Catholics are fighting back.

On June 8, 2012, tens-of-thousands rallied in cities throughout the United States against Obama’s “Contraception Mandate”. I attended the rally held in Buffalo, New York, which drew a crowd of nearly 800.

Protestors with signs reading “Stop Obama’s HHS Mandate” and “Obamacare Mandate Attacks Religion” lined the streets in front of Buffalo’s federal courthouse downtown.

The Mandate, which is part of Obama’s “Universal Health Care” legislation, through the department of Health and Human Services (HHS), requires Catholic institutions to provide contraception, sterilization and abortificient drugs to their employees. If a Catholic institution refuses, it faces millions of dollars in ruinous fines, and may be driven out of existence.

The Obama administration now forces Catholics to violate tenets of natural and divine law. Catholics and non-Catholics recognize this unjust mandate as a threat to conscience protection.

Even non-Catholics who accept contraception stand against the mandate saying, “If the government forces Catholics to violate their consciences today, they will force us to violate our consciences tomorrow.”

Fifteen speakers delivered passionate brief speeches at the Buffalo Rally.

Catholic author Norman Fulkerson noted, “Our Lady of Fatima warned mankind that if it did not convert, Russia would spread her errors throughout the world [persecuting the Church]. Well, Obamacare and the HHS Mandate is, in my opinion, the fulfillment of that prophecy in America.”

Cheryl Cleary, spokesperson for the Diocese of Buffalo, read a statement from Bishop Edward Kmiec that denounced the Mandate. The statement also urged everyone to take part in the upcoming “Fortnight for Freedom” organized by the United States bishops nationwide. The “Fortnight for Freedom”, scheduled for June 21 to July 4, is two weeks of “prayer, study,
catechesis, and public action”, noting that that the efforts against the Mandate “will continue well past the Fourth of July”.

As we will note later, these actions also include a massive lawsuit by the bishops against the Obama administration issued by 43 Catholic institutions.

Non-Catholic speakers also addressed the Buffalo Rally.

Protestant Chris Slatterly from New York City spoke of Obama’s consistent attacks against the Christians and Christian organizations.

“We’ve seen Obama revoke conscience protection for healthcare workers in the area of abortion and contraception. We’ve seen Obama nominate three pro-abortion ‘Catholics’ as potential ambassadors to the Vatican in a row, and all were rejected. We’ve seen Obama eliminate federal funds to the U.S. Bishops’ program to aid victims of human trafficking because the Church is anti-abortion.”

A highlight of the rally was the appearance of an 18-wheel tractor-trailer with a large “NO HHS MANDATE” sign on its cab. It circled Niagara Square a number of times honking its horn at the rally-point to the cheers of fellow protestors.

“First They Came for the Catholics…”

Speakers included Catholic priests, a Greek orthodox priest, various protestants and Rabbi Frank Lohenger

Rabbi Lohenger invoked the famous quote of Professor Martin Niemomller from Nazi Germany:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out –
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me –
and there was no one left to speak for me.

The rabbi applies this quote to Obama’s attack on the Church, urging non-Catholics to stand in opposition to the Mandate at least for their own protection.

“First they came for the Catholics,” he said, “then they came for the Evangelicals. It is not unreasonable that they would come for the Jews or anybody else.”

Rabbi Lohenger went on to oppose Obama’s Health Care program itself. He has traveled the globe, visiting many other countries, and says the United States health care system has been the envy of the world.

“There may be problems,” he noted, “but socialized medicine is not the answer. I, for one, do not want to empower the government as to who should receive care and who should not, based upon age, health or other criteria. I, for one, do not want to see medical decisions made by a bureaucrat.”

Rabbi Lohenger speaks here of a real danger. About three months ago, a neurosurgeon called conservative talk-show host Mark Levin. The doctor said he had just come back from a meeting in Washington with government officials and other neurosurgeons about implementing the details of Obamacare.

The neurosurgeon said that in the near future, under the new legislation, a surgeon will not be allowed to perform brain surgery on a patient, even in an emergency situation, until a government official first gives permission for a given patient to be treated.

The doctor told Levin, “If I am confronted with a patient that needs medical care, I will
attend to him, no matter what a Washington bureaucrat ‘allows.’” The surgeon went on to say the bureaucrats making life and death decisions usually have no medical knowledge. All is based on cost.

The government has no place intruding into medical procedures, and Obamacare is government intrusion at its worst.

**A Challenge to Youth**

A unique speaker at the Buffalo Rally was sixteen-year-old, homeschooled Mary Clare O’Brien, who is already actively fighting for her religious rights.

“The Obama administration is trashing the U.S. Constitution and the rights of every American citizen, and many people are sitting back and letting them do it. Is this because they don’t care or because they have not been given the real facts?”

She urges everyone to educate their friends, relations, and their entire social-media network about the unlawful HHS mandate. She especially directed her challenge to young people.

Among the 15 speakers were Catholic priests and a sixteen-year-old homeschool girl who gave impassioned presentations.

“Teens and young people, this affects you,” she said, “Your future could drastically be changed depending upon how much you put into this fight.”

“The secular media does not recognize the voice of young people,” she warned. “Instead, they selectively choose people to promote their own agenda. But let me tell you who does not speak for me. Cecil Richards [of Planned Parenthood] does not speak for me. Kathleen Sebellius does not speak for me. Sister Carol Keenan does not speak for me. Melinda Gates does not speak for me. The secular media does not speak for me.”

She proposed the “1, 2, 3 Challenge” to teens and young people: “One day a month, two people, three minutes”. Pick one day a week, ask a friend to join you, and spend three minutes educating them about the anti-Catholic HHS Mandate. This is good advice for us all.

Buffalo was only one of the 164 events organized nationwide on June 8, which marked the 223rd Anniversary of the Introduction of the Bill of Rights.

Rallies were held in New York, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Chicago, Ann Arbor, Little Rock, Venice (Florida) and other locations. Numerous bishops led rallies throughout the nation. The rallies are only part of the bishops’ offensive.
Massive Religious Lawsuit Ignored by Media

Forty-three Catholics dioceses and institutions – including Notre Dame – filed a federal lawsuit against the Obama Mandate. The bishops announced this legal challenge on May 21. The liberal media, true to form, tried to pretend the lawsuit did not exist.

Media watchdog Brent Bozell reported that the May 21 evening news effectively ignored the biggest religious lawsuit in U.S. history.

“The May 21 editions of ABC’s World News and NBC’s Nightly News refused to report the fact that 43 Catholic dioceses and organizations filed a lawsuit on Monday against the Obama administration. CBS Evening News gave this historic news a mere 19 seconds of air time,” Bozell said.

“This is the worst bias by omission I have seen in the quarter century history of the Media Research Center,” he continued. “Every American knows about the Chinese communists withholding for 20 years the news that the U.S. had landed on the moon, because it reflected poorly on the government. Our U.S. media today are no different. They are now withholding news from the American people if it is harmful to the re-election of Barack Obama.”

Bozell concludes, “The fact is that the Catholic Church has unleashed legal Armageddon on the administration, promising ‘we will not comply with a health law that strips Catholics of their religious liberty. If this isn’t ‘news’ then there’s no such thing as news. This should be leading newscasts and the subject of special, in-depth reports. Instead, these networks are sending a clear message to all Americans that the networks will go to any lengths – even censoring from the public an event of this historic magnitude – to prevent the release of any information that will hurt Obama’s chances of re-election.”

Other commentators denounced the new media’s suppression of the historic lawsuit.

Patrick Reilly of the Cardinal Neumann Society said, “…in an unprecedented move, the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, along with over 40 other Catholic institutions, has sued the Obama administration. And rather than covering what is perhaps the most significant lawsuit in the history of the U.S. Catholic Church, the media have deliberately chosen to ignore the story outright. It is shameful and yet another example of why Americans are increasingly getting their news elsewhere.”
Many youth were on hand to defend Catholic rights against Obama’s attack.

Father John Morris of Sirius XM Radio likewise blasted the media: “Any national media outlet that fails to report the obvious raping of our First Amendment rights by this Health and Human Service mandate, is trumpeting either woeful incompetence or shameless bias. The Catholic Church didn’t pick this fight, but it knew that if it didn’t fight back now, every religion would eventually lose, and America would be fundamentally redefined.”

The media also virtually blacked out the nationwide June 8 rallies against the Mandate. Media Research Center reported, “ABC, CBS, and NBC stayed true to their liberal slant and ignored the 164 rallies across the United States on Friday against the federal government’s abortifacient/birth control mandate under ObamaCare. …By contrast, CBS played up the supporters of a group of left-leaning Catholic nuns during four on-air segments between May 30 and June 1, 2012. Correspondent Wyatt Andrews hyped how ‘hundreds of Catholics have rallied behind the sisters,’ and that ‘protests in support of the nuns have been held in almost 50 cities.’”

Media outlets also ridiculed the bishops’ “Fortnight for Freedom”, claiming that it is a covert act of the bishops to try to unseat Obama. The Washington Post suggested the bishops should lose their tax-exempt status for opposing the Obama administration. The Post would have it that the Obama administration can attack the Church with impunity, but the bishops are out-of-bounds when they try to defend themselves against the government, because that’s meddling in politics.
With such obvious ill-will from the media, Catholics have a duty to spread the word themselves – to tell others about Obama’s anti-Catholic, anti-life mandate.

Such left-wing bias from media is one of the reasons the Fatima Center has established its worldwide apostolate of publishing, Internet, book distribution and full time television station in Rome and on the web. We must work to bypass the major networks so that the truth is propagated.

**Bishops’ Call for Civil Disobedience**

The bishops still have yet another initiative. On June 3, they announced their call for the largest civil disobedience since the 1960s.

A USCCB bulletin on the project reads, “Some unjust laws impose such injustices on individuals and organizations that disobeying the laws may be justified. Every effort must be made to repeal them. When fundamental human goods, such as the right of conscience, are at stake, we may need to witness to the truth by resisting the law and incurring its penalties.”

This is true to the common sense principle laid down by Pope Leo XIII that an unjust law is no law at all.

**Invoke Our Lady of Fatima**

Most importantly, the bishops need Our Blessed Mother, for the only true solution to this onslaught of evil is the Message of Our Lady of Fatima.

The supernatural shot and shell for our battle comes from the sacraments and from prayer, and especially by fulfilling in our lives the Message of Fatima: offering up to Heaven our daily Rosary, our sacrifices for sinners, and the Five First Saturdays to make reparation for these great sins.

We urge the United States bishops to launch a nationwide Rosary Crusade with a Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima traveling throughout the land, as was done in other countries where devotion to Our Lady overthrew Communism.

May they place these manifold evils into the hands of Our Lady, and She who is the conqueror of all heresies will show Her power if we display a public trust in Her.

I believe the U.S. bishops should consecrate the United States to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And let this not be just a Consecration that takes place on one day and is forgotten, but the Catholic people and clergy must be taught to live this consecration to our Holy Mother.

And of course, we work for that ultimate consecration, which is the consecration of Russia by the Pope in union with the bishops of the world. This will bring about the promised triumph of the Immaculate Heart that will crush the heads of the agents of the New Paganism.