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E.J. Dionne on the complexities of Catholic views on HHS mandate

by Tom Roberts

NCR Today

Columnist E.J. Dionne, in today's *Washington Post*, provides a lucid explanation of why a lot of liberal Catholics lined up to criticize the narrow Health and Human Services religious exception on covering contraceptives. And he explains why so many liberals stay put in a denomination with which they might have major disagreements on some issues.

In part, he writes: "Those of us who are liberal Catholics have remained in the church for reasons beyond tribal loyalties or a desire to honor the traditions of our parents and grandparents. At the heart of the love many of us have for the church ? despite our frustrations over its abysmal handling of the pedophilia scandal and its reluctance to grant women the rights they are due ? is a profound respect for the fact on so many questions that count, Catholicism walks its talk and harnesses its faith to the good works the Gospel demands."

Beautifully done. Read the whole thing here.

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