

September 29, 2015

With the new school year under way this is a gentle reminder regarding school and parish fundraisers as well as special speaker programs.

In their enthusiasm to engage students in community outreach, schools and parishes may unknowingly support programs that have policies and missions that are not consistent with Church teachings. Therefore, if in doubt we encourage you to contact The Office of Respect for Life to verify that the organization or speaker is appropriate within a Catholic setting. We can also provide suggestions for speakers and organizations.

A few examples of organizations that are subject to frequent inquiries are:

**Breast Cancer Research:**

- Susan G. Koman for the Cure. The organization's stated goal is "to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing to find cures." There is however, documentation of grants made to Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the country, through Planned Parenthood affiliates sponsoring "Race for the Cure" fundraising activities. SGK also endorses embryonic stem cell research.

*Acceptable Alternative "Breast Cancer Prevention Institute: <http://www.bcpinstitute.org/home.htm>*

**Child Welfare:**

- UNICEF: The Holy See suspended an annual symbolic contribution in 1996 due to the "shift in UNICEF activities" that were once solely focused on child welfare, but now include contraceptive and abortion services to women. UNICEF has also shown a lack of accountability to donors who have earmarked their contribution. See: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/publicat/lifesight/9-1003.shtml>

*Acceptable Alternative: Missionary Childhood Association-A Pontifical Mission Society: <http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca.html>*

**Genetic Research:**

- March of Dimes (MOD): The MOD, a research, education and advocacy organization whose focus is the prevention of birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality, has expressed support for embryonic stem cell research, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, and advocates for mandatory contraceptive coverage for insurance plans.

*Acceptable Alternative: The Michael Fund: [www.michaelfund.org](http://www.michaelfund.org)*

**Hunger relief:**

- CROP Walk/Church World Service: CROP Walk, an annual hunger awareness and fundraising effort that benefits many local food pantries, is sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), an agency of the National Council of Churches. Catholic Relief Services withdrew its name from the list of funding recipients since some of the partners of CWS support the provision of contraceptives in their overseas missions and programs. CWS could not guarantee that

donations from Catholic donors who earmarked their contributions to efforts consistent with Church teaching would not be utilized for objectionable services.

*Acceptable Alternatives:*

*Catholic Relief Services:* [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

*Caritas Internationalis:* [www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org)

*Diocesan Catholic Charities agencies:* [www.ccdm.org](http://www.ccdm.org)

*Catholic Campaign for Human Development:* [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd) and [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

*Society of St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk:* [www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org)

*Another resource for acceptable organizations is the Official Catholic Directory (Kennedy Directory):*  
<http://www.officialcatholicdirectory.com/>

If you have any questions about these guidelines or about a specific organization, please contact the Office of Respect for Life at 973-497-4350 or via e-mail [@rileyche@rcan.org](mailto:@rileyche@rcan.org)