

8-4-1984

## Letter from a New Jersey Supporter to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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Did you get my mailgram?  
My prayers are always  
with you in this tough  
campaign. Thanks  
for everything.

RECEIVED

AUG 10 1984

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Chatham, New Jersey  
1984

August 4, 1984

Honorable Mario Cuomo  
✓ Honorable Geraldine Ferraro  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

Please excuse me for sending what amounts to a form letter, but surgery tomorrow makes it impossible for me to draft a letter to each of you separately. Your files will show that I have shared ideas and support with all of you previously and that I am grateful that poor, old New Jersey can count on you to keep the country clean.

This letter is in support of any efforts you have made, or are thinking of making, with reference to statements by Archbishop O'Connor of New York. He certainly is telling Catholics how to vote!

In a sense, Governor Cuomo, you are right to welcome the publication of this issue, and to take religion away from Ronald Reagan as the Democratic Convention so meaningfully took back the American flag.

But, on the other hand, I'm haunted by memories of Al Smith, of President Kennedy going, hat in hand, to Protestants in Texas and promising that the Pope would not direct his administration.

My Catholicism, like yours, does not require me to inflict Catholic values on the Nation and, like you, I place great value on the Separation Clause. But, as a Catholic, I fear the Know-Nothings who -- as Andrew Greeley has pointed out in The Dirty Little Secret -- are just waiting to prove that Catholics are not, cannot be, independent voters and loyal Americans.

I can't say to you, "This is the answer; do it my way and all will be well." But I urge you to give this dangerous issue your most important effort. Yes, we must defeat Ronald Reagan. But we must also save the hard-won gains of Catholics as members of the mainstream.

You know that Cardinals Cooke and Cushing are rolling in their graves at what their years of bridge-building has come to. Please don't let it be for naught.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter and for your kind attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

Title: MS  
 First Name: [REDACTED] Middle Name: [REDACTED]  
 Last Name: [REDACTED] Salutation: [REDACTED]

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CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

Letter Code: GSI

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION \*

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