Today’s Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Ireland

Fr Anthony Abraz (parish priest in Karachi, Pakistan, reported on August 3, 2018 to have had his visa application to attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin with Pope Francis rejected, the Irish government rejected 100% of Pakistani visa applicants)

Billy Timmins (expelled from the governing Fine Gael party after on July 3, 2013 voting against the new abortion bill in Dublin)

Brian Walsh (expelled from the governing Fine Gael party after on July 3, 2013 voting against the new abortion bill in Dublin)

Carol Nolan (aged 40, Member of the Dail [Parliament], former teacher and principal, suspended in March 2018 from the Sinn Fein party for voting against the referendum to remove the prohibition of abortion from the Constitution;

attacked by fellow parliamentarians in Dublin on November 27, 2018 as 'sinister, inducing 'trauma, fear and shock, trying to 'inject shock tactics and US nonsense', that her comments 'display[ed] no compassion' and were 'dripping with judgement, dripping with a kind of visceral hatred of women' when she unsuccessfully attempted to amend the new abortion bill that would require government funding of all costs of abortions - nearly all other medical procedures carry some kind of cost sharing, said in response: "Unfortunately, many Pro-Life have been bullied into silence, but I won't allow my views on the issue to be silenced, it appears that democracy in Dail Eireann only exists if you hold a liberal and pro-choice view – so much for equality and respect. My sole motivation at all times has been a concern for the welfare of women and their unborn babies...I am not accustomed to describing the abortion procedure in detail but when colleagues in the Dail won't even support an amendment to provide pain relief for an unborn baby during a late-term abortion then I think it is reasonable to challenge them on what they are doing")

Claire Moore (Youth Defence, said on July 4, 2014 in Dublin that Prime Minister Enda Kenny had bullied and persuaded politicians to support the Abortion Act by insisting it was restrictive and would not result in abortions taking place, but the guidelines prove otherwise "The guidelines are a long time being published, because the government understands this is a contentious issue, and are afraid to spell out the reality if what their act entails - including the particularly dreadful horror of late-term abortion")

Danny Healy Rae (aged 64, Member of the Dail [Parliament], objected in Dublin on November 27, 2018 to the rush to pass the abortion bill and the lack of a conscientious objection clause for health care providers)

Declan Ganley (spoke on July 6, 2013 at a Dublin rally of 60,000 people who marched against the pending abortion liberalization bill, called for a referendum as allowed under the constitution if it passes)

Bishop Denis Brennan (said in Horeswood, County Wexford on June 11, 2017 “There is a lot of...
concern in church circles these days about the future. This is understandable given the volume of criticism and negativity directed at the church over recent times...In these Pentecost days we need to cast off our fears too, we are not the first generation of Christians to worry and wonder about the future. In every age people have written the obituary of the church and our age is no exception”)

Denis Naughten (removed from the parliamentary committee on Health and Children on July 19, 2013 after proposing amendments to the abortion bill for legal representatives for both the mother and unborn child, said “I’m disappointed that a government with the biggest majority since the foundation of the state feels that it must stamp out any scrutiny of its decisions”)

Sr Eugene Nolan (member of the board of directors of Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in Dublin, said on August 7, 2013 that the new abortion law "is being imposed on us" and runs "against our ethos")

Bishop John McAreavey (reported on or before May 22, 2015 to have said “According to the International Society for Human Rights, a non-religious organization, 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today are directed against Christians”)

Katie Ascough (college student, student union president in Dublin, removed information on obtaining illegal abortions from the student handbook, said on or before October 14, 2017 “I must state that the call for my impeachment is without legitimate cause. We don’t have to agree on the issue of abortion, but we should be able to respect each other...It was clear from the outset that some students didn’t want to give me a chance as President because of my views on abortion...The main reason that a group of students are calling for my impeachment is because of my decision to not break the law and illegally distribute abortion information. [We] sought legal advice regarding the abortion information from the Union’s long-standing lawyer [who] advised that it would be prudent to avoid proceeding with the current handbook”;

impeached and removed from office on October 27, 2017 by 69% of the voting student body, said “This is a sad day for me, but it is also a sad day for our university”)

Fr Kevin Doran (member of the board of directors of Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in Dublin, said on August 7, 2013 that “What’s happening is the Minister [for Health James Reilly] is saying hospitals are not entitled to have an ethos” following passage of the new abortion bill;

resigned from the board on October 2, 2013 after the hospital agreed to comply with the new law;

attacked by Minister of Health Simon Harris after he said on August 5, 2018 “There is undoubtedly a place in schools for an appropriate presentation of the church’s teachings on human sexuality”, Minister Harris tweeted in response “Please just make it stop! Increasing access to & availability of contraception is and will remain public health policy. Religion plays an important role for many on an individual basis – but it will not determine health and social policy in our country any more”)

Bishop Leo O’Reilly (reported on June 11, 2017 to have spoken in Drogheda of "hostility to the church that is now a settled part of our society’s culture. People from abroad are often astonished at the antipathy to the church displayed in our country...It is not physical persecution but it is no less real for that. It is more subtle. It takes the form of gradual exclusion of church people or activities from the public space. There is denigration of religious beliefs, practices and institutions on radio, television and on social and other media. There is often a focus on bad news about the church to the almost total exclusion of
any good news")

Lucinda Creighton (minister for European Affairs, voted against the final version of the new abortion bill on July 12, 2013 in Dublin, will likely be expelled from the ruling Fine Gael party;

removed as party whip and as minister for European Affairs on July 12, 2013)

Bishop Martin Drennan (reported on September 10, 2014 to have been asked to resign by a politician for questioning why the Saint Vincent de Paul Society donated over US$58,000 to a Galway homosexual activist group)

Niamh Uí Bhriain (Life Institute, commented on July 4, 2014 in Dublin on the government's upcoming abortion regulations "We heard endless calls for clarity last year in regard to abortion and medical treatments when the abortion bill was being pushed through the Dail and Seanad. Yet any debate on the reality of what this abortion act would bring about was always shouted down by the government and their allies in the media. Where is the clarity in these guidelines in relation to protecting mothers and babies? The reality is that this legislation allows for abortion until birth, yet when the question of late term abortion was raised in the Dail during the debate last year, this reality was ignored";

reported on August 8, 2017 to have commented on the pro-abortion group that trespassed in a Inchicore, Dublin church and draped a pro-abortion sweater on the altar for a pro-abortion advertisement “Everyone, including all decent people who have no faith themselves, knows you shouldn’t mess with a place of worship whether its a church, a synagogue or a mosque or anywhere else. For some pro-abortion campaigners, their hatred for religion seems to be the primary reason they support abortion, even though pro-life people see this as a human rights issue. This shows, once again, their extreme intolerance towards anyone who dares to have a different opinion, and their desire to silence people of faith. Abortion campaigners have repeatedly called for the churches to be silenced on abortion, but reasonable people will agree that they have a right to make their position known...It’s no surprise really that they know feel they can target altars in Catholic churches but this actually just reveals their intolerance and bigotry to the public”;

commented on or before August 1, 2018 on government threats to seize Catholic hospitals if they continued to refuse to perform abortions and to force doctors to make abortion referrals "Minister [for Health Simon] Harris has already said he will try to force doctors to take part in the abortion process by insisting that they must refer for abortions, despite the opposition of the National Association of General Practitioners [NAGP] who represent the vast majority of family doctors...This small-minded bullying may well backfire on the Minister. GP services are in crisis because there simply aren’t enough doctors in general practice in Ireland, and this is set to worsen as record levels of doctors emigrate and others retire...There are many pro-life doctors who will move to a different area of medicine if Harris tries to force them to refer one of their patients – the preborn child – to be killed. If these GPs, and some Catholic hospitals, are forced out of service by bully tactics on abortion, then already hard-pressed patients will suffer the consequences...That may well be the price the people will be forced to bear for yet another failure of a Minister for Health who seems fixated on abortion instead of real healthcare")

Patrick McCrystal (director of Human Life International, spoke on September 21, 2017 after threats forced a hotel to cancel hosting a Dublin meeting of his organization “Who decides who may speak in Ireland? This is an attack on the very foundation of democracy in our country. These women are highly respected in their fields. Yet an angry mob have decided that only certain voices are allowed to be heard in Ireland")
Peadar Toibín (voted against the final version of the new abortion bill on July 12, 2013 in Dublin, no word as to any retribution from the Sinn Fein party, which also supported the bill)

Peter Matthews (expelled from the governing Fine Gael party after on July 3, 2013 voting against the new abortion bill in Dublin)

Dr Ruth Cullen (reported on June 13, 2018 to have commented after the Prime Minister said that proposed legislation will compel Christian hospitals to provide abortions “We are witnessing something truly appalling at present – a government that seems prepared to trample on freedom of conscience in order to keep the pretense going that their abortion proposals are somehow medically indicated and based. It is very reassuring though to see the numbers of GPs [general practitioners] who are voicing their opposition”)

Samuel Sarfraz (pharmaceutical employee in Multan, Punjab province, Pakistan, reported on August 3, 2018 that his three children had been denied visas to attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin with Pope Francis, the Irish government rejected 100% of Pakistani visa applicants, said "This is a conspiracy to mint money from people who are already marginalized and discriminated against in a Muslim-majority country. If the policy was to reject all Pakistanis, why did they accept [nonrefundable] visa and registration fees for the world meeting?...We only wanted to see our beloved Holy Father. The refusal affects our prospects of visiting any European country")

Terence Flanagan (expelled from the governing Fine Gael party on July 3, 2013 after voting against the new abortion bill in Dublin)

Tom O’Gorman (pro-life activist, Eucharistic minister, killed by a lodger in his Dublin home on January 12, 2014)