



Statement by Dr. John T. Bruchalski, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

President and Chairman, Divine Mercy Care

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My name is Dr. John Bruchalski. I am a board certified OB/GYN practicing at a large, faith based, pro-life OB/GYN medical practice in Fairfax, Virginia called the Tepeyac Family Center and Chairman of Divine Mercy Care, a Catholic health care organization. Causing us to change the way that we practice medicine will have a dramatic effect on those patients who come to us because of who we are and how we practice medicine.

Our practice had over 1400 patient visits last month and 73 deliveries at Fair Oaks hospital...the largest private provider at the hospital. 52% of our patients travel from outside of Fairfax County to come to our practice. 10% of our patients come to us from out of state. We are also the largest private provider of Medicaid services for the poor in Northern Virginia. Last year, 29% of our 629 deliveries were to mothers who do not have commercial health insurance. Many of these patients have unique medical problems and were sent to us by governmental and non-governmental agencies. Where will these patients seek their health care if our physicians can no longer practice medicine?

Fundamental to the practice of medicine is to “seek the good” by following our conscience to “do no harm”. Following our consciences and not doing the norm saves lives. Being able to practice medicine according to our conscience is what has attracted most of our patients to our practice. One story in particular is about a boy named Joey. When Joey’s mother’s amniotic fluid drained at 12 weeks, she went from one doctor to another looking for someone who wouldn’t perform an immediate induced abortion. She was looking for someone who wanted to help her baby live. She found us – 35 miles from her home. We nurtured her, ignoring calls from others to perform an induced abortion. The result is that Joey was born alive. Today, he is a precocious 2-1/2 year old with no long term effects of his prenatal life. Joey is alive today because our doctors were able to follow our consciences and not conform to the rising wave of “cookbook medicine” which would try to force doctors and other medical professionals into a way of practice that would have denied the choice of life to Joey and his mother.

Our conscience is our inner voice that tells us what we ought to do. Conscience is the basis for all our freedoms. **If conscience is compromised, freedom becomes a farce, a façade.** In my profession of OB/GYN, to violate one’s properly formed conscience is to destroy an innocent **life**, destroy our shared **liberty**, and the **pursuit of happiness** – for myself, for our patients, and for their unborn children. We must fight to retain the protections of conscience that currently are in the HHS regulations.

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Tepeyac Family Center and DMC Pharmacy are operating entities of Divine Mercy Care. To learn more about Divine Mercy Care, a 501(c)3 tax exempt health care organization, and its mission to transform hearts through healthcare, call 703-934-5552, email info@divinemercycare.org, or visit us on the web at www.divinemercycare.org.