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Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Archbishop Emeritus of Saint Louis
Prefect, Supreme Tribunal of the
Apostolic Signatura

Via Rusticucci, 13
00193 Rome
Italy

Dear Cardinal Burke:

I am that sheep who strayed from his 99 fellow sheep. And I am very hungry, indeed. And if after ploughing through this letter (plea) and its attachments, you are inclined to conclude that I may be a little “off” (or as Pope Francis would say, he is an “overly obsessive anti-abortion zealot”), then I, nevertheless, remain in the best of hands, as the story of the Gerasene Demonic attests (Mk. 5:1-9).

Please read the enclosed newspaper interview given by U.S. Catholic theologian Sr. Sandra Schneiders. (My critique of her interview, here, is reproduced online at www.parafferty.com: click on “Achieving the Restoration of Fetal Personhood”: To this piece I would add that Schneiders’ first stated grounds in support of “not” nullifying Roe v. Wade – as doing so, would only lead to a significant increase in back-alley abortions, if carried out to its logical extensions would dictate the conclusion that Aquinas, in his day, would have morally supported the decriminalization of willful infanticide, since in the days of Aquinas, the name of the game was, not procured abortion, but rather secret infanticide (immediately after birth), and there existed in the days of Aquinas, no effective means of preventing willful infanticide. See www.parafferty.com; and click on Rafferty’s Unraveling book, and then scroll to its “Epilogue” at p. 164. So Schneiders has, here, “unwittingly” shown her true colors: her concern lies only with the pregnant woman, and not with her fetus. She concedes implicitly that procured abortion cannot be justified theologically because it snuffs out a living fetus. Deaths to pregnant women caused by back-alley abortions would cause but a small fraction of the 55 million fetal deaths since the advent of Roe v. Wade in 1973.) What we have here is nothing less than a “shill-play”: Make no mention of fetal homicide. Sr. Schneiders is, to put it plainly, acting as a shill for abortion rights organizations.

I’m fed up with this kind of nonsensical argument. I say that it’s time for the Magisterium – the Church “militant” to live out being the “Sign of Contradiction” (to a world ruled by men) by putting a hot poker to the Sr. Schneiders (and to the Catholic pro-abortion-access politicians) of the world. To be sure Jesus Christ forgave the woman caught in adultery. But he left her with this admonishment: “Do not commit this sin any more”. Or else “what”: The “what”, here, is, I believe spelled out in MT. 18:15-18. Bishops are losing their moral authority, Catholics are becoming non-Christians by appealing to their uninformed “private” consciences, and the hungry, faithful sheep are not being fed. Jesus of Nazareth, taking over the lead of the Baptist, would never have put up with this kind of nonsense. And you, yourself, have said as much: See my Unraveling book (which I previously sent to you, and which can be read online at parafferty.com, supra at “Unraveling the Fabric of America”) at pp. 41, 47-48, and 25. To be sure the Church will experience, here, a great fall-out; but so long as there remains a single person receiving the Holy Eucharist (it being the earthly presence of the giver of “Abundant Life” – Jn. 10:10), then the Church will again thrive.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Philip A. Rafferty

/sp: Copy emailed to Sr. Sandra Schneiders