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Letter from a Canadian Supporter to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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Dear Mrs. Ferraro:

I am writing to let you know that while I disagree with you on some of your policies (you can't agree on everything), your policy on abortion is one in which I absolutely agree with you on. You have been very bold and honest on your views of abortion (as well as Gov. Mario Cuomo) and it is so unfortunate that the Roman Catholic Church led by Archbishop O'Connor has been very disrespectful of you.

But what has really infuriated me was a recent cartoon that the conservative magazine HUMAN EVENTS had of you on abortion. This is a most insulting cartoon of you and to me greatly tries to degrade both your honesty and integrity not to mention your religious faith.

But another thorn which I feel has been in the Democratic party has been the religious meddling of that far right holier-than-though Jerry Falwell as well as others like Pat Robertson of 700 Club and others. Both you and Walter Mondale have upheld the First Amendment of the Constitution far better than Mr. Reagan who is being influenced by Rev. Falwell on subjects like school prayer, abortion etc and he has failed to understand that his mixing politics with religion is both wrong and dangerous. Mind you, I also think that the Democratic party has also been very guilty as well with what Rev. Jesse Jackson is doing and Louis Farraken of the American Muslims has been saying.

Although I am a born again Christian and at one time was a practising Baptist, I have always believed that a person's religion is a very personal one and one which should not be forced on to others. Every person in the United States has an absolute right to practise whatever religion he or she wants and there should be that absolute freedom to do so. As for the political arena I do not think it matters what religion a person is so long as he/she is serving all the people honestly and fairly and of course believes in the total freedom of religion for all. In this area you have done magnificently.

While it certainly looks as though Mr. Reagan will be re-elected, I personally hope that you will be around for 1988 because as far as I'm concerned you would make an excellent president. I also want to say that Fritz Mondale did not choose you for a running mate because you were a woman, but because you were the best of all the candidates.

Please accept not only the cartoon but also a tape entitled The Pope: True Prophet or False which was a sermon preached by my minister on the Pope's recent visit to Canada and one which no doubt left an impact on many people of all faiths. I hope that you will enjoy listening to it.
In conclusion, I want to wish you every success in your political career and trust that you will continue to speak out for what you know to be fair for all American people. Perhaps you and Mr. Mondale will possibly pull off a win in the election. If so than I wish you the best in running the greatest country in the free world and the best neighbour which we as Canadians could ever have. Whatever the future holds for you I know that you will do well. So take care, best wishes and God's blessings.

Islington Ontario
Canada
M9N 3J9

Most sincerely,
TO PRESIDENT REAGAN
REGARDING

THE NOMINATION OF AN
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
TO THE VATICAN

By

[Address]

Rock Port, Missouri 64482

January 12, 1984

President Ronald Reagan,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I want to protest strongly against your nomination of an American ambassador to the Vatican. Such an appointment confers a special favor and honor upon the Roman Catholic Church that is not shown to the other churches, a distinction that the others do not want and which they would not accept because it violates our constitutional principle of separation of Church and State.

Such an appointment is all the more unreasonable because of all the American churches only the Roman Catholic has its headquarters in a foreign country, in Rome, Italy, and it holds that the first allegiance of its people is to the pope in Rome.

One of the basic doctrines of the Roman Church is that the pope is the personal representative of God on earth, and that as such he has authority over all other churches, and over all civil rulers and governments. Historically it has held that it was the only true church, and that it therefore had the right to suppress all others. During the Middle Ages it exercised that authority quite effectively in many of the European countries, suppressing or killing those who did not accept that authority, as in the Spanish and Italian Inquisitions where tens of thousands were tortured or killed, and many more thousands were forced to flee from their homes. It has a horrible record of intolerance and persecution.

Enlightened public opinion in our twentieth century has forced it to stop most of those practices and to modify some of its claims. But it has never given up the claim to rule, and it certainly would exercise that authority again if it had the power to do so. The very limited freedom that it grants to Protestant churches in Roman Catholic countries even today is proof that this is true.
But our American nation in its origin repudiated those claims. Many of the early colonists came to this land to escape that persecution. At the time of the American Revolution the Roman Catholics in this country constituted only about one percent of the population. The basic principle on which this nation grew to greatness and through which it has surpassed all other nations, giving our people the highest standard of living in the world, was that of a free Church in a free State. It was not that of subservience to a despotic church that drained away its resources and persecuted its people, as in Spain, France, Italy, and in all of the Latin American countries.

The contrast between this predominantly Protestant nation and all of the Roman Catholic nations is clear for all to see. Today large numbers of people in the Roman Catholic countries want to migrate to this Protestant United States, just as those in Communist nations want to migrate here. Practically none want to go the other way. Does not that make an impression on you, Mr. President? Surely it should.

So why should you single out that church for special favor and honor above all of the others? To do so surely is extremely unjust and unreasonable. No man should be taxed to support another man's religion. For the most part the American people seem to have lost their historic perspective or they would never tolerate such a project.

Furthermore, the Vatican is in reality merely a farce. It has an area of only about one-sixth of a square mile, and a population of only about 1000 people. It is not a legitimate State in the generally accepted meaning of that term. It is merely an adjunct to the Roman Catholic Church which uses it as an excuse for meddling in world politics.

The bill that provided for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican was pushed through Congress without public hearings of any kind, and practically before anyone knew anything about it, which shows how underhanded this project has been. It was well known that in this predominantly Protestant nation there would be strong opposition to any such measure—as indeed, there was in 1951 when President Truman tried to do this same thing and it was defeated in Congress.

I earnestly request, Mr. President, that you withdraw that nomination.

Sincerely yours,