



Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church

3150 Newgate Drive
Florissant, MO 63033

Phone: 877-700-ARCC.
Fax: 877-700-2722

Email: arcc@arccsites.org
<http://arcc-catholic-rights.net>

Joseph Boyle, M.A.
Richard Lebrun, Ph.D.
Robert Schutzius, Ph.D.

John A. Dick, Ph.D, STD (V.P.)
Earlene Mara, M.A., C.A.G.S
Ingrid Shafer, Ph.D.
Raymond Temmerman, M.Div. (Sec)

Patrick Edgar, DPA, M. Div. (Pres)
Charles McMahon, Sc.D.
Rev. Gerard Sloyan, Ph.D, STL

Caridad Inda, CHM., Ph.D
Sonya Quitslund, Ph.D. (Treas.)
Leonard Swidler, Ph.D., STL., LL.D.

25 September 2010

Most Reverend John C Nienstedt, S.T.D.
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
225 Summit Ave.
Saint Paul , MN 55102

Dear Archbishop Nienstedt,

The board of directors of the Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church (ARCC) has studied your statement in advance of the Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (CCCR) conference, wherein you expressed your concern as, "The Archdiocese also wishes to remind the faithful of its need to shun any contrary doctrines, and instead to embrace and retain, to safeguard reverently and expound faithfully, the doctrine of faith and morals proposed definitively by the magisterium of the Church."

We do not disagree. We are, however, seriously troubled by the fact that, at least by innuendo, you imply that the laity has no part to play in the magisterium of the Church, and that the matters discussed at this conference somehow are contrary to "the doctrine of faith and morals proposed definitively by the magisterium of the Church."

We claim the right, indeed at times the duty, in keeping with our knowledge, competence and position, to manifest our views on matters which concern the good of the Church. We have also the right, a right we lawfully vindicate and defend, to make our views known to others in the church, always respecting the integrity of faith and morals, and taking into account both the common good and the dignity of individuals.

Indeed, in the Synod of the Baptized, we believe participants acted in accordance with canon law in freely establishing and directing associations which foster the Christian vocation in the world, and holding meetings to pursue these purposes by common effort.

You expressed some concern that Catholics are attempting to deal with perceived problems in the Church independently of your oversight. We defend your right to express that concern. We equally defend the right of Catholics, not only to foster the Christian vocation in the world, but to ensure that perceived problems in the Church are brought to the attention of our pastors, along with proposals for their resolution

We urge you to take time to make enquiry among those present at the Synod of the Baptized, to discern what problems they perceived to be present in the Church as well as solutions they may have developed for resolution of same, and what work they did to further the good of the Church and of individuals.

We believe such fact-finding and subsequent discernment will serve the good of individuals and of the Church far better than standing in *a priori* condemnation of the Synod of the Baptized.

Sincerely Yours,

Patrick B. Edgar, D.P.A., M.Div. (President)
Director, MPA Program
Southern Arkansas University
Magnolia, AR
Email: patedgar_2005@yahoo.com

"To bring about substantive structural change in the Catholic Church, ARCC seeks to institutionalize a collegial understanding of Church in which decision-making is shared and accountability is realized among Catholics of every kind and condition."