

From: Catholic League [<mailto:cl@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 4:16 PM
To: 'office@theshalomcenter.org'
Subject: Rabbi Waskow

Your latest snide attack on the Catholic Church (“Whose Religious Freedom Is Under Attack”) exhibits appalling ignorance. The issue is not contraception—it is the right of a religious institution not to be forced to pay for services it deems immoral. In other words, the First Amendment is in play. Indeed, the Obama administration is redefining what qualifies as a Catholic organization as any entity that hires and serves mostly people of its own religion. Would you prefer that we discriminate against non-Catholics in our social service agencies, hospitals and schools?

Moreover, since when is it the business of any religious leader to condemn the strictures of another religion? You are not only clueless about the situation concerning nuns, you have stuck your nose in where you don't belong.

Bill Donohue
President
Catholic League

From: Rabbi Arthur Waskow <awaskow@theshalomcenter.org>
Date: Tue, 12 Jun 2012 18:30:59 -0400
To: Catholic League <cl@catholicleague.org>
Subject: Re: The Catholic League, Bishops, the Nuns, & Women

Mr. Donohue,

(In your letter (which I have included below), you say you are concerned about where my nose is.

Here is where my nose is, and where it belongs:

Tens of thousands of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu women work for or study at various Catholic-sponsored universities and hospitals that involve and hire them -- and that receive my/ our tax money. (They are quite different from fully religious Catholic institutions, like churches, dioceses, or the NCCB, that do NOT receive tax money.)

Many many of those women who are hired by or are students of these tax-supported non-religious institutions need contraception, but can't afford it without insurance.

They are being pressured by -- not your Church, since most of the nuns utterly disagree and they too are part of your Church, thanks be to God -- but by your NCCB, to forego contraception because they can't afford it without insurance.

And they are being pressured even though the President has agreed that the cost of that insurance will NOT come from the pockets of the Catholic hierarchy or these Catholic-sponsored institutions.

Those women are my business. All of them, including the Catholic women who in shaping their own religious consciences (did you know that women are capable of doing that?) have concluded that contraception is ethical and moral.

Would you also suggest I keep my long Jewish nose out of some Catholic priests' rape of Catholic children and some Catholic bishops' protection of those priests from the law, because I'm not a Catholic? Perhaps you would.

In any case, the last I heard, God is ONE, and I try to live

by that principle. That means I am obligated to act when any person or institution (of any religion) is perpetrating injustice on anyone (of any religion).

Blessings to you of sharing, shalom, and salaam; of healing and wholeness --

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Ph. D.

Director, The Shalom Center <<http://www.theshalomcenter.org>>; newest book, *Freedom Journeys: The Tale of Exodus & Wilderness Across Millennia* co-authored with R. Phyllis Berman (Jewish Lights Publ.).

From: Catholic League [<mailto:cl@catholicleague.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 8:24 AM
To: 'awaskow@theshalomcenter.org'
Subject: reply

Rabbi Waskow,

All of those non-Catholics who work at Catholic centers are free to leave whenever they find our strictures disagreeable. What they are not free to do is to demand that Catholic institutions make reforms that suit them. The very demand is despotic.

You unwittingly make my point about the Obama administration: they are telling Catholic entities that they are not really Catholic if they hire and serve people of other faiths. In other words, if we discriminate, we're okay. Amazing logic.

Contraception is free from Planned Parenthood for anyone who can't afford it, so your position implodes.

Since you are interested in the subject of rape, I hope you are following the unbelievable explosion of child rape in the Orthodox Jewish community and the intimidation—by family members—of victims. The pressure put on the D.A. to deep six these rapes is sickening. You need to do something about this epidemic right now. Suggestion: follow the reforms of the Catholic Church and you won't have these problems.

Ed Koch, my friend, once said that Jews had better not make enemies of their Catholic friends since they have so few of them. Think about that the next time you feel compelled to attack my religion.

Bill Donohue

P.S. I do not have a long nose