

Boston Globe' Columnist Concerned Over Freedom Of Conscience And Gay Adoption

Boston Globe columnist Jeff Jacoby has recently penned a sobering commentary on gay adoptions and the Catholic Church. His column was reprinted in the *Jewish World Review* as "Adoption, kids, and the gay agenda."

Jacoby describes the current situation in Massachusetts with the Archdiocese of Massachusetts shutting down its adoption agency in order to avoid state-imposed adoptions of children by gay couples.

Jacoby noted that the Human Rights Campaign spun the story with a headline that read: "Boston Catholic Charities Puts Ugly Political Agenda Before Child Welfare."

According to Jacoby, the move by the Catholic Church isn't politically motivated. It is motivated by adherence to Catholic doctrine on homosexuality and the best interests of the child. "Catholic Charities excels at arranging adoptions for children in foster care, particularly those who are older or handicapped, or who bear the scars of abuse or addiction. Yet the Human Rights Campaign and its friends would rather see this invaluable work come to an end than allow Catholic Charities to decline gay adoptions," said Jacoby.

He asks the question: "Is this a sign of things to come? In the name of nondiscrimination, will more states force religious organizations to swallow their principles or go out of business?"

Jacoby quotes Harvard Law Professor Mary Ann Glendon who wrote in 2004 that once same-sex marriage becomes legal in a state, "the experiences in other countries reveal that once these arrangements become law, there will be no live-and-let live policy for those who differ. Gay-marriage proponents use the language of openness, tolerance, and diversity, yet one foreseeable effect of their success will be to usher in an era of intolerance and discrimination. ... Every person and every religion that disagrees will be labeled as bigoted and openly discriminated against. The ax will fall most heavily on religious persons and groups that don't go along. Religious institutions will be hit with lawsuits if they refuse to compromise their principles."

The Archdiocese of San Francisco is facing the same dilemma that faced the Boston Church. It, too, may be forced by anti-discrimination policies to shut down or be forced by the city to place children in gay households.