

TEXAS A&M UPDATE

In the last issue of *Catalyst*, we noted how we went after Texas A&M professor Filipe Castro. He not only made a series of wholly bigoted and obscene comments about Catholicism, he threatened some Catholics. We contacted school officials, the university's accrediting agency, government officials, and the media.

The head of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission thanked us for alerting her to this situation. She said she would consider an investigation. We heard from many students and alumni, and the school newspaper interviewed our director of communications, Mike McDonald.

It was telling that the guilty professor refused to speak to the media about his situation. He most certainly has been put on notice and hopefully something more concrete will emerge.

BIDEN'S EVOLVING VIEWS ON ABORTION

Joe Biden entered the senate in 1973, the same year the Supreme Court legalized abortion in its *Roe v. Wade* decision. He has evolved from being strongly pro-life to rabidly pro-abortion. Here is a list of his changing positions.

1974: A year after *Roe v. Wade* was decided, he said the ruling had gone "too far" and that a woman seeking an abortion should not have the "sole right to say what should happen to her body."

1976: He votes for the "Hyde Amendment" which bans federal

funding of abortions.

1981: He introduces the "Biden Amendment" which prohibits foreign-aid funding of biomedical research involving abortion.

1982: He votes for a constitutional amendment allowing states to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

1983: He votes against a constitutional amendment allowing states to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

1984: He votes for the Mexico City Policy which bans federal funding for abortions.

1987: He becomes chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and leads the fight against Supreme Court nominee Judge Robert Bork, whom he said was opposed to *Roe v. Wade*.

1994: He says, "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them."

1995: He votes to ban partial-birth abortion.

1997: He votes to ban partial-birth abortion.

2003: He votes to ban partial-birth abortion

2007: He criticizes the Supreme Court decision upholding the ban on partial-birth abortion, calling it "paternalistic."

2008: He says he is opposed to overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

2012: He says the government does not have "a right to tell other people that women, they can't control their body."

2019: He says he is opposed to the "Hyde Amendment" which bans the federal funding of abortion.

2020: He says he supports abortion "under any circumstances."

There is no one in public life who has undergone such a dramatic transformation. He did not change because of the Catholic Church: it did not change its position on abortion. He did not change because of science: it did not change its position on when life begins. It was Biden who changed, and he did so for totally political reasons.

BIDEN HIRED BIGOTED STAFFER

Anti-Catholicism engulfed the Biden camp this presidential season. The latest guilty party is Nikitha Rai.

Rai was Deputy Data Director for the Biden campaign. She became incensed over the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. She argued that Barrett's Catholic beliefs should bar her from serving.

Rai took to Twitter for an exchange with Shadi Hamid, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute. At issue was Barrett's alleged membership in a charismatic Christian organization that holds to traditional moral values. Biblical teachings on marriage and sexuality became the topic of discussion.

After someone else made reference to these teachings, citing Barrett's previous service to a "South Bend private school" [she was a trustee at Trinity School], Hamid questioned why this was news. "Isn't this the standard position for any orthodox Catholic?" Rai answered, "Unfortunately, yes." Hamid then said, "to be fair, it's the standard position for any orthodox Muslim or Jew as well..."

Rai's response was unequivocal. "True. I'd heavily prefer views like that not to be elevated to SCOTUS, but unfortunately our current culture is still relatively intolerant. It will be a while before those types of beliefs are so taboo that they're disqualifiers."

In other words, any person of faith who holds to biblical teachings on marriage and sexuality is intolerant and should be barred from serving on the Supreme Court. That would include all practicing Catholics, evangelical Christians, Mormons, Muslims, and Orthodox Jews. Nikitha Rai is the intolerant one.

We called for Biden to dump her but he refused.

BIDEN TEAM WELCOMES CHRISTIAN BASHERS

Humanists for Biden is a newly formed organization, an offshoot of Secular Democrats of America, an entity that itself is of recent vintage. The pro-Biden group is headed by Greg Epstein, a humanist “chaplain” who splits his time between Harvard and MIT.

The quotation marks are intentional: Merriam-Webster defines chaplain as “a clergyman in charge of a chapel.” Epstein is a confessed atheist, and a chapel is a place of worship. Therefore, there is no basis in reality for his self-identity. Not only is Epstein delusional, those who access his services as a chaplain are equally delusional.

Humanists for Biden sought to attract all those who believe in nothing: agnostics, atheists, and the religiously confused. They are a growing part of the nation and are heavily populated by young people, and, of course, the learned ones in the professoriate.

A look at what Humanists for Biden believe yields a lot of pedestrian stuff. They are, of course, fashionably “diverse.” They claim to be fans of science and foes of bigotry, two attributes that distinguish themselves from no one. But are they really opposed to bigotry? The evidence is not persuasive.

Consider what we know of the parent organization, Secular Democrats of America (a redundancy if there ever was one).

Secular Democrats of America is opposed to school vouchers, a social justice cause that just happens to be championed by

Catholics. If this is an oblique shot at Catholics, a more direct expression of its animus is the following: "In the United States, 1 in 6 hospital beds are in a Catholic institution, where care can be dictated by religious doctrine." In other words, we as a nation have a serious problem on our hands: Catholic hospitals follow Catholic teachings. Worse, there are too many of them.

The humanists did not have the courage to say what needs to be done about this alleged problem, though we all know what their atheist agenda entails.

Not surprisingly, Secular Democrats of America is opposed to most religious exemptions; they want to secularize the churches. In fact, they explicitly argue that there should be no distinction in law between secular institutions and religious ones. This would gut the tax-exempt status of all religious institutions, and effectively neuter faith-based organizations.

They also say they are opposed to "religious tests" for public office. For reasons that are not hard to understand, they have said nothing to condemn those Democrats—the secular ones—who have sought to subject Amy Coney Barrett to a religious test.

Naturally, Secular Democrats of America do not value innocent human life. Organized atheists rarely do. For example, they are pro-abortion and pro-euthanasia, goals shared by every totalitarian regime in history (all of which have been expressly atheistic).

What seals their animus against Christians is their charge that "Christian Nationalists" are a threat to democracy. This has become the new dog whistle of Christian bashers. They are always vague in defining who a "Christian Nationalist" is, but they are anything but ambiguous in attributing to evangelical Protestants and traditional Catholics all kinds of nefarious conspiratorial motives and practices.

If a conservative were to link secular Democrats with Antifa, he would be denounced. But somehow it is acceptable to link evangelicals and traditional Catholics with white supremacists. This is exactly what Secular Democrats of America does, warning its followers about the “intersection of Christian nationalism and white supremacy.”

Humanists for Biden say they are not an official part of the Biden campaign, but this is mere window dressing. Secular Democrats of America was welcomed at the Democratic National Convention; they were awarded three panels to promote their Christian-bashing cause.

Joe Biden is no stranger to welcoming these kinds of activists. On February 26, 2010, the Obama-Biden administration became the first presidential administration in history to formally meet with organized atheists. That was when officials from the Secular Coalition for America, home to some of the most rabid Christian haters in the nation, was invited to the White House for consultation.

What made Humanists for Biden so troubling was that this organization was being rolled out in the same week that one of Biden’s staffers, Deputy Data Director Nikitha Rai, lashed out at Amy Coney Barrett for holding to biblical teachings on marriage and sexuality. Rai said such beliefs—which are held by practicing Catholics, evangelical Protestants, Orthodox Jews, Mormons and Muslims—should disqualify any nominee for public office.

Biden refused to fire Rai. He then doubled down by befriending a group of Christian-bashing atheists.