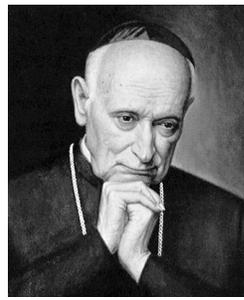


Mindszenty Report



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A Sign of Contradiction: The 2008 Election and the Catholic Church in America

One of the little known facts to emerge from the 2008 presidential campaign was that Governor Sarah Palin was baptized a Catholic 44 years ago. After her family moved to Alaska she joined a Pentecostal church. This past summer, to the chagrin of the Catholic Church, Senator Joseph Biden chided Palin for her opposition to embryonic stem cell research. The tragic irony is that Sarah Palin is more Catholic on life issues than self-professed Catholic Joe Biden.

LOST SHEEP

The irony of Embryonic Stem Cell Research (ESCR) is indicative of a *sign of contradiction* that has plagued the Catholic Church for several generations. It is a partial fulfillment of Jesus' Lucan warning that His new Covenant would bring conflict and division. The stark reality is that Barack Obama's election could not have happened without the many Catholic politicians and voters who supported his presidential campaign. Catholic leaders cannot say they were not warned. Over 30 years ago, St. Louis University History Professor James Hitchcock remarked that *it is a startling realization that almost all those Catholic politicians who have achieved a high measure of national prominence in recent years are conspicuous for their support of legalized, even governmentally funded abortions.*

Virtually every Catholic in Congress is ardently pro-abortion. The allegiance of Senators Biden, Dick Durbin, Chris Dodd, Ted Kennedy and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is a public affront to Church teachings on abortion, euthanasia, and ESCR. These prominent Catholic political leaders have ignored the admonitions, teachings and pleading of many of their bishops and priests in order to espouse policies in direct opposition to Catholic teachings on innocent human life. Hitchcock's prophetic words beg the question as to how could so many Catholics be divided over the sanctity of innocent human life?

In 2006 Robert Casey Jr., whose father was an ardent defender of human life, defeated the strongest anti-abortion Catholic in the U.S. Senate, Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. Casey's election was evidence of a new Democratic strategy to squeeze pro-life Republicans out of Congress. By accepting the national co-chairmanship of an advisory group on Catholic voters for Obama, Casey exempted himself from Church

teachings in order to attract his fellow Catholics back into the Democratic fold. His endorsement of Obama sent a clear message that the Democrats are determined to recover many of the lost Democratic sheep who left the party over abortion since the Reagan years.

Since his election, Senator Casey has garnered a 65% approval rating from the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), one of the leading pro-abortion lobby groups in the country. Pelosi, the most powerful Catholic in Congress, was defiant during her August appearance on NBC's *Meet the Press*. She twisted Church teachings on abortion in an incoherent display of denial that would have left even the craftiest of Jesuits rolling his eyes.

AN OCTOBER SURPRISE

Capturing the majority of the Catholic vote in national elections was a prerequisite for Democratic victory. While the targeting of Catholic voters for Obama did not surprise even the casual observer, the tidal wave of support in the Catholic community has raised more than a few eyebrows. In the June 2008 issue of *The Catholic World Report*, Paul Kengor opined that it was no shock that Catholic Senators Kennedy and Kerry would support Obama because they are nothing more than pro-abortion party hacks. But what surprised Kengor and disturbed many other observers was the endorsements the Obama camp received from such pillars of the faith as the owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers NFL team, Dan Rooney, and pro-life attorney, Doug Kmiec.

In April, Rooney reputed to be a daily communicant, said he was compelled to endorse Senator Obama because of his *thoughtful, strategic approach* to the problems of Pennsylvania and America. The positive reaction of millions of young people to Obama energized the 75-year-old Rooney to the extent that he failed to consider or even ignored his Church's teachings on innocent life.

Kmiec, a former counsel to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and more recently an advisor to Mitt Romney, is currently a professor of constitutional law at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. He called Obama *a natural for the Catholic vote*, and believes the Democratic candidate to be *a person of integrity, intelligence, and*

genuine good will.

Unlike other Catholics who ignore the issue altogether, Kmiec has addressed his differences with Obama on abortion. Kmiec naively takes at face value all of Obama's verbal nuances and deceptive logic, while placing his faith in Obama's keeping an *open mind* on abortion and his hollow promise to *respect and accommodate* opposing ideas. Kmiec must have missed the Senator's campaign promise to Planned Parenthood that he would immediately sign the Freedom of Choice Act, which would abrogate virtually all restrictions on abortion on demand passed during the last 25 years. Kmiec must have been dozing when Obama made the shocking remark that if one of his young daughters got pregnant out of wedlock, he would not want her to be *punished with a baby*.

A QUAIN CULTURAL RELIC

A new book, *Being Catholic Now: Prominent Americans Talk about Change in the Church and the Quest for Meaning*, by Kerry Kennedy, one of the late Robert F. Kennedy's daughters, sheds some light on the Catholic contradiction. Kennedy, a 49-year-old human rights activist and divorced mother of three, interviewed 37 prominent Catholics, few of whom would be considered orthodox or devotional by any standard. If the Church does not adapt to their progressive behavior, they pay little more than lip service to its teachings.

Hardly a cross section of American Catholics, most of Kennedy's activist friends have adopted a liberal view toward the Catholic faith. They project the usual litany of complaints with the Pope and Church teachings, especially on sexual morality. Some claim to be *spiritual people* with little interest in organized religions, while others are cultural Catholics who view the Faith as a quaint *cultural* relic of their upbringing. A few have just *matured* and outgrown the Church.

Even as young girls, Nancy Pelosi and Donna Brazile, Al Gore's 2000 campaign manager, wanted to be *priests*, not *sisters*. Bill Maher, TV talk show host and now a virulent atheist, wants to *shut down the church*. Other *Kennedy Catholics* include actress Susan Sarandon, pro-abortion Anna Quindlen, and homosexual writer Andrew Sullivan.

Kennedy's book focuses on the idea that Catholicism is a highly influential faith that derives its strength and weaknesses from a perpetual inner conflict. Her attraction to the faith is her passion for the Church's social-justice teachings. Yet on the life issues like abortion and euthanasia, she describes herself as pro-choice.

ROOTS OF CONFUSION

The Kennedy family is a good starting point to expose the origins of the Catholic sign of contradiction. In 1962 *Time* magazine published an article on John F. Kennedy's Catholicism. Its author, Father Thurston Davis, the editor of the Jesuit publication *America*, praised Kennedy for his *discreet attitude toward his faith*. Father Davis wrote that were Kennedy to have been pictured with the leaders of his Church during his 1960 presidential campaign, it would have cost him the election.

Aware of this and all the other lessons of the first Catholic

candidate, Al Smith who lost to Herbert Hoover in the 1928 election, Kennedy deftly danced an Irish jig around his Church and its teachings. At a September meeting before the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, Kennedy said that he believed *in an America...where no prelate would tell the president--should he be Catholic-- how to act*. He vowed that he would not consult his church teachings on the issues where American society differed, such as birth control, divorce, censorship and gambling. As a footnote to this heralded speech, Philip Lawler's book *The Faithfully Departed* points out that the author of Kennedy's speech was journalist John Cogley, who later renounced his Catholic faith.

A year after JFK's tragic death in 1963, the Kennedy compound at Hyannisport hosted a theological summit that included several liberal theologians, such as Jesuit priests Robert Drinan and Giles Milhaven and both surviving Kennedy brothers. The agenda revolved around their need to find a way to neutralize abortion as a political issue among Catholics. Drinan and Milhaven sketched the *pro-choice* rhetoric that survives today. Father Drinan later supported abortion-on-demand in Congress while Father Milhaven was active in Catholics for a Free Choice.

While the late President had already laid the foundation for the argument that a Catholic politician must not force his private religious beliefs on his constituents, his brothers were prepared to take it to the next level. Nine years before the infamous Roe v. Wade decision, they were prepared to explain their spiritual dichotomy of personally opposed to abortion but politically *not obliged to force religion* on their constituents. When abortion became a hot issue in the early 1970s, Catholic politicians were ready with a series of pro-choice arguments that would permeate the Catholic community.

THE KENNEDY ECHO

The Kennedy political and moral legacy has been recognizable in the thinking of every prominent Catholic Democrat since Mario Cuomo's heralded Notre Dame speech in 1984, where he clearly defined the Catholic dichotomy that has served his party for 25 years. The Kennedy echo was also evident in a symphony of 48 Members of Congress who chimed in 20 years later to say, *as Catholics we do not believe it is our role to legislate the teachings of the Catholic Church*.

Obama's Catholic success can easily be attributed to the *seamless garment*, which for 25 years has watered down Church teachings on abortion, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. Now operating under its new title the *consistent life ethic*, it has provided countless thousands of Catholic politicians the wiggle room around Church teachings on innocent life.

The *seamless garment* was the handiwork of the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago. For over two decades, Bernardin's *flawed quality-of-life theory has provided 'cover' for countless pro abort politicians to falsely claim they're pro-life, and has enabled Catholic University academics to support abortion*. The Cardinal's ideological proxies on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have

undermined Catholic teachings to the detriment of the pro-life movement. His seamless legacy lives on in groups such as *Catholics for Obama*. They believe they are *practicing Catholics who embrace and call attention to Catholic social teaching, which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops describes as wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.*

Similar groups, including, Catholics United, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, Catholic Democrats, and Roman Catholics for Obama-Biden '08, targeted Catholics who were susceptible to their humanistic message on Catholic social teachings from war to the *preferential option for the poor*. A Colorado group, Catholics for Obama, protested their clerics' use of the *bully pulpit* to convince them to act like *authentic Catholics* by voting against Obama. They pointed out that *fighting poverty, fixing health care and ending the war also mattered*. The seamless garment is still effective in luring large throngs of Catholics to vote for pro-abortion candidates.

A TREADMILL OF DEFEAT

Given the liberal bent of many of America's political and religious leaders, it is not surprising that many Catholics have regularly ignored their Church's teachings on innocent life. Using the Bernardinian seamless shield, many Catholic leaders, clerics and lay people have placed the interests of temporal society and political power over the lives of unborn children and the teachings of the Church. According to prefect of the Vatican's highest court and former St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke, the Democratic Party *risks transforming itself definitively into a "party of death."*

No words better illustrate the Church's failure to engage the left on the cultural battlefields of American society than those of Cardinal Theodore McCarrick at the 2005 Red Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C., where he called for civility and advised the legislators and jurists to *dialogue more gently, more positively, more carefully to set the conversation within a forum of mutual respect by being willing to listen for the good points that are usually present in every reasonable discourse*. Reasonable discourse implies a compromise that allows abortion to co-exist with all other laws that have a foundation in Christian morality. The Cardinal speaks the words of surrender.

The Cardinal's words were in stark contrast to those of a trinity of pro-life giants, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa and Francis Cardinal Arinze, who never wavered in their defense of innocent human life. Pope John Paul II set the standard in his 1995 encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, when he said that *Abortion*

and euthanasia are thus crimes, which no human law can claim to legitimize. Similarly, Mother Teresa never missed an opportunity to challenge those outside of the realm of Christian morality on abortion. Cardinal Arinze endured the public scorn of faculty and students at Georgetown University's 2003 commencement when he decried the *anti-life mentality* of the world with its reliance on *contraception, abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia*.

A PROPHETIC VOICE

The good examples of the late pope, a saintly woman and an African prelate underscore the Christian virtue of hope. They have reminded the faithful that opposition to abortion is not a novel stance. The Catholic Church has always been a prophetic voice against violations of the human person. Since its beginnings Christianity has maintained a firm and clear teaching on the sacredness of human life. Jesus Christ emphasized this in His teaching and ministry. Abortion was rejected in the earliest known Christian manual of discipline, the *Didache*. Early Church fathers consistently condemned abortion as the killing of innocent human life. A third century Father of the Church, Tertullian, called it *accelerated homicide*.

Obama's election is no cause to despair! Many Catholic leaders have dared to speak out against this terrible trend in American Catholicism. However to turn the tide, the Church must strip Catholic politicians of their Bernardinian shields. Church leaders must sever all verbal, ideological and emotional attachment to the seamless garment and its illegitimate offspring, the consistent life ethic.

As Mother Teresa said at the famous Washington prayer breakfast 15 years ago, *any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion*. Catholics of all stripes must learn that unless abortion is stricken from the American landscape, there will never be hope for peace or social justice.



William A. Borst, Ph.D. is the author of Liberalism: Fatal Consequences and the Scorpion and the Frog: A Natural Conspiracy. Both are available from the author at PO Box 16271; St. Louis, MO 63105 or write BBPROF@sbcglobal.net.

Footnote: In the 2008 election President Obama won the Catholic vote 53% to 47% for Senator McCain.

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This Generation's King Herod

Planned Parenthood has hit a new low in denigrating the holy days of Christmas.

In past years Planned Parenthood has promoted a "Choice on Earth" abortion campaign during the Christmas season, which included holiday "Choice on Earth" greeting card.

Now in 2008, the Indiana affiliate of Planned Parenthood is offering Gift Certificates for abortions, birth control and female examinations! In Indiana, the organization operates abortion clinics in Indianapolis, Merrillville, and Bloomington and reports that over 5,000 abortions have been preformed each year.

Sister Diane Carollo, Director of the Office for Pro-Life Ministry, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, said "they deserve coal in their stockings, not money for lethal gift certificates."

Some comments about the certificates in the local newspaper:

"A gift for those who only want to kill
the very innocent"

"Good for one dead baby"

"Redeem this at Planned Parenthood. No other
redemption possible. Ever."

What a tragedy that almost 6,000 children will not be celebrating their first Christmas this year.

We recall that when President-elect Barack Obama served in the U. S. Senate, he had a 100% rating from Planned Parenthood and NARAL and supported Partial-Birth Abortion.

He has vowed as President to pass the Freedom of Choice Act which would wipe off the books nearly every law restricting or regulating the practice of abortion in the last 35 years

Anniversary Highlights

CMF celebrated its 50th Anniversary on November 22nd.

M.C. John Shields entertained oral tributes from special friends, and celebrity guests Steve Mosher, China and Population expert, and George H Walker, Ambassador to Hungary, added a special touch to the festivities. A brief slide show of our 50 year history was presented by John and Jay Shields, and Eleanor Schlafly addressed the group with words of thanks and encouragement.

As the guests left, they were given a hot-off-the-press copy of our new Golden Anniversary book.

Christmas Blessings

Dear CMF Friends,

We hope you have received your copy of our 50th Golden Anniversary book commemorating our mission and history!

We think you will agree that it is a beautiful keepsake of tributes, reminiscences, and photos, chronicling five decades of anti-communism, pro-freedom, pro-family Catholic leadership.

If you have not already done so, or if you would like one or more extra Anniversary books for gift-giving, please consider a donation to CMF. We will continue to combat the Marxist forces making inroads in our society, especially on American college campuses.

During this holy Christmas season, you will be remembered in the Masses and prayers of our Council Fathers. The CMF Board and Staff thank you for your continued support and kind comments throughout the year, and we wish you and your families a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

"For unto us a child is born, Unto us a child is given, and the Government is upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Mindszenty Report Reprints

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION: BATTLEGROUND FOR POLITICIANS, SOCIAL ENGINEERS AND OTHER SCOUNDRELS—Recalls the wisdom of the Founding Fathers struggling to insure the document's separation of powers and longevity. Draws upon the book "Who Killed the Constitution?" to show the well-intentioned but flawed clauses that have enabled progressive forces to ignore, twist and abrogate this amazing work.

Ask for 11/08

THE BANQUET TABLE OF LIFE—The Historical Fraud of Over-Population...Explores the problem of world population vs. world food supplies and resources; traces the influence of the zealous radical population controllers, a mixture of Malthus' theories, social Darwinism, eugenics, environmentalism and our own government policies.

Ask for 10/08

OUR BOOK OLYMPIAD—Each year we publish a list of books we recommend for consideration. This year's list of 19 books might disturb you, but we hope will motivate and inspire you. They are categorized under headings of Faith, History, Government and Culture for easy reference.

Ask for 9/08

1 copy	\$.50	100 copies	\$20.00
20 copies	\$5.00	500 copies	\$85.00
50 copies	\$11.00	1000 copies	\$160.00