



CATHOLIC LEAGUE

*For Religious
and
Civil Rights*

September 14, 2020

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Mr. Michael K. Young
Office of the President
1246 TAMU
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-1246

Dear President Young:

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights is the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization. We monitor anti-Catholicism and take steps necessary to combat it. Regrettably, there is a professor at Texas A&M, Filipe Castro, who has a long and ugly record of verbally assaulting Catholics, even to the point of making physical threats.

Castro is an anthropologist and a tenured full professor. Previously, I was a tenured full professor; I am also a sociologist. While Castro is entitled to academic freedom, no freedom is boundless. When a professor intentionally insults people of faith, in this instance Catholics, it cannot seriously be maintained that he is engaged in rational discourse. Indeed, some of what he has said is so serious, he could easily be sued.


The enclosed documents, which are examples of Castro's hate speech posted on social media, are proof positive of his academic malpractice. His animus against Catholicism is so deep that he goes right for the jugular by speaking in a vile way about the Eucharist, the centerpiece of our faith. Quite frankly, Castro does not belong in the classroom.

For twenty years, I served on the board of directors of the National Association of Scholars. I know, and respect, the wide latitude given to professors to challenge students. I also know there are instances when this right has been egregiously abused. Professor Castro is a perfect example. He does not seek to challenge, but to bully.

I am bringing this matter to a wide audience. I trust the right steps will be taken to resolve this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William A. Donohue, Ph.D.
President

cc: Texas A&M Board of Regents

Texas A&M Campus Newspaper, *The Battalion*

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