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**North American Old
Catholic Church**

Press Release

Church to CVS: Unlock the Condoms!

*Church joins the call for CVS to unlock
condom displays in their stores*

May 22, 2009 – Washington, DC [ICNS] The North American Old Catholic Church joins the call for CVS/Caremark to end the practice of locking up condoms in their stores that are located in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

“The practice of making someone ask for condoms stigmatizes condoms and those who use them, making it less likely that the consumer will purchase them.” said Mother Meredith Moise, vicar for Black and Latino Catholics for the church. *“To make it more difficult for black men and women to obtain protection is a dangerous practice.”* she concluded.

The statistics demonstrate the urgent need for easy access to condoms: Annually, **3 million teenagers acquire an STD** and **750 thousand teenage girls become pregnant**. It is believed that **46% of black gay and bisexual men are infected with HIV**, and the general HIV infection rate is highest amongst black men who engage in sex with other men. **HIV/AIDS is the number one killer of young black women**, and the infection rate is four times higher in Hispanic women, and fifteen times higher in black women than it is in white women.

Access to condoms is crucial to stemming the tide of HIV infections and death from AIDS in the United States.

We urge CVS/Caremark to follow the examples of other pharmacy chains. CVS's closest competitor, Walgreens, has a policy in place that prohibits locking up condoms in their stores.

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Fostering a continued, strong commitment to catholic tradition, and the search for contemporary meaning, the North American Old Catholic Church is part of the worldwide, universal church of Jesus Christ.

*For more information about the church, and to review or download our press kit, visit <http://newsroom.naoldcatholic.com> and click on *PRESS KIT**

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