



February 23, 2009

BY FAX

Senator Sam Brownback
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brownback:

We are writing you today as fellow Catholics with a mutual concern for the story "*Brownback questions political foes' Catholicism*," reported on the *National Catholic Reporter* Web site last Friday. We regret, as we are sure you do, that the Morley Institute for Church and Culture illicitly used your good name and signature in a letter that demeans the good names of six of your esteemed colleagues from the Senate as well as Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

It is our understanding, and as you may be well aware, that there are statements in the letter that violate the Church's canon Law. Canon 220, often referred to as part of the "Bill of Rights" for members of the Church, stipulates that every Catholic is guaranteed a right to their good name and a right to their privacy in the Church. We believe that under the Church's canon law only an individual's proper pastor may make judgments such as those presented in the letter and, if he chooses to do so, those judgments may only be expressed privately. Furthermore, we are concerned that the mailing of this letter may represent a potential violation of postal regulations by the Morley Institute for issuing a letter in your name - on an unauthorized basis - to raise funds through the US Postal Service.

While we may disagree on certain public policy issues, including the best strategy to effectively reduce the number of abortions in our country, we believe that we could agree that the disparaging statements made in this letter are unacceptable.

It is our hope that we would share a concern for the degree of divisiveness that this letter painfully imposes not only on our nation but also on our Church. Both are in need of healing. It is also our hope that we would share a belief that there is a better way, rooted in our faith, to help reconcile inevitable differences between people of goodwill who are striving to effectively address the moral challenges of our time.

For these reasons we urge you to publicly disavow the letter and its contents. We further urge you to publicly disavow such actions or statements by any person or organization in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter - we would welcome the opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Steven A. Krueger
National Director

Attachments

cc: Glen Chambers, Chief of Staff
Becky Ogilvie, Press Secretary