

“An educational group for pro-life nurses”

Christian Nurse Sues Hospital for Requiring Her to Assist Abortions

By Claire Chretien

A Catholic nurse is suing Duke University Hospital, claiming that the university discriminated against her religious and pro-life beliefs by requiring her to assist in abortions.

Sara T. Pedro was told during her employee orientation that Duke University Hospital provides no exceptions to employees in its Emergency Department who don't want to participate in abortions. The lawsuit, filed by The Thomas More Law Center on Pedro's behalf, says that Duke's Emergency Department performs “a large number of abortions.”

The lawsuit claims that Pedro faced retaliation and discrimination after she made a written request to be exempt from the pro-abortion policy.

Duke wouldn't let her advance from training to regular duty. The university then “issued her a written warning for vague and unsubstantiated reasons, and then placed her on administrative leave when she attempted to formally dispute the warning,” according to the Thomas More lawyers.

“This case illustrates the unfortunate dangers faced today by individuals who seek to remain faithful to their religious beliefs in the workplace,” said Tyler Brooks, the Thomas More Law Center attorney handling the case.

“With this lawsuit, however, we intend to show that even very large employers must respect the civil rights of their Christian employees,” he said.

The Thomas More Law Center says Duke violated state and federal laws.

“Because of her Catholic faith, [Pedro] objects to assisting in abortions, dispensing birth control and contraceptives, and receiving as well as administering vaccines,” the lawsuit says.

“Duke subjected her to a degrading series of actions designed to punish and retaliate against her for engaging in federally-protected activity,” it continues, noting it's been more than 10 months since Pedro submitted her second request for religious accommodation.

Duke hasn't responded or “otherwise provided an explanation as to how the request presented an undue hardship.”

Under the federal civil rights law “Title VII, an employer is required to reasonably accommodate an employee's sincerely held religious beliefs and religious practices, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship,” the lawyers explained in their lawsuit on behalf of the pro-life nurse.

Duke's discrimination and retaliation against Pedro were committed with “the intent of forcing her out of her job with Defendant Duke,” the lawsuit argues.

Pedro attends daily Mass and prays the rosary for an end to abortion, the lawsuit says.

“Until recently being evicted from her home due to an inability to pay her rent, she kept a miraculous image of the Blessed Mother on her wall above a home shrine she made alongside the American flag presented to her father at his retirement from the National Guard,” it continues.

After she graduated from Mount St. Mary's University and took her nursing boards in New York, Pedro went to daily Mass and prayed to God that she would pass the exam.

Inside the church that day, “she promised God that, if she passed her boards, she would serve Him as a nurse and always strive to be faithful to His teachings,” the lawsuit explains.

Pedro passed and went on to work at NYU Langone Medical Center and then the Burn ICU at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center. In New York, she also trained to be a birth doula.

Pedro was never once disciplined by an employer during her tenure in New York.

The lawsuit highlights what it means to be a Christian who faithfully follows the 5th Commandment against murder, because abortion deliberately ends the life of a tiny, innocent human being.

—LifeSiteNews, November 3, 2017



Michigan Nurses For Life



Our Purpose:

...To raise the consciousness of the nursing profession to protect all human life from conception until natural death

...To form an educated core of nurses who can speak for their profession by acting as a community resource for life issues

...To promote public education and awareness about life issues on both ends of the spectrum, from abortion to euthanasia

...To uphold and defend human life in all stages and conditions of development

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From the President

Dear Colleagues,

This is the time of year I write and ask that you renew your membership in Michigan Nurses for Life. The letter this year is of particular importance.

As the saying goes, "time marches on" and Michigan Nurses for Life is almost twenty-five years old. This means that those of us who started this resource organization for the pro-life nurse are seeking new members who might be willing to take on some of the responsibilities of keeping MNFL alive. We need folks who like to run the copy machine, who like to collate and put together our newsletter, perhaps take over from our treasurer and keep our accounts in order. We need folks we can count on to staff informational tables at various events such as the Michigan Nursing Student Association annual conference.

We also need new members—your co-workers, friends, neighbors—literally anyone who is interested in pro-life work. While most of what MNFL does is geared toward nurses, we would love to have doctors, pharmacists, therapists and allied health care workers join our organization.

The unvarnished truth is, unless we have a transfusion of new members, we may well have to dissolve our organization. None of us wants to do that. We know that we fill a need, particularly now, when so many of our nurses are being impacted by the push for "aid in dying," which is another term for doctor assisted suicide or euthanasia. We know that nurses and other health care workers are being threatened with job loss if they object to participating in an assisted suicide. More and more, personal and/or religious objections to such activity are being discounted and nurses are forced to either participate or, as one nurse was told, "get out of nursing."

So, as you can see, the need is great. We need you, your membership, your friends, and your support.

Love Life!
Diane



Director of Neurobiology on Life Beginning at Conception

By Sarah Terzo

Dr. Sean O'Reilly, Director of the Neurobiology Research Training Program at George Washington University:

"[T]here is nothing in the entire phenomenon of the transmission of life that deserves more to be called an event, scientifically speaking, than does fertilization. It is the natural and scientific boundary at which a new and genetically unique human individual can be said to begin his existence. We conclude, therefore, that by objective and scientific criteria the individual human being is a person throughout his [or her] entire biological development from conception, which is synonymous with fertilization, to natural death...Any other conclusion would be arbitrary, unsupported by scientific fact or rational argument, divorced from objective reality, and based on a particular ideology, philosophy or creed."

Direct report on S. 158 by Dr. Sean O'Reilly, dated July 2, 1981.

Quoted on pages 28 - 29 of Randall J Hekman, Justice for the Unborn (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Servant Books, 1984).

—National Right to Life News Today, October 6, 2017

Summary of MNFL Fall Conference

By **Mary Lou Temple**

Over 50 nurses, lay people and students met on October 7th at the Franco Auditorium of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, in Pontiac, to hear speakers addressing the topic, "End of Life Decisions: Who Will Make Yours?"

Nancy Valco RN, the spokesperson for the National Association of Pro-life Nurses and an Advanced Legal Nurse Consultant, shared stories of her work with intensive care unit patients who were thought to have no hope of survival, but "woke up" after supportive care was offered. She told of her third daughter who was born with Down syndrome and a heart defect; she



died at 5-1/2 months, and the doctor who encouraged her to "let her daughter die," eventually became pro-life.

She cared for an elderly man who coded after a knee replacement and refused to give him morphine when he was taken off the vent; she was almost terminated for exercising her conscience rights as a nurse.

Another daughter abused drugs and became pregnant at age 17; she released the baby for adoption, returned to drugs and became pregnant again. She miscarried this baby and became suicidal. She read "Final Exit," and ended her life in 2009. Nancy commented how depressed people often look for options to get out of painful situations. Nancy gave a strong pro-life witness as she shared these difficult situations.

Jason Negri, JD, the Assistant Director of the Patient's Rights Council, spoke on the practical and ethical issues related to end of life care. He spoke of the differences between wills, financial and medical powers of attorney and advanced directives.

Living wills are very broad, don't cover all potential medical situations and currently are not legal in Michigan. Advanced directives allow the patient to choose an agent to represent his/her health care wishes. POST, Physician's Orders for Scope of Treatment, is not yet legal in Michigan; this document needs to be continually updated based on the patient's current health situation.

POST legislation has passed the Michigan House, needs to go through the Senate and may become law next year. Negri said POST documents could be "living wills on steroids." RTL of Michigan is working to make POST documents as supportive of the pro-life position as possible.

Negri spoke of society's general attitude to "pull the plug;" our society values youth and is uncomfortable with death. He stressed it is always possible to remove "burdensome methods of care" that are not helping, weighing the benefits and risks to the patient. Five states currently allow assisted suicide: OR, WA, VT, CA, and CO. Twenty-eight bills have been introduced in other states. Much information was gleaned from both speakers; we will continue to face moral and ethical challenges as pro-life nurses.

—Mary Lou Temple, RN, MSN, is co-founder and board member of Michigan Nurses for Life.



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If you would like to add or delete a name from our mailing list,
please contact Michigan Nurses For Life at 248-816-8489. Thanks!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

Immediate opening for part-time nurse manager who will oversee the medical operations of the pregnancy center, providing direction, oversight and supervision to both paid and volunteer staff while assisting with community outreach and client care. Interested applicants should submit their resume by December 1st to:

Karen Jewell, Executive Director
Another Way Pregnancy Center
31700 W. 12 Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Need RNs to teach in SHARE Program (Sexual Health and Relationship Education) in local middle and high schools. Operated through Crossroads Care Center. Send resume to:

Evelyn VanSloten
Crossroads Care Center
3205 S. Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48324
share.cpc@gmail.com

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