

# Charity of the Month



Hope House is metro-Denver's only resource providing free self-sufficiency programs to parenting teen moms. We offer a variety of components designed to help teen moms become self-sufficient members of their community who are also nurturing, loving parents. We offer a menu-style approach to services that allows our teen moms to define their own goals and then select the components that will help them reach those goals, including Residential, High School & GED and College & Career Programs. Additional supportive services include parenting and healthy relationships classes, an Early Learning Program, health and wellness, financial literacy and personal growth classes as well as certified counseling, all designed to prepare them for long-term independence. Hope House relies on numerous volunteers and local business partnerships to accomplish its mission.

*Hope House Colorado empowers parenting teenage moms to strive for personal and economic self-sufficiency and to understand their significance in God's sight, resulting in a healthy future for them, and for their children.*



**The Tikhon Tattler**  
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# JANUARY 2021

## SECULAR CONVENIENCE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 20A87

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

v.

ANDREW M. CUOMO, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK  
on application for injunctive relief

November 25, 2020

*Justice Gorsuch, concurring\**

... Government is not free to disregard the First Amendment in times of crisis. At a minimum, that Amendment prohibits government officials from treating religious exercises worse than comparable secular activities, unless they are pursuing a compelling interest and using the least restrictive means available. Yet recently, during the COVID pandemic, certain States seem to have ignored these long-settled principles.

Today's case supplies just the latest example. New York's Governor has asserted the power to assign different color codes to different parts of the State and govern each by executive decree. In "red zones," houses of worship are all but closed—limited to a maximum of 10 people. In the Orthodox Jewish community that limit might operate to exclude all women, considering 10 men are necessary to establish a *minyan*, or a quorum. In "orange zones," it's not much different. Churches and synagogues are limited to a maximum of 25 people. These restrictions apply even to the largest cathedrals and synagogues, which ordinarily hold hundreds. And the restrictions apply no matter the precautions taken, including social distancing, wearing masks, leaving doors and windows open, forgoing singing, and disinfecting spaces between services.

\* *A justice will sometimes write a concurring opinion to elaborate upon the reasoning of the court's majority opinion.*

At the same time, the Governor has chosen to impose no capacity restrictions on certain businesses he considers “essential.” And it turns out the businesses the Governor considers essential include hardware stores, acupuncturists, and liquor stores. Bicycle repair shops, certain signage companies, accountants, lawyers, and insurance agents are all essential too. So, at least according to the Governor, it may be unsafe to go to church, but it is always fine to pick up another bottle of wine, shop for a new bike, or spend the afternoon exploring your distal points and meridians. Who knew public health would so perfectly align with secular convenience?

As almost everyone on the Court today recognizes, squaring the Governor’s edicts with our traditional First Amendment rules is no easy task. People may gather inside for extended periods in bus stations and airports, in laundromats and banks, in hardware stores and liquor shops. No apparent reason exists why people may not gather, subject to identical restrictions, in churches or synagogues, especially when religious institutions have made plain that they stand ready, able, and willing to follow all the safety precautions required of “essential” businesses and perhaps more besides. The only explanation for treating religious places differently seems to be a judgment that what happens there just isn’t as “essential” as what happens in secular spaces. Indeed, the Governor is remarkably frank about this: In his judgment laundry and liquor, travel and tools, are all “essential” while traditional religious exercises are not. *That* is exactly the kind of discrimination the First Amendment forbids.

Nor is the problem an isolated one. In recent months, certain other Governors have issued similar edicts. At the flick of a pen, they have asserted the right to privilege restaurants, marijuana dispensaries, and casinos over churches, mosques, and temples.

\* \* \*

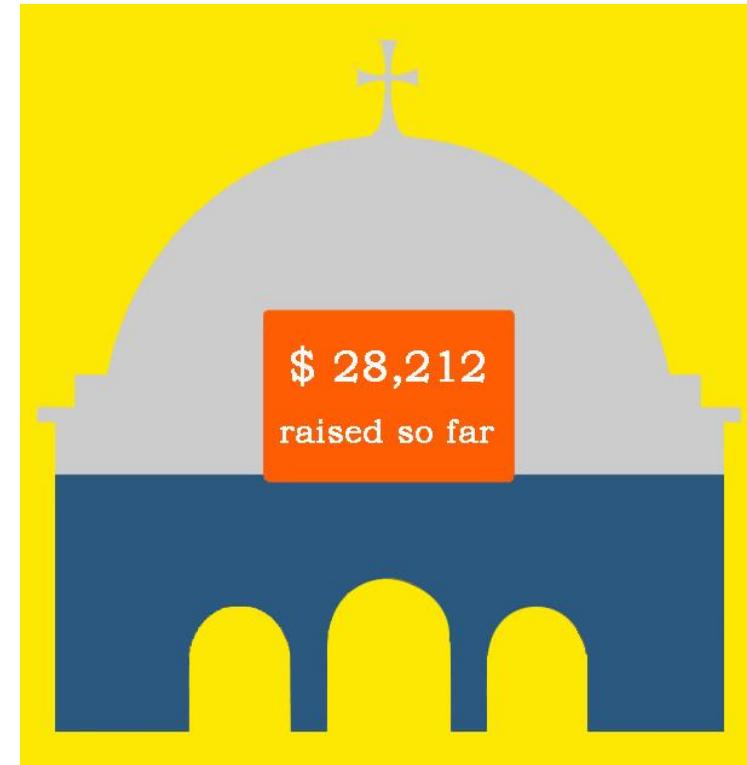
It is time—past time—to make plain that, while the pandemic poses many grave challenges, there is no world in which the Constitution tolerates color-coded executive edicts that reopen liquor stores and bike shops but shutter churches, synagogues, and mosques.

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

(unaudited)

	30-Nov	Budget	YTD	Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	7,063.07	5,792.50	78,204.12	63,717.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	5,572.37	5,462.94	64,511.22	63,041.69
<b>Cash Flow</b>	1,490.70	329.57	13,692.90	675.82
<b>Building Fund</b>		28,212.64		

# Help our Mission Grow!



Our mission church needs to expand to better serve the greater Parker area Orthodox faithful and community. We need a larger worship space, separate fellowship area, an office, and ideally a meeting area.

Reaching our goal of \$75,000 will put us in a position to determine how to expand – whether to rent a larger space or to consider purchasing a building. Once we reach this initial goal, we trust that God will show us the right path to take for further physical and

spiritual growth. All contributions to the Building Fund Campaign will be set aside for a future move and/or expansion of our existing worship space and facilities.

To help even more, please consider increasing your donation to cover applicable transaction fees by using the checkbox in the payment screen, and/or choose the BANK method for lowest fees. Processing fees are 2.75% plus 30 cents per transaction if using credit/debit card, or 1.0% plus 30 cents per transaction if you choose a direct bank draft. You can also mail a check to St. Tikhon Orthodox Mission, 19035 Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134. Thank you for supporting our Mission!

*St. Tikhon Orthodox Mission is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*