Drawing Aside the Purple Curtain

The Papal System Today: an Analysis of the News

The Bishops' Dilemma: What to Do About Joe Biden?

Shaun Willcock

Throughout his presidential campaign Joe Biden presented himself as a "devout Roman Catholic", going to mass regularly, praying the rosary, laughing with nuns. He has boasted of being devoted to the Mexican Mary-idol, "Our Lady of Guadalupe", and he once said, "The next Republican that tells me I'm not religious, I'm going to shove my rosary beads down their throat." He has been hailed as "America's second Roman Catholic president" (after John F. Kennedy).

But for all this, he has openly and repeatedly defied official Roman Catholic teaching on such issues as abortion (he is pro-abortion), sodomy (he is pro-sodomy), forcing nuns to promote contraceptives, etc., etc. – without any official censure (as yet) from the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights released a list detailing 32 times Biden has violated Roman Catholic teachings – just from 20 January to 20 May 2021!³ But even when the Biden Administration ordered the Gay Pride flag to be flown at the U.S. Embassy in the Vatican – a deliberate act of provocation and offence⁴ – the U.S. bishops overlooked it. They will bend over backwards to accommodate him, turn a blind eye to his sins, wink at his blatant disregard for the teachings of the "Church" he claims to love.

But why?

Joe Biden a Puppet of the Jesuits

Amazing how the Jesuits pop up at various moments in the life of Joe Biden. And don't think it's by accident, or coincidental. It's very deliberate. Biden is the puppet of the sons of Loyola.

His inauguration ceremony began with an invocation prayer delivered by a Jesuit priest, Leo J. O'Donovan, a former president of the Jesuits' Georgetown University⁵ and a personal friend of the Biden family. He was the main priestly celebrant at the funeral mass for Biden's son Beau, who died of cancer. But here's the question: why would a Jesuit priest accept the invitation to pray at the inauguration of a man who has so blatantly defied the teachings of his "Church"? And why would he even be asked to do so? What it plainly demonstrates is that *the Jesuits have no problem with Joe Biden as president*. He is their man. The Jesuits are the unseen guiding hands of the Biden presidency. Despite being a hypocrite and a liar; despite fully supporting what Rome officially condemns; and despite being a closet Communist and supporter of every evil, deranged, demonic policy now threatening America and the West – despite all this, he is the Jesuits' man. He is actually carrying out their policies!

The Bishops' Statement on the Biden Inauguration

In the statement prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on the day of the Biden inauguration, the USCCB president, Los Angeles archbishop Jose Gomez, said he was praying that God would grant the incoming president wisdom and courage in pursuing unity, healing, liberty and equality: the usual "blah blah" sentiments politically savvy bishops make at such times. He also claimed that the role of Rome's bishops was not to endorse political parties or candidates, but to offer principles which could guide consciences. "Catholic bishops are not partisan players in our nation's

politics. We are pastors responsible for the souls of millions of Americans and we are advocates for the needs of all our neighbors." What a bald-faced lie! Rome's bishops, in America and worldwide, have *always* played partisan politics, endorsing and supporting particular parties or politicians and working for the defeat of others. But this was the kind of "we are neutral" statement one would expect the hypocrites of Rome to make. It fooled millions. It always does.

But then Gomez said the USCCB had worked for years to address such issues as abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, peace and economic development, racism, immigration, poverty, the environment, and criminal justice reform. "On these and other issues," he said, "our duty to love and our moral principles lead us to prudential judgments and positions that do not align neatly with the political categories of left or right or the platforms of our two major political parties. On some issues we find ourselves more on the side of Democrats, while on others we find ourselves standing with Republicans. Our priorities are never partisan. We are Catholics first, seeking only to follow Jesus Christ faithfully and to advance his vision for human fraternity and community."

Let's just see if these statements stand up to scrutiny. Where do the bishops of Rome really stand on the issues Gomez mentioned?

Abortion – on the right;

Euthanasia – on the right;

Death penalty – on the left;

Peace and economic development – on the left;

Racism – on the left;

Immigration – on the left;

Poverty – on the left;

The environment – on the left;

Criminal justice reform – on the left.

On almost every issue mentioned by Gomez, Rome's bishops are distinctly on the left of the political spectrum. They support liberal, Socialist, or Marxist positions on these issues. Only on abortion and euthanasia do they still take a conservative position.

There was a time when this was not so. But today, after decades of liberal/Socialist/Communist indoctrination, Rome, in order to retain power and authority over its millions of adherents, has come out strongly on the side of outright Communists and bleeding-heart radical liberals. Gomez was hardly being honest when he says, "Our priorities are never partisan." They are *always* partisan. Rome always backs the winning side, and for decades now the "progressive" side has been winning.

In fact, the only reason the "progressive" Vatican of Francis and his Jesuit Order still officially opposes abortion and euthanasia is because of the inconvenient fact that in a different time, Rome wrote opposition to these hideous sins into its Canon Law; and it is now struggling to find a way to wriggle out of this dilemma. For the world has moved on, and Francis' Vatican would dearly love to drop its opposition to these issues so as to stay relevant in the world. But to do this openly would be an admission that its popes, councils, and theologians were all in error previously – and it claims it never changes. *And* it would lose the financial support of multiplied millions of traditionalist Roman Catholics!

Biden was the perfect politician for the Jesuits and all liberal and Marxist bishops to back openly, wholeheartedly, and enthusiastically. Except for the problem of his support for murder via abortion and euthanasia. Millions of priests and even bishops, let alone ordinary Papists, are still firmly opposed to abortion and euthanasia. The "progressives" could not afford to alienate multiplied millions of conservative Roman Catholics when they needed their millions of dollars in their coffers.

Herein lies the explanation for that which has so puzzled Roman Catholics and others: the support for Biden and his policies from so many bishops and priests, but combined simultaneously with their lamentations over his pro-abortion stance. They made tut-tutting noises with their lips, but nothing more. Biden was not even mildly reprimanded, let alone censured and removed from membership in the Roman Catholic institution. For he is doing Rome's work! Specifically, the Jesuits' work, as the

Jesuit Order has been firmly in control of the Vatican ever since the election of Francis.

In the bishops' statement, Gomez went on to say that the USCCB had worked with every president and U.S. Congress, but he added that working with Biden was unique, because "he is our first president in 60 years to profess the Catholic faith." This was neither enthusiastic support, nor outright condemnation. The bishops took a middle road of making disapproving clucking noises over Biden's abortion policies, but simultaneously wholeheartedly supporting him in other ways. Like Eli of old, they knew exactly what this "son of the Roman Catholic Church" was doing and what he stood for, his vile policies and disgraceful behaviour – and the best they were prepared to do was to say in effect, "My son, why do you do such things? Nay, my son, for it is no good report that we hear. You really shouldn't be saying and doing such things, as a Roman Catholic." (See 1 Sam. 2:12, 22-25). Reason: Joe Biden is too useful to them in achieving their objectives for America. So – as they have done countless times in the past all over the world – they are prepared to overlook his support for abortion, euthanasia, contraception, and "gender" issues "for the greater good" (a truly Jesuitical approach). After all, the bishops have often been prepared to overlook such moral matters if "their" man advanced their agenda and power! One just has to think of Hitler, another "son of the Catholic Church", Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Zaire's Mobutu, and so many other vile Roman Catholic dictators. Matters of abortion and contraception do not translate into political power over the nation – but supporting Biden's other policies do. And power is always what the bishops want.

Note Gomez's mild words: after saying he found hope and inspiration in Biden's personal witness of relying on faith in difficult times and commitment to the poor, he added that at the same time, "our new president has pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender. Of deep concern is the liberty of the Church and the freedom of believers to live according to their consciences."

By making these statements, Gomez sent the message to conservative Roman Catholics that the bishops were "deeply concerned" about Biden's stance on these things, which were morally evil, blah blah. All the right noises to pacify concerned conservatives. But this supposedly "deep concern" did not stop so many within the Roman Catholic leadership from supporting Biden, nor did it move them to censure him in any way. He remained a Roman Catholic, even though pursuing blatantly anti-Roman Catholic policies.

Gomez gave the game away when he said in the statement, "For the nation's bishops, the continued injustice of abortion remains the 'preeminent priority'," but then immediately added, "preeminent does not mean 'only'." Thus, if the president favours abortion but on other matters deemed very important to the Vatican his position agrees with theirs, they will turn a blind eye to the murder of the unborn so as to gain their other desired objectives.

Although the bishops' statement was originally expected to be released at 9.00am Eastern time on the day of Biden's inauguration, it was delayed and published only after Biden was sworn in as president, and around the same time as Francis I published his own message to Biden. The reason? Vatican Secretariat of State officials stepped in to prevent its timely publication. For although the statement was (as explained above) not very critical of Biden, and in fact revealed the bishops' support for many of his policies, there were far-left bishops and priests who felt it was *too* critical and did not show enough support for the new president. Gomez was clearly walking a tightrope in his statements, striving to placate both right- and left-leaning bishops but still giving away the fact that overall they were supportive of Biden. But for the more radical, pro-Socialist, pro-Marxist bishops, this was just not enough.

"Progressive" Priestly Support for Biden

When the bishops' statement was published, the Romish archbishop of Chicago, Blase Cupich, took

to Twitter to issue a scathing criticism of the statement, saying that "the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued an ill-considered statement on the day of President Biden's inauguration. Aside from the fact that there is seemingly no precedent for doing so, the statement, critical of President Biden, came as a surprise to many bishops, who received it just hours before it was released."

A mere ten days after Cupich publicly criticised the bishops' statement in this way, he met with Francis in the Vatican. The Vatican press office released no information about the meeting.⁸ But given Francis' hatred for Trump and his preference for Biden, we may be sure the meeting was not to rap Cupich over the knuckles. Francis may have told him to be somewhat more discreet, perhaps, but in all likelihood he praised the cardinal for his pro-Biden stance.

Another ecclesiastic who showed his support for Biden and played down the issue of abortion was Robert McElroy, Romish bishop of San Diego, California. He said that some bishops "argue that abortion is not merely a 'preeminent' issue in Catholic Social Teaching, but rather constitutes the de facto litmus test for determining whether a Catholic public official is a faithful Catholic, and for determining whether the overall policy stances of non-Catholic officials can be considered morally legitimate." He said that "if adopted, such a position will reduce the common good to a single issue."

McElroy is on record as saying, "It is not Catholic teaching that abortion is the preeminent issue that we face in the world of Catholic social teaching. It is not." However, he did not explain how such "Catholic social issues" as the environment, "fair housing", fighting "racism", and suchlike issues could possibly be of greater pre-eminence than preventing the murder of millions of unborn children.

Romanism, of course, is not Christian, and thus Bible believers do not care whether or not Rome is for or against abortion, as it is a vile religious system that is *full* of false doctrine. Those Protestants who applaud Rome for its anti-abortion stance simply do not understand Rome in the least. Also, for the true Bible Christian, voting for or supporting some politician merely because he opposes abortion, while ignoring his other policies, is just foolish. However, given that Rome is officially against abortion, rightly calling it murder, one would expect all Roman Catholics to either oppose abortion or to admit that they are not true Roman Catholics. But for bishops like McElroy, what matters is that Biden is carrying out various other policies which promote Romish social teaching — so they are prepared to overlook his stance on abortion, even though this is against Romish teaching and even though he calls himself a faithful Roman Catholic. This is the Jesuit approach to Romish doctrine, and the Jesuits have roped in many other priests, bishops and even cardinals to support it.

McElroy then used an expression which would be heard again in the months to come: "weaponizing the Eucharist." He said, "I do not see how depriving the president or other political leaders the Eucharist, based on their public policy stance, can be interpreted in our society as anything other than a weaponization of the Eucharist and an effort not to convince people by argument, and by dialogue and reason, but rather, to pummel them into submission on the issue."

Let us analyse this statement. If a man claims to be a Papist but blatantly disobeys Popish teaching, it stands to reason he is not a faithful Papist. This is not a "weaponizing" of some aspect of the teaching of the Papal religion. But now suddenly – because as far as liberal/leftist bishops are concerned Biden is their great hope for pushing through various issues dear to the heart of the Jesuits – suddenly when conservative Papists want to carry out Popish teaching, they are accused of "weaponizing the Eucharist"!

As for convincing Biden and other politicians by argument and dialogue, that is ridiculous – firstly because Biden *well knows* what Roman Catholic teaching on abortion is and yet has thumbed his nose at it; secondly because these "progressive" bishops are not making any attempt to "dialogue" with Biden about it; and thirdly because Roman Catholic doctrine is not something open to "dialogue" and never has been.

We see the guiding hands of the Jesuits behind these recent events surrounding the ascendancy of Joe Biden. A Jesuit named James Martin said that Biden's policies do not put him at odds with the "Church" of Rome, but merely present "a different way of being Catholic." He said he hoped that

under Biden the U.S. would experience "a more Catholic culture." Diabolically subtle, considering that Biden rejects some of the most important aspects of Roman Catholicism. The man uses his religion to get his way, nothing more. And liberal and Socialist priests and bishops are encouraging him because of what he is doing for them, while turning a blind eye to his utter rejection of such vital aspects of the Roman Catholic faith as abortion.

Liberal and Communist Romish Individuals and Organisations Openly Defying Romish Doctrine – and Getting Away with It

Joe Biden is not alone. Many "progressive" Romanists and Romish organisations are following the lead of Francis I and defying traditional Roman Catholic theology – and getting away with it, without censure and often with open praise from within high Romish ecclesiastical circles. From Jesuit-educated Romanist Dr Anthony Fauci's open support for Biden's policies on sexual and reproductive issues for females despite these policies being utterly opposed to official Romish doctrine, ¹¹ to high-ranking Roman Catholic nominees for Biden's cabinet who have publicly contradicted Romish teaching on abortion just like their boss, ¹² to no less an institution than the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences, ¹³ they are openly defying the teachings of their "Church".

The John Paul II Institute's statement came as a big surprise to many, given not only its name but because John Paul II took an openly pro-abortion position. But in a Facebook post it actually *defended* Biden's support of legal abortion. And the way it did it was surely straight out of a Jesuit manual: it said in response to the criticism for its stance that "defending the right to abortion does not mean defending abortion." This was the same as saying, "We remain opposed to abortion, but people must still have the right to abortion if they want it." Since Rome teaches that abortion is the murder of the unborn, this is the same as saying, "We believe murder is wrong, but people must still have the right to murder if they want. We will defend their right to murder even though we believe it is a great sin to murder." This comes straight out of Jesuit moral theology. They are the only ones who could manage to say they are opposed to something and in favour of something in one brief sentence. George Orwell's doublespeak is alive and well.

The Institute's Facebook post also stated that Biden's election was complementary to Francis' election, because both men give a sort of new breath to Roman Catholic social teaching. Indeed they do – but by *ignoring* Roman Catholic teaching and claiming they can believe the very opposite and still be good Roman Catholics. This kind of approach could only be possible in these times of insanity, when black is white and white is – well, evil; when a man may claim to be a woman and receive State protection while anyone who points out basic biology on this issue is mocked and even punished by law; when people may "marry" their computers and others may "identify" as parrots and receive legal protection. Reality no longer has a real existence as far as these people are concerned. They have created a world where there are no absolutes, where "truth" is whatever anyone wants it to be, so it is not surprising a Romish institute can claim that defending the right to abortion is not defending abortion.

And when one learns that Francis announced in 2017 that he would legally re-establish the John Paul II Institute, broadening its academic curriculum from its focus on marriage and the family to an approach which would include the study of the family from the perspective of social sciences, and also that the Institute consequently suffered a reduction in its theology courses and the dismissal of some faculty members – well then, one understands how this Institute could now make such statements. The Vatican truly is now firmly in the grip of the Jesuits.

Traditionalist/Conservative Priestly Opposition to Biden

While the Jesuits and other liberal, Socialist, or outright Marxist Romish priests and bishops continued to heap praise on Biden and insist that he was a wonderful Roman Catholic, many

traditionalist, conservative Roman Catholics were having none of it.

One who spoke up against Biden being a "devout Catholic" was the archbishop of Kansas City, Joseph Naumann, chairman of the bishops' pro-life committee. He pulled no punches. In an interview he said, "The president should stop defining himself as a devout Catholic, and acknowledge that his view on abortion is contrary to Catholic moral teaching." "When he says he is a devout Catholic, we bishops have the responsibility to correct him.... he cannot define what it is to be Catholic and what Catholic moral teaching is." He added Biden was "usurping the role of the bishops and confusing people. He's declaring that he's Catholic, and is going to force people to support abortion through their tax dollars. The bishops need to correct him, as the president is acting contrary to the Catholic faith." "When Catholics receive the Eucharist, they are acknowledging the real presence of Jesus, and also believe in the teachings of the Church. President Biden doesn't believe in the Church's teachings on the sanctity of human life, and he should not put the priest in the situation where he has to decide whether or not to allow him to receive the Eucharist. He should know that after 78 years as a Catholic." 14

A priest named Jerry Pokorsky did not mince his words, either. He wrote on a Roman Catholic website: "Biden is the most aggressively anti-Catholic President tin history." Strong condemnation indeed, considering Biden is only the second Roman Catholic president after John F. Kennedy, which should be a source of great pride to all American Roman Catholics – but isn't. For a priest of Rome to call a professing Roman Catholic president "the most aggressively *anti-Catholic* President in history" is astonishing. The implication is that there have been *non-Roman Catholic* presidents who have actually been more Roman Catholic in their beliefs and outlooks than Roman Catholic Joe Biden! And so there have been, including even Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump.

Another voice raised against Biden was that of Chad Pecknold, an associate professor of theology at the Catholic University of America. He said: "When a U.S. President cloaks himself in the outward signs of Catholic identity in order to expand access to abortion, or to use executive power to enforce a gender ideology that will inevitably threaten the freedom of the [Roman Catholic] Church in this country, what you have before you is a Trojan horse." This is exactly what is going on.

Pecknold went on to speak of "the liberal lie that... 'it's not Catholic to be Catholic, but it is Catholic to be a Woke Democrat." "For the next four years, as they expand abortion and prosecute nuns, we'll be hearing this neat fiction that Democrats aren't anti-Catholic, but the beloved community itself." "Joe Biden represents... the most disturbing kind of 'compatibilism' which eliminates tensions simply through rhetorically insisting that the Catholic Church teaches whatever the Democratic Party teaches." "The greatest triumph over the Catholic Faith for the Liberal is not in burning Catholics at the stakes, but ensuring that they come to believe that their Catholicism is indistinguishable from liberal pieties." "As Joe Biden enacts law after law, executive order after executive order, the false impression will be given that liberal laws enjoy a kind of Catholic imprimatur, and that is the prize that Democrats all in government and all across the media seek."

These statements are correct. The only part that is not is that he assumes non-Roman Catholic liberals have triumphed over Roman Catholicism, whereas the truth is the very opposite: that liberal and Socialists Roman Catholics, particularly Jesuits, have hijacked liberalism and Socialism to serve their cause.

Let it not be thought that because these bishops, priests and others are doctrinal conservatives on some matters and opposed to Communist Biden, that they are in any sense Christians, or even somehow "closer to Christianity" that Communist Roman Catholics. *All* Romanists, whether conservative or liberal/Communist, are lost souls, following a false religion and on the broad way that leads to destruction.

"Weaponizing the Eucharist"? The Furore over Whether or Not Biden Should Receive the Mass

As the false "Church" of Rome was split down the middle over the bishops' support for Biden, the question arose as to whether, given his open support for the murder of the unborn, his support for transgenderism (including in schools), etc., he should be given the bread and wine in the Romish mass. Official Romish canon law states that those "obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy communion." And former pope Benedict XVI, when still a cardinal and head of the Inquisition, told bishops in 2004 that when a Roman Catholic in public office supports abortion and has been admonished by his priest, he may not partake of "Communion" until he repents and publicly recants his position. In fact, in 2019 a priest denied Biden the sacrament of the mass because of his stance on abortion.¹⁷

I put the word "Communion" in quotation marks because the Romish sacrament of the mass is *not* "the communion of the body and blood of Christ" of which the Bible speaks (1 Cor. 10:16). Rome holds that the mass is an "unbloody sacrifice", and that when Papists partake of the wafer and wine they are literally eating Christ's body and drinking His blood. This is blasphemous and heathenish.

But liberal and Socialist Papists don't care what their religion teaches on such matters. All they care about is that Biden is advancing all the usual "progressive" (read: Marxist) policies. According to the archbishop of Washington, Wilton Gregory, Biden is a Roman Catholic and he must be given the "Communion". Biden's regular parish in Washington, D.C. issued a statement that its priests would not deny "Communion" to those who approach to receive it. And the liberal bishop, Robert McElroy, quoted above, said that denying politicians the mass would be seen as "a weaponization of the Eucharist, and an effort not to convince people by argument, by dialogue and reason, but rather to pummel them into submission on the issue." But he was deliberately creating a smokescreen, because official Romish teaching clearly indicates that Biden should have been admonished long ago, and he is very obviously *not* convinced by argument, reason or dialogue.

When Biden was in Europe and although his entourage requested that he attend mass with the Roman pope, the proposal was turned down after the Vatican considered the impact that Biden receiving the mass from the pope would have on the U.S. bishops' planned discussions on creating a committee to draft a document about this issue.²¹ The request was turned down for pragmatic political reasons, not because Francis does not support Joe Biden. He does.

The battle was on. In a "statement of principles", 60 Democratic Party members of the U.S. Congress told the bishops: "We solemnly urge you to not move forward and deny this most holy of all sacraments [the Romish sacrament of the mass], the source and the summit of the whole work of the gospel over one issue. The Sacrament of holy Communion is central to the life of practicing Catholics, and the weaponization of the Eucharist to Democratic lawmakers for their support of a woman's safe and legal access to abortion is contradictory."²²

Time was when people who supported abortion would never even have dared to call themselves "practicing Catholics". But in today's topsy-turvy world it is indeed possible to do so – the very fact that the U.S. bishops feel they even need to debate the issue shows that Rome has moved into very murky doctrinal waters. That they could even try to defend abortion as support for women illustrates this even further. And there was the terminology again: "weaponization of the Eucharist." They were saying, *We* are the innocent victims here, you bishops are using the Eucharist as a weapon against us! In truth, of course, *they* were the ones "weaponizing the Eucharist" by demanding a change in doctrine to support their views. They were simply not honest enough to admit they were not truly Roman Catholic, and to resign from their "Church".

But they did make a valid point: they pointed to various other policies which are contrary to Roman Catholic teachings, and yet no elected officials have been threatened with being denied the Eucharist for supporting them! Such policies as support for the death penalty, separation of immigrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border, denial of asylum, and reducing food assistance to the poor. Rome, of

course, has always followed a pick-and-choose policy when it comes to which issues it will rebuke in politicians: if the backing of a particular king, president, or any other official is considered vital for Rome, it has always turned a blind eye to any dubious policies that officials might advocate. History is replete with examples.

The 60 signatories also stated: "We believe the separation of church and state allows for our faith to inform our public duties and best serve our constituents." Cleverly worded, but false. If their Roman Catholic faith was really informing their public duties, they would not support abortion or any other policy rejected by Rome. Here they were hiding behind their Americanism so as to attack their religion's teachings. In truth the separation of church and state is *not* supported by Rome and never has been. In fact, it hates the very idea and has always fought against it.

Then a defiant challenge was issued. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.), a signatory of the statement, tweeted to the US bishops that he supported contraception, abortion, "treatments for infertility", "the right for people to get a divorce", and "the right of same sex marriage" – things contrary to Roman Catholic doctrine – and then added, "Next time I go to Church, I dare you to deny me Communion." ²³

What did this challenge mean? What did he plan to do? Punch the priest who dared to deny it to him? Grab the wafer out of the priest's hand and chew it in front of him with his arms folded across his chest in defiance? He did not elaborate.

But like the other signatories, he also criticised the bishops for not denying "Communion" to Roman Catholic Republicans, especially former House Speaker Newt Gingrich for his divorces and his extramarital affairs. And in this he was right. Rome picks and chooses which sins it wants to punish public officials for committing. It remains silent if those officials are doing its bidding. Throughout history it has winked at the sins of kings, presidents and others – especially their sexual affairs, as long as they were pawns in Rome's hands to achieve its greater goals. So denying "Communion" to Roman Catholic politicians who support abortion, while allowing "Communion" to Roman Catholic politicians who violate many other Romish teachings, is hypocritical in the extreme. But Rome has always been a religion steeped in blatant hypocrisy and double standards.

Then things became even nastier, in a tit-for-tat way. California Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman tweeted of the bishops, "If they're going to weaponize religion by 'rebuking' Democrats who support women's reproductive choice, then a 'rebuke' of their tax-exempt status may be in order."

It could certainly be argued that the Roman Catholic "Church" in the U.S. does not deserve to be protected by it, but the fact remains that the First Amendment does protect it from this kind of threat, as "churches receive special exemptions from the Internal Revenue Service as part of a 'First Amendment-based concern' to avoid violating their rights to free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights." But this goes to show how liberal and Marxist Democratic politicians are more than willing to simply ride roughshod over the U.S. Constitution. For men like these, their religion is useful only insofar as it assists their careers, etc.

The Bishops' Dilemma: What to Do about Biden and Others Like Him?

In June 2021, when the U.S. bishops were preparing to vote on drafting the document concerning those who rejected Roman Catholic teaching, Biden was asked whether he would be denied "Communion" and he replied, "That's a private matter and I don't think that is going to happen."²⁶

Was he right? Is it likely to happen? Certainly many, perhaps most, bishops stood by official Roman Catholic teaching on the matter. And as one Roman Catholic writer put it, "If the 'teaching document' the bishops are expected to produce is consistent with traditional doctrine, a series of collisions on moral issues is about to shake the American Catholic Church and Democrat Party." Indeed so! For not only would it cause a rift with the now-many leftist/Socialist/Marxist priests, especially the Jesuits, but the Roman pope himself would be hopping mad. Francis, with his usual Jesuitical cunning, has indicated that as far as he is concerned there are more important matters than a president's support for abortion. He wants the American president to support the Vatican's multi-faceted, Jesuit-run

Socialist/Marxist agenda on a whole range of issues dear to this pope's heart.

The U.S. bishops know very well that the fall-out could be immense. They are walking a tightrope. If they vote in favour of traditional doctrine, they will be opposed by their pope, by Biden and his entire administration, and by the many leftist Roman Catholics in America now. On the other hand, if they vote to permit those who defy official doctrine to receive the mass, they send a message to millions of Roman Catholics worldwide that doctrine doesn't matter, a Roman Catholic is now pretty much free to believe anything he likes on various issues, and he can even openly defy his "Church". This is something new in the monolithic, always-authoritarian religion of Rome. What massive problems this is going to cause! Already there have been rallies outside cathedrals in a number of cities, held by anti-abortion Roman Catholics, accusing the bishops of sending mixed messages about abortion by failing to explicitly ban pro-abortion Roman Catholic politicians from partaking of the mass.²⁸

It is very possible, however, that to extricate themselves from this mess, the bishops will follow a third course: they will "advise" Roman Catholic politicians who support abortion to refrain from taking "Communion", but will then leave the decision on actually withholding it to individual bishops. If they adopt this course of action, it would still send confusing messages to average Roman Catholics the world over. It could be disastrous, in the long run, for Rome. But for the time being it would be a concession to the deeply treasured American belief in individual choice; it would please the Jesuits and the Jesuit pope; and it would avoid the likelihood of a brutal clash between the bishops and an American president who already threatens to destroy many of the liberties and privileges the "Church" of Rome enjoys in the U.S.

We await the further unfolding of this sordid business. Truly an earthquake is rumbling beneath the surface, which threatens to shake the American Roman Catholic "Church" and indeed the entire Roman Catholic world to its very foundations. The bishops, it would be safe to say, are not sleeping very soundly right now.

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ENDNOTES:

^{1. &}quot;Biden mentions Our Lady of Guadalupe, shows rosary beads, in meeting with Mexican president." *Catholic News Agency*, March 2, 2021. www.catholicnewsagency.com.

^{2. &}quot;Priest declares Joe Biden 'the most aggressively anti-Catholic president in history." *The Western Journal*, republished by *WND*, February 28, 2021. www.wnd.com.

^{3. &}quot;The Big List: Catholic League cites 32 times Biden violated church teachings." WND, June 9, 2021. www.wnd.com.

- 4. "Conservatives, Catholics accuse U.S. embassy of deliberate insult with LGBT flag." WND, June 1, 2021.
- 5. "Full text: Fr. Leo J. O'Donovan Inauguration Day invocation prayer at the US Capitol." *Catholic News Agency*, January 20, 2021.
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