

18 November 2005

Most Reverend Sean P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.
Archbishop of Boston
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, Massachusetts 02135

Your Excellency:

I was surprised to learn of the decision by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston to honor Mayor Thomas M. Menino at its Annual Christmas Dinner on December 9th. Across a wide spectrum of social issues, from abortion and contraception to marriage and homosexuality to parental rights and school choice, Mayor Menino has callously and continually repudiated the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

It is my understanding that since at least 1991, the Archdiocese of Boston has had a policy prohibiting church agencies from honoring or providing a public forum for political figures who dissent from Catholic teaching on the sanctity of human life. I believe that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted a similar policy in 2004. The honor to be conferred on Mayor Menino would seem to be an inexplicable and egregious violation of the Church's own policy position.

I would hope that you would use your authority to ensure that the invitation to Mayor Menino is withdrawn. Should, however, Catholic Charities persist in this scandal, I would respectfully urge Your Excellency to decline participation in this travesty.

Asking for Your Excellency's prayers, I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Flatley
President

Most Reverend Sean P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.
Archbishop of Boston
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, Massachusetts 02135

November 30, 2005

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your courageous decision to cancel your attendance at the Annual Christmas Dinner for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston. Amid these difficult times for the Church, it is heartening to see such a display of episcopal leadership.

As the good name of Catholic Charities is at stake, I would respectfully urge Your Excellency to utilize whatever influence you may be able to bring to bear to prevent the grave scandal of a Catholic organization honoring a supporter of legalized abortion.

I am informed that copies of our original memo which Maria Parker requested regarding the public policy positions of Mayor Menino, and which I understand she shared with you, began circulating on the web on the weekend of November 19th and 20th. This represented the unauthorized use of embargoed material.

Maria did not authorize the release of this memo, but understood it to be a private communication for her benefit only.

Please be assured that Maria, who acted entirely in good faith, was unaware of this breach of confidentiality. Anyone familiar with Maria can attest to her loyalty, professionalism and discretion in the service of the Church.

Sincerely,

C. Joseph Doyle,
Executive Director