

**Press Release – October 10, 2008**

Catholic Democrats Calls on Co-Chair of Catholics for McCain to Apologize for Incendiary Attacks on Senator Obama  
Governor Keating Ignores Bishops' Challenge to Respect Human Dignity



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## **Catholic Democrats Calls on Co-Chair of Catholics for McCain to Apologize for Incendiary Attacks on Senator Obama**

### **Governor Keating Ignores Bishops' Challenge to Respect Human Dignity**

**Boston, MA** - [Catholic Democrats](http://www.catholicdemocrats.org) is calling on Governor Frank Keating, co-chair of Senator McCain's Catholic outreach efforts, to repudiate his comments calling Senator Obama a "guy of the street" in a radio interview he gave yesterday. "The incendiary rhetoric coming from the McCain Campaign this week is deplorable, and completely incompatible with Catholic teaching," said Dr. Patrick Whelan, president of *Catholic Democrats*. "As the co-chair of the Catholics for McCain, Governor Keating should be looking to rein in the worst impulses of the political class, not egg them on. We believe Governor Keating must apologize to Senator Obama for these ugly remarks."

In their 2007 document [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#), the U.S. Bishops state, "We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world." Additionally, *Faithful Citizenship* says, "At the center of these truths is respect for the dignity of every person. This is the core of Catholic moral and social teaching. Because we are people of both faith and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square. We are called to practice Christ's commandment to 'love one another.'"

"Americans are worried about losing their homes and putting food on the table. At the same time, they are now overhearing news reports in which McCain surrogates like Governor Keating are stooping to name-calling and trying to undermine the dignity of their opponents," said Dr. Whelan. "We owe it to one another, and impressionable young people, to lift up the human spirit during these closing weeks of the presidential campaign. The co-chair of Catholics for McCain, himself a one-time advisor to the Bishops, should be setting an example by harkening to the Bishops' call for respecting human dignity—rather than leading the charge down into the political mud."

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#### **About Catholic Democrats**

Catholic Democrats is an association of state based groups representing a Catholic voice within the Democratic Party, and advancing a public understanding of the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching and its potential to help solve the broad range of problems confronting all Americans. For more information about Catholic Democrats please go to [www.catholicdemocrats.org](http://www.catholicdemocrats.org)