

# NEW REPORT ON BIDEN-FBI CATHOLIC SPY RING

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On July 22, an Interim Staff Report on President Biden's FBI Catholic spy ring was released by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan. Thanks to Kash Patel, the current FBI director, some of the information is new. When pieced together what we already knew, the picture that emerges is one of an FBI that went off the rails. Christopher Wray, who led the FBI under Biden, bears much of the blame.

The FBI was focused on "radical-traditionalist Catholics." Who are these people? According to the FBI's own internal review of this matter, "investigators found that many FBI employees could not even define the meaning of 'radical-traditionalist Catholic' when preparing, editing, or reviewing" the Richmond Field office memorandum that authorized the probe.

In other words, the FBI decided that these Catholics were a problem, even though they were unable to explain who they are. FBI agents were convinced that the so-called rad-trads were "linked" to "racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists." What made them think this way is still a mystery, but we know they found nothing. That's because there is no record of very conservative Catholics linking up with violent thugs. Indeed, on this basis alone there was no reason to investigate them.

This didn't stop some FBI operatives from categorizing "certain Catholic Americans as potential domestic terrorists." They came to this absurd conclusion based on articles their employees read. "How Extremist Gun Culture is Trying to Co-opt the Rosary" is one of the gems they named as evidence of the

nefarious agenda of “rad-trad” Catholics.

If there is one Catholic group that the FBI thought was emblematic of very conservative Catholics, it is the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX). This was not a good choice—they are not in full communion with the Catholic Church. This is a break-away association of Catholics founded in 1970 who were upset with the reforms of Vatican II in the 1960s. They were once excommunicated, then reinstated, but are still one step removed from being an authentic part of the Catholic Church.

I have been saying all along that the FBI’s focus on SSPX and the “rad-trads” is a ruse. Quite frankly, this was a pretext to opening the door to a much wider investigation of practicing Catholics, most of whom tend to be more conservative than non-practicing Catholics. The evidence is conclusive.

The latest report shows that the FBI proposed a probe of ‘mainline parishes.’ It says that “FBI employees believed without evidence that mainstream Catholic churches could serve as a pipeline to violent extremist behavior.” Without evidence! Also, “The FBI seems to have considered Catholic churches as a potential hot spot for radicalization and viewed investigating Catholic churches as an ‘opportunity.’” Exactly.

As an example of this mad search for wrongdoing, the FBI investigated Catholics who evinced “hostility toward abortion-rights advocates.” In other words, Catholic activists who exercised fidelity to Church teachings on abortion—they are called pro-life Catholics—were considered a domestic threat by the FBI. Similarly, those who espoused “Conservative family values/roles” were labeled “radical.”

This tells us all we need to know about the politicization of the FBI under Biden. It also tells us something else: it was not dissident Catholics the FBI was concerned about, it was the loyal sons and daughters of the Church. How strange it is

to note that at least some dissident Catholics, and some FBI agents, were both seeking to subvert the Catholic Church. This may not have been coordinated, but the outcome is nonetheless disturbing.

It is not just the profile of Catholics whom the FBI was examining that was a problem—it was the scope of its investigations. It started in Richmond, then spread to Louisville, Milwaukee and Portland. Its reach even extended overseas—the FBI's London Office was involved. This is hardly surprising given that we already knew the FBI further proposed “to infiltrate Catholic churches as a form of ‘threat mitigation.’” The goal was to have a “national application” of its investigatory measures.

This was not a mistake. It was a well-planned effort to intimidate and harass practicing Catholics. The Committee and Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government determined in the last Congress that “there was no legitimate basis for the memorandum to insert federal law enforcement into Catholic houses of worship.” That says it all.

Under Biden, the FBI was looking for dirt on Catholics, especially those who are pro-life and hold to traditional moral values. This was one of the most despicable violations of the civil liberties of innocent Americans conducted by the federal government in modern times. That it took place in an administration run by a “devout Catholic” makes it all the more outrageous.

We are thankful to Rep. Jim Jordan for all the good work that he, his committee, and his staff have done.