

RELIGIOUS LEFT SEEKS TO SILENCE CHURCH'S VOICE

A coalition of religious leaders in Massachusetts who are pro-gay marriage has lashed out at Boston Archbishop Sean Cardinal O'Malley and other Catholic leaders for opposing same-sex unions. The coalition accuses the Catholic leaders of practicing "religious discrimination" and has requested that they stop campaigning for laws that protect the institution of marriage.

"We respect the Roman Catholic Church's desire to speak in a public forum about this, but it has come to a point where the advocacy about same-sex marriage has come to impinge on our own religious practices, because not everyone believes same-sex marriage is wrong or sinful or against religious beliefs," said the Rev. Tiffany Steinwert, a United Methodist minister who works with homosexuals. She added, "What happens when the Roman Catholic Church seeks to create public policy based on their religious beliefs is that they negate other religious beliefs that might be contrary to that."

Catholic League president Bill Donohue responded as follows:

"It is important that the religious coalition stop practicing religious discrimination against Roman Catholics and stop campaigning for laws that weaken the institution of marriage.

"We respect the religious coalition's desire to speak in a public forum about this, but it has come to a point where the advocacy about same-sex marriage has come to impinge on our own religious practices, because not everyone believes that same-sex marriage is not wrong or sinful or against religious beliefs. What happens when the religious coalition seeks to create public policy based on their religious beliefs is that they negate other religious beliefs that might be contrary to

that.”