

Greetings:

July 28, 2021

Archbishop Jose Gomes of the US Council of Bishops; Salvatore Cordileone Archbishop of San Francisco; Michel Barber Bishop of Oaklnd; Robert Vasa bishop of Santa Rosa; Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago; Cardinal Wilton Gregory of Washington D.C.

CC: Papal Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre

I am very disappointed in my church with its recent vote to define the Eucharist relative to abortion and President Biden.

If the Catholic Church forbids Joe Biden from receiving the Eucharist it will be taken as being involved in politics. This will diminish my Church's role to be a positive force for social justice or other moral issues.

I am also deeply concerned about Church teaching on homosexuality. We now have a leading male news commentator with a husband and a new baby and a high level male cabinet member with a husband. Young people now have friends that are homosexual. The law now allows homosexual marriage. This environment will strongly impact the youth to leave the Church. Our 15 year old granddaughter has chosen not to be confirmed because of this teaching. The Church needs to evaluate this issue in light of biology and psychology. I see a similarity between the past flat earth teaching and homosexuality.

I do not believe in abortion and I think there are ways to mitigate it. Human sexuality is a basic reproduction drive and unintended pregnancies should be treated with compassion. Another approach to reduce abortion is for the government and nonprofits to provide financial support for the mother not to abort. I am extremely disappointed that my Church has supported the most immoral president in memory on a single issue: abortion. This is how we lose a democracy and religious freedom.

When is the Church going to provide opportunities for women? In the US there are more women graduating from higher education than men. Why don't we ordain women deacons? Why don't we have women representation at your conferences? There is a huge risk of an organization's survival when it is led by old, mostly white males.

Some Church leaders are saying that they would rather have a diminished belief than allow dissension. Jesus did not stop division. He gave himself to Judas knowing he would be betrayed. He blasted the Scribes and Pharisees for their cruel rules that excluded widows and aliens.

My vision of my Church is the early Church "See how they love one another". Loving our God, ourselves and our neighbor should be our quest. This will not occur through dogma and rules on single issues that are cruel and rigid.

Joe Tembrock
241 Royal Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-568-6061
jtembrock@sbcglobal.net