the decriminalization of abortion demanding the review of “national and local laws and policies that infringe on the rights of all individuals and couples from access to their sexual

and reproductive health and rights and take the necessary efforts to amend and repeal such laws and policies” particularly in the area of “abortion” (HB 4110, Section 5.C.2.c.)<sup>4</sup>.

In 2004, it proposed the 2-child policy and the “fulfilment of the sexual rights of children” and adolescents (10-19 years old), giving them freedom to information and means to carry out decisions on reproductive functions, free from discrimination and coercion (HB 16, Sec.3.i, and Sec. 4.b). It clamoured for the institutionalization of a two-child policy (Sec. 13), limiting government educational scholarships only to students coming from 2-child families.

In 2006, it pushed for HB 3773 and HB 5285 (Magna Carta for Women), HB 1021 (employers to provide free contraceptives to employees), HB 3422 (Family Life Act asking for the allocation of 2 billion pesos to attain “desired family size”).<sup>5</sup>

In 2010 it is seeking the imprisonment of health service providers such as Catholic Bishops (as responsible officers of the juridical entity) and the deportation of aliens that are hindering the “progress” of the reproductive rights agenda.

Ours will be the victory in the end, but we will have to pray and suffer for it.  
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### AN EXTRACT FROM THE PRIOR'S DIARY OF CATHOLIC ACTION

*Manila, Our Lady of Victories Church*

- 17th Oct: After the 9am Mass there was conferences on Pro-Life by Dr. Ligaya Acosta (Regional Coordinator for Asia and Oceania of HLI) Attorney Jo Aurea Imbong (Executive Secretary for Legal matters of the CBCP) and Ms. Maria Lourdes Galza (Family Media Advocacy Foundation)
- 30th Oct: 12 noon to 12 midnight adoration for the defence of God's Law on Life and Family. During this, we had a Solemn High Mass at 2pm which was broadcasted by TV live for two hours (NBN channel 4).
- 31st Oct: Feast of Christ the King, we launched the Rosary Crusade against RH Bill (Until 16th Jan 2011) and had a procession in honour of Christ the King, too.
- 3rd-8th Nov: We participated the Human Life International (HLI) Conferences.
- 8th Nov: We started the signature campaign against RH Bill upon the request of Fr. Melvin Castro (Chairman for the Commission on Life and the Family of the CBCP).
- 23rd Nov: One of our faithful donated 500 Holy Rosary Crusade (HR Crusade against RH Bill) T-shirts.
- 24th Nov: Our two brothers went to the Public Hearing of the RH Bill with members of our faithful (some of whom were on the news):

"Nelson Compoc of the Apostles of

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### References:

1. <http://www.gmanews.tv/story/201266/church-is-biggest-hindrance-to-rh-bill-womens-group>
2. <http://www.ncrfw.gov.ph/index.php/legislative-advocacy/58-advocacy-reproductive-health/79-advocacy-reproductive-health-situationer>
3. House Bill 96, introduced by Edcel Lagman.
4. House Bill 4110: <http://dirp3.pids.gov.ph/population/documents/HB4110.pdf>
5. [http://www.varsitarian.net/witness/anti\\_life\\_bills\\_on\\_the\\_loose](http://www.varsitarian.net/witness/anti_life_bills_on_the_loose)

## Fight for Life and the Family in the Philippines



Three policemen were arrested by a volunteer and ordered to sign the petition against the RH Bill.

Mary based in New Manila in Quezon City carried with him a miniature statue of St. Joseph, which he placed on a table during the entire hearing. 'We are invoking his assistance against the RH bill,' he said. He added that his group is taking part in the One Million Rosaries activity

of Rosary Crusade, which began on 31st October this year up to 16th January 2011, the Feast of Sto. Nino, to stop the passage of the RH bill. One religious group, the Apostles of Mary, brought out a small statuette of St. Joseph to implore the power of the saint to block the passage of the RH bill."

- 27th Nov: Adoration from the evening Mass until midnight.
- 28th Nov: from 2pm to 3pm, Fr Onoda and Br Theophane together with some of our faithful were on a live nation wide radio show (DZXL 558 KHz).
- 1st Dec: We will be present at the Public hearing at Batasan (Congress) at 9am to pray the Holy Rosary for the lawmakers. Ω



Signatures were gathered at several medical missions, in a shopping mall, at a petrol (gas) station, in a primary school, outside a gym (the volunteers even bullied a seven-belt world boxing champion to sign) and at a funeral.

### CATHOLIC ACTION

The definition given by Pope St. Pius X  
*Il Fermo Proposito*, 11th June 1905

"To restore all things in Christ" has always been the Church's motto, and it is especially Our own during these fearful moments through which we are now passing. "To restore all things"—not in any haphazard fashion, but "in Christ"; and the Apostle adds, "both those in the heavens and those on earth" (Eph. 1:10). "To restore all things in Christ" includes not only what properly pertains to the divine mission of the Church, namely, leading souls to God, but also what We have already explained as flowing from that divine mission, namely Christian civilization in each and every one of the elements composing it. (§6)

Since We particularly dwell on this last part of the desired restoration, you clearly see, Venerable Brethren, the services rendered to the Church by those chosen bands of Catholics who aim to unite all their forces in combating anti-Christian civilization by every just and lawful means. They use every means in repairing the serious disorders caused by it. They seek to restore Jesus Christ to the family, the school and society by re-establishing the principle that human authority

represents the authority of God. They take to heart the interests of the people, especially those of the working and agricultural classes, not only by inculcating in the hearts of everybody a true religious spirit (the only true fount of consolation among the troubles of this life) but also by endeavouring to dry their tears, to alleviate their sufferings, and to improve their economic condition by wise measures. They strive, in a word, to make public laws conformable to justice and amend or suppress those which are not so. Finally, they defend and support in a true Catholic spirit the rights of God in all things and the no less sacred rights of the Church. (§7)



Pope St. Pius X,  
ready for action.

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*Letter sent to all the Archbishops and Bishops of the Philippines*

## The Society of Saint Pius X

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Your Grace,

Confronted with the RH Bill 96 being debated in the Philippines, I cannot help addressing myself to you, in order to beg you in the name of a number of priests and faithful, to save the honor of the Church in the Philippines being humiliated as she has perhaps never before been humiliated.

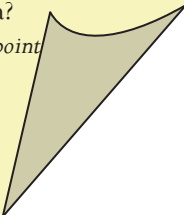
You may remember that back in 1954, at the occasion of the Marian year, the Papal Legate, Cardinal Quiroga highlighted the fact that the name “**The Pearl of the Orient**” given to the Philippines had been given “**above all for its religiosity and for the virtues of its inhabitants.**” (Manila Times, Dec. 4, 1945) A few days later Pope Pius XII addressed the Marian Congress in these historical words:

*Philippines! Kingdom of Mary! Philippines! Kingdom of the Holy Rosary! Run to this throne of grace, to this saving devotion, because the storm is raging not far away from you. Remain firm in the Holy Faith of your fathers that you have received at the cradle, just as your islands remain firm, although shaken by earthquakes and violently besieged by irritated waves. Organize your nascent nation but in giving a rightful place to Christian values. By so doing, you will guarantee for yourselves the best in all things and prepare yourselves to be in the Far East a lighthouse of Christian life, column and pillar of an edifice whose greatness no one can predict. (Manila Times, Dec. 6, 1954)*

Now with this Bill (which has been so far in its various previous forms – thank God – successfully blocked for the last 11 years) innumerable sins against the IV, V, VI, IX Commandments are about to be officially and legally promulgated. Incalculable scandal will be given to all Filipinos.

**Against the IV Commandment:** throughout the Bill, children are presented as the cause of poverty; the “ideal family size” is the one with “two children” (Sec.17). With the widespread use of contraceptives, marital love will be wounded to its very heart, since selfishness is the first cause of divorce. Will the Philippines become a new China?

Providentially, just a few days ago, on Oct. 21, the Holy Father said “*The family and education are the starting point*”



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*to combat poverty and thus contribute to the respect of every person, to the respect of minorities, respect for the family and for life itself. They are the terrain where fundamental ethical values are rooted and where religious life can grow.”*

<http://www.zenit.org/article-30737?!=english>

**Against the V Commandment:** Since “a *full range* of modern family planning methods” will be provided. (Sec. 7), the Bill is strategically preparing the ground for abortion in spite of its denials of it.

And what about the innumerable scandals to the soul of the innocent brought about by sex education (Sec. 13) starting in the primary grades? What about Our Divine Lord’s terrible words: “Woe to him through whom the scandal come. It were better for him, that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should scandalize one of these little ones (Lk 17:1-2)

**Against the VI and IX Commandments,** is there a need to specify? “I say to you, that whosoever shall look on a woman to lust after her, hath already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Mt. 5:28)

Your Grace, there is “a time to keep silence, and a time to speak” (Eccles 3:7) “The lips of the priest shall keep knowledge, and they shall seek the law at his mouth: because he is the angel of the Lord of hosts.” (Mal. 2:7) It is a relief to know that Cardinal Vidal, Archbishops Arguelles, Lagdameo and Aniceto have openly spoken against it, and to read what Msgr Figura said about civil disobedience. The faithful need to hear more often the voice of authority speaking out within the Church to condemn the public sins against the Commandments!

Your Grace, for the honor of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and of His Immaculate Mother, Our Lady of La Naval, make a public spiritual protest. Please call on a Rosary Crusade like in the days of old and some public fasting days! Just a few decades ago, by the power of the Rosary Austrians defeated Communism in 1955, Brazilians did the same in 1966 and Portuguese in 1975. Come to the help of the priests and faithful who are still Catholic, do not let the wolf catch and scatter the sheep. “Who knoweth whether thou art not therefore come to the (episcopacy), that thou mightest be ready in such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)

Your Grace, if I have taken the liberty of making this approach to you, it is because I cannot doubt how you feel in this matter.

May the Holy Ghost come to your aid, Your Grace, and be so good as to deign to bless us and please accept the expression of my filial and devoted sentiments in Jesus and Mary.

Fr. Daniel Couture  
District Superior