



Saint Thomas More
1478-1535

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January 31, 2001

St. John Bosco

*Vice-President and Associate
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Dear Fellow Catholic:

West Coast Litigation Counsel
James M. Bendell

By the time you receive this letter, Americans will have marched on Washington, D.C., for Life, keeping in this country's conscience the national disgrace of Roe v. Wade.

Director of Apologetics
Gerald Christian Matatics

Meanwhile, we are still awaiting two crucial decisions by appellate courts in matters the Association is handling -- matters which will have nationwide impact on the rights of Catholics.

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A Outrageous Assault on Pro-Life Speech

As you may remember from our last newsletter, on September 12, 2000 I argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in favor of overturning an atrocious \$107 million verdict by a jury in Portland, Oregon against pro-life activists who had done nothing more than publish two anti-abortion posters and a Web site deemed "threats" in violation of FACE and RICO.

The panel of judges for the Ninth Circuit had many sharp questions for the pro-abort lawyers defending the verdict, and we are very hopeful that the First Amendment and common sense will prevail and this assault on pro-life speech will be reversed.

This verdict is a threat to the very existence of an activist pro-life movement which seeks to identify and expose abortionists by name.

In fact, one of the abortionists named in our clients' posters was just involved in another patient death caused by a perforated uterus. This abortionist has been named in a string of malpractice suits involving women he has maimed or killed.

What kind of a country is it where labor unions have the right to shut down a factory because of unfair labor practices, but pro-lifers are charged with "racketeering" for doing nothing more than issuing protest posters against those who kill babies,

We must preserve the basic constitutional right of pro-life activists to identify the assassins of the unborn in posters and other communications.

The outcome of this case will determine in significant measure whether America continues to move in the direction of a police state, where pro-life activity is concerned.

Fighting to Preserve a Breakthrough Victory for Parental Rights

We are also still waiting for a decision in a case I argued before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in May 2000. In this case we are attempting to preserve our victory at trial, appealed by the losing side. This is a groundbreaking case brought by Catholic parents against the Bedford Central School District in Westchester County, New York.

Association attorneys prepared and tried this case in the Southern District of New York, where the trial judge struck down as unconstitutional a number of truly outrageous practices by the school district.

Would you believe this school district had the entire high school class assembling each year in front of a large earth-totem (a huge globe on a tripod) in order to pay tribute to "Mother Earth" with symbolic gifts from the class leaders? They even had ceremonial tom-toms beating in the background, while students came forward and paid their tributes to the earth-goddess!

The same school district was forcing little children in the elementary school to make images of the elephant-headed Hindu god, Lord Ganesha -- complete with the crown of his "divinity." Imagine the outcry if the same teachers had told the children to make an image of Christ on the Cross!

Then there was the playing of hypnotic audio tapes in the classroom containing explicit prayers to the Earth, including: "The Mother of us all is the Earth. The Father is the Sun . . . We thank our grandfather for his creation. For this green earth is our mother; hidden in the sky is the Spirit above."

After hearing our evidence concerning these practices, the district judge struck them down as unconstitutional and ordered the school district to adopt policies to prevent these outrages from ever occurring again in district classrooms.

The School District and the national educational establishment are fighting like mad to overturn our victory at

trial. It has been eight months since I argued the appeal in the Second Circuit, and we have yet to receive a decision. Please pray that our victory for parental rights is upheld by the Second Circuit!

Battles on Other Fronts

Meanwhile, we are doing battle on a number of other fronts.

In the Second Circuit we have just filed opening and reply briefs on our appeal from a federal court injunction out of the Western District which creates speech-free "buffer zones" around every abortion mill in Western New York.

These "buffer zones" have pushed our pro-life clients so far away from the clinics that their saving message can no longer be heard. As a result, babies are dying while Big Abortion is raking in the bucks.

The use of "buffer zones" is a favorite anti-life tactic of Big Abortion. If they can just get the pro-lifers far enough away, women will not hear those crucial last-minute pleas for the lives of the children which cause many women to change their minds. You see, a mother's change of mind in favor of life is bad for the abortion business.

In York, Pennsylvania we are defending a pro-life mother against yet another suit by Planned Parenthood designed to stop life-saving demonstrations in front of abortion clinics. We have served discovery demands on the pro-abort lawyers and will soon be taking depositions. We hope to prove that there are absolutely no grounds for issuing an injunction against our client and that she has every right to go on protesting and trying to save babies from the clutches of Big Abortion.

In Allentown, Pennsylvania we have been asked to defend a staunch pro-lifer and Catholic businessman who was convicted of criminal trespass in a district court merely for exercising his constitutional right to demonstrate against abortion on the sidewalk near a local abortion mill.

We are gearing up for a full-fledged trial in the upper court, where we hope to reverse the conviction and restore our client's right to oppose the killing of unborn children.

In Mineola, New York we have just filed a brief opposing a legal move by one of the most notorious abortionists in America, who is trying to put a stop to demonstrations by a courageous Catholic priest at his Long Island abortion mill. The priest's only

"offense" is to counsel women against going into this killer's "reproductive health facility."

Witchcraft, yes. Latin Mass, no.

Meanwhile, on a totally different front, the Association has been asked to intervene in the refusal of the United States Army to allow Catholic servicemen in Brussels, Belgium to use the army base chapel for a traditional Latin Mass.

Army regulations require equal access to base chapels even for practitioners of Wicca, the religion of witchcraft! Yet traditional Catholics are being denied permission for the Latin Mass. This is blatant discrimination against Roman Catholics. We will be taking our case to the Secretary of the Army in Washington, D.C.. If we cannot resolve the matter administratively, we are prepared to sue the Department of Army in federal court.

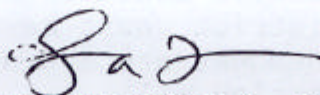
Nothing Happens Without You

Because of your support we have been able to handle these and other matters without charging legal fees to our Catholic clients. With your continued support we can continue to do battle with the enemies of life and Catholic liberty in America -- going all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary.

Please, pray and pray very hard for our success in these pending matters -- especially in the Ninth Circuit, where the free speech rights of pro-lifers everywhere are at stake.

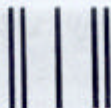
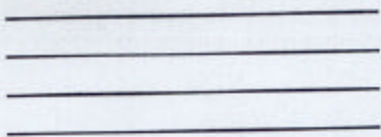
I want to thank you, again, for your support of our work over the years. I hope we can continue to count on your prayers and your material generosity in the battles still to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Christopher A. Ferrara
Chief Counsel

P.S. Even the Mercury Sun Times, a very liberal newspaper, ran an article stating that the Ninth Circuit panel which heard our appeal of the outrageous \$107 million verdict against pro-lifers seems skeptical of the verdict and may well reverse it on First Amendment grounds. I would never predict what a court will do, but I am very hopeful. Please pray that we win this appeal, and that we also hold on to our important victory for parental rights in the Second Circuit.



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Thanks! With your help, we'll continue to fight for the rights of Catholics in America.

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