



Focus on Religious Freedom

Cardinal Muller Visits Pro-Life Father of 7 Arrested by FBI

"As a Catholic bishop and Roman Catholic cardinal, I condemn these actions against non-armed families, against children; it's threatening for children, terrorizing them. There is no reason and no justification for this brutal action against these peaceful families,"⁽¹⁾ said German Cardinal Gerhard Muller when he visited the home of Mark Houck who was arrested on Sept. 23, 2022, by several armed and unexpected FBI agents in the early morning hours and charged with violating the *Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act*. In 2021, Houck had protected his 12-year-old son from an aggressive male escort at an abortion facility in PA where he regularly prays the Rosary, hands out literature and occasionally does "sidewalk counseling."⁽²⁾

"Persecution of the good people is always a sign of the beginning of dictatorship and tyranny," said Cardinal Muller. "But the United States has always had the leadership for democracy, and democracy doesn't work when there is no respect for basic rights ... We are citizens of the states and not serfs of some ideological leaders."⁽³⁾

Another Pro-Life Parent Arrested by FBI

"It was all very shocking. No one can believe the federal government would do something like this, with two cars and four armed FBI agents," said Paul Vaughn, father of 11 children in TN, after the FBI agents came to his home at 7:00am on Oct 5, 2022, pounding on the front door so loud that it reportedly made the whole house shake.⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾ "Paul Vaughn's arrest in front of his wife and 7 of his children, including the 18-month-old child she was holding, followed by his indictment on federal charges, is yet another attempt on the part of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to frighten and intimidate Christians and committed life advocates," said Thomas More Society senior counsel, Stephen Crampton. "We believe the evidence will show that Paul did not violate the FACE Act, and we look forward to a chance to prove that in court."⁽⁶⁾

"We believe that authority was abused in this situation. Especially when contrasted with the utter lack of interest, let alone investigation and arrest, of those committing genuine acts of violence against churches and pregnancy resource centers," said Attorney Crampton. "It seems clear that the FBI is carrying out an agenda ... - to terrorize - Christians and the pro-life community, while excusing and even condoning those on the pro-abortion side engaged in much more serious and harmful acts."⁽⁷⁾

"Government exists not only to make rules, but to ensure justice. If a government fails to provide equal justice under the law, it must be replaced by one that does."

James Madison, Founding Father and 4th President

(ncregister.com, 10/12/22(1)(3); christianpost.com, 9/27/22((2); ncregister.com, 10/18/22(4)(6)((7); lifenews.com, 10/7/22(5); washingtontimes.com, 10/16/22; liveaction.org, 8/9/22)

Quoting Pope Francis on elections and the faithful's civic duty to vote, Bp. Andrew H. Cozzens added "Civic engagement is part of the task of discipleship. It is part of the vocation of all God's faithful who are called by Jesus to be the 'salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world.'" "This is not a duty that any of us can delegate."