

January 15, 2003

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Mr. Kevin Lynch
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We are writing to acquaint you with the fact that one of your principal invited speakers at the upcoming March 29, 2003 *Answer the Call* Conference is pro-abortion. Former Oklahoma governor Frank Keating supports the destruction of preborn babies for the crimes of their father, i.e., rape and incest. We verified our recollection by contacting American Life League, who sent us his Issue Positions Data (enclosed) as reported by the National Political Awareness Test (NPAT). Favoring the killing of innocent unborn children is never "Pro-Life." Those who would restrict the legality of abortion to certain circumstances may be "less pro-death," but they are not Pro-Life.

We trust that now that you are aware of the position of this man, totally at odds with the official teaching of the Catholic Faith, that his appearance will be canceled, so as to avoid the incalculable scandal that would be given to the faithful by his being honored as a speaker under Catholic auspices.

If he were the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, would he be invited to speak at a Catholic conference? Or if he were actively involved with a group advocating the killing of Jewish people? Or a group favoring taking the vote away from women? We think we all know the answer to those questions. How then can he be invited to speak under Catholic sponsorship, when he has publicly adopted a position contrary to what our Holy Father has many times designated as "the most important issue," the protection of all innocent human life?

Many Catholic dioceses have automatically excluded from appearing on diocesan facilities any person who favors the destruction of innocent human life. To permit such a person to speak on Catholic facilities is to imply that the Church's teaching that every abortion is evil, is not morally correct, or that the issue is one upon which reasonable Christians may disagree.

Bishop James Timlin of Scranton, PA, Bishop Thomas V. Daly of Brooklyn, NY, Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz of Lincoln, NB, and Cardinal John O'Connor of New York City, and others, have specifically rejected appearing with such persons, or permitting them to appear on their diocesan properties, to avoid the giving of scandal.

Such policy has been adopted also by the Knights of Columbus:

"...we again affirm our policy of not inviting to any Knights of Columbus event persons, especially public officials or candidates for office, who do not support the legal protection of unborn children against abortion or who advocate the legislation of euthanasia or assisted suicide; or not allowing such persons to rent or otherwise use facilities over which we have control; and of not bestowing on

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them honors or privileges of our Order of any kind, inviting them to serve as honorary chairpersons of events, celebrations or committees, or allowing them to hold any office in the Knights of Columbus.”

The furnishing of a forum for such a person would demean our Catholic principles, and would certainly facilitate the deception of the faithful. Actions do indeed have consequences. Surely we cannot be modern-day Pontius Pilates, futilely attempting to cleanse our hands of innocent blood spilled through our complicity, whether active or passive. Surely we have not come to this, a public endorsement as a speaker of a person who is so fatally flawed on the most core moral issue facing the world today! Surely we can find appropriate Catholic speakers, to speak at a Catholic men’s conference, who support the core teachings of the Roman Catholic Faith.

We are sending copies of this letter to Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, and Bishop Roger Foys of Covington, because many of their churches are identified with this Conference, and have designated representatives actively promoting it.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure

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Mr. William R. Burleigh
Catholic Knights of Ohio
Mr. Thomas Denning
Mr. James A. Dressman, III
Mr. Lou Drouhard, State Pro-Life Activities Director, Knights of Columbus
Mr. Ron Hamm
Mr. Robert M. Hoffer
Mr. Robert Langenderfer
Mr. John Martin
Mr. Bill McGee

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