

Empowered by ROMANS 8:28



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By R.T. Byrum

Liberalism Gains Power Over San Diego

San Diego was once a conservative stronghold in a liberal state influenced by Hollywood activists, atheists, environmentalists and gay militants. Now, powerful forces on the left have gained political power and are attempting to use it against Christians and others who believe in traditional (one-man/one-woman) marriages.

Charles LiMandri comes from an Italian Catholic background, and his 16 years of Christian-based schooling have armed him for the fight against those who want God to “just go away.” His beliefs and work have gained him several keystone titles in law. He is the West Coast Regional Director of the Thomas More Law Center and General Council for the National Organization for Marriage in California.

The Cross of Mount Soledad Trial

In a recent historic trial, Charles triumphed by winning a 20-year-long dispute filed by atheist, Steve Trunk, and several Jewish war veterans. The case involved a cross. High atop Mount Soledad in the La Jolla district stands a 29-foot-tall Latin cross erected as a memorial to veterans who had given their lives for their country. Around the

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him; who are called according to His purpose,” quoted Charles (Chuck) LiMandri, Attorney at Law. That promise stated in Romans 8:28 is a source of strength as Charles fights in some of the most *politically correct* legal battles in the courts of California.

base of the monument are 2,400 plaques paying tribute to those heroes.

Trunk argued that it was a visible religious symbol on public land and banned by the California constitution. He sued to have it moved down the mountain to a churchyard at the base. Judge Larry Alan Burns of Federal District Court in San Diego agreed with arguments presented by Charles and his team on behalf of a group of citizens supporting the cross remaining where it had stood for two decades.

A Victory for the Cross

Judge Burns wrote, “The memorial is not designed for worship services, and there is no evidence the cross, which is surrounded by a tall fence and not approachable by visitors, is—or is intended to be—the object of religious devotion.” He concluded, “The primary effect of the Mount Soledad memorial is patriotic and nationalistic.”

In 2006, President Bush signed a law taking federal possession of the land on which the cross stands. The effect was to remove the dispute from under the state’s constitution and to place it under the U.S. Constitution, which permits such memorials. Nevertheless, the ACLU continues to oppose the cross as it attempts to suppress Christian morality, traditional families and conservative values.

Fortunately, Charles LiMandri is not one to run from a fight. His Christian background keeps him focused, and he gains strength from attending Our Lady of the Rosary in San Diego with his wife, Barbara. These Bible-led parents have in turn nurtured their five children in the things of God.

Four Firefighters Against the City

At the present, Charles is in an important battle against one of the most vocal and adversarial groups in San Diego—the homosexual community. His case involves four city firefighters who were ordered—against their will—to take part in the annual Gay Pride parade.

Originally, there had been volunteers from the department for the parade, but then they, along with many others, took the day off. The four men who came to work that day were informed they would be riding in one of the fire engines and were told that should they refuse, they

could face disciplinary action.

The firefighters sought help from City Attorney, Mike Aguirre (who has since been ousted from office). They explained that they had asked to be excused for two reasons:

- They did not want to be subjected to sexual harassment as had happened in prior years.
- They did not want to appear to be endorsing public sexual behavior, which



Charles stands in front of a photo of a cross high atop Mount Soledad in the La Jolla district. The Latin Cross stands 29-foot-tall and was erected as a memorial to veterans who had given their lives for their country. He triumphed by winning a 20-year-long dispute filed by atheist, Steve Trunk, and several Jewish war veterans.

runs counter to their own values.

Mike Aguirre advised them to go along with the order, refusing to speak out on their behalf, even though that command from their superiors violated California Law.

Gay Parade Was Not a “Fun Event”

San Diego’s fire chief, Tracy Jarman, an open lesbian, described the parade as a “fun event.” Charles, however, told reporters, “During the parade, the four city employee firefighters were subjected to numerous offensive ‘cat calls,’ gestures of sexual nature and were the object of many obscene and lewd acts.” Afterwards, the firefighters filed

suit against the city of San Diego and the case went to trial. In order to win, nine of the twelve jurors had to vote for the plaintiffs. The vote fell one short, even though the alternate jurors sided with the firefighters.

San Diego claims to have changed its policy of using volunteers and does not admit to any wrongdoing. The city’s position remains that they would still order firefighters to be in the gay pride parade again if they didn’t have sufficient volunteers.

Round Two in 2009

On January 16, 2009, the second trial will begin—with a new city attorney. “We have a high likelihood of winning a decision this time,” Charles says. “We will do some things differently and will be up against a different defense team. I believe this case is important for the citizens of San Diego, as well as for citizens throughout the country.”

Concerned with the constant and bold attacks against religion and freedom of speech, Charles believes the firemen’s case will impact a lot of people who work in government. “Gay rights should not trump freedom of speech,” he states.

Join the Battle for Freedom

Such battles to protect our freedoms from enemies within, as well as without, do not come cheap. “We have already spent over \$112,000 of our own money on court costs,” Charles says. “We still need nearly \$900,000 to pay for depositions, a team of attorneys and other expenses. We ask for the prayers of all Christians who love this country and respect the Constitution, and we request financial support to win this landmark battle.”

To learn more about this trial and to make donations, Charles LiMandri invites *Christian Living* readers to visit www.firefightersdefensefundblog.com or his main site, www.limandrilaw.com.

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