

February 28, 2009

Re: Industrial Areas Foundation

Archbishop Beltran
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Archbishop,,

I wish to begin my letter with a quote from Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight, in his article entitled “A Catholic Difference” in the January 2009 issue of *Columbia*: ***“It may well require that we put away half-measures. We cannot hope to renew society if society cannot detect a difference in the way Catholics marry, raise their families, conduct their businesses or serve in government. In other words, we can never hope to renew society unless we ourselves are committed to renewal in our own lives. And we can never hope to renew society as long as we find ways to accommodate social values that are fundamentally opposed to the values of the Gospel.”*** If we are to bear the Truth that the Gospel compels us to, we must be above compromise on any issue. We must be truly and authentically Catholic in all we do. And if it means separating ourselves from those who believe differently than we do, then we must not compromise but lead the way back to the Truth for those who require our help—especially the poor and marginalized. I am certain that the IAF is now and has been involved for many years in issues that harm the Catholic Church.

On October 7th I was invited to join a group of parishioners at St. John’s who would become the core team for a new ministry forming in Oklahoma City. The group was described to me as an interfaith committee to make substantial changes in the lives of the poor. I agreed to at least attend the meeting and see what kind of time commitments it required. Chris Ausdenmoore, the organizer for the group, introduced herself and described the process of forming a core team for Oklahoma City. I asked if she could explain a little more. She asked if I had ever participated in community organizing. I told her until the news headlines about ACORN¹ I’d never heard the term. She cringed a little, but said her organization was not ACORN—it was IAF—Industrial Areas Foundation. Until that point, I’d never heard of IAF.

St. John’s already has many ministries to help the poor, so I was not convinced it was a necessary ministry. I went home to research IAF on the internet. Much of what I found was tied into USCCB/CCHD², voter fraud, politics, the election, liberals, progressives, conspiracy theories, socialist-New World Orders, and many other things I’d never heard of or cared to know about. I researched more, to find the truth among the politicized, opinionated, and technical articles, blogs and conspiracy theories

I have a strong determination and desire to know and show others the truth. The articles that concerned me about the IAF, also indicate that CCHD, Catholic Charities,

Catholic Relief Services all lack transparency and are not following the doctrines of the Catholic Church. After printing off a dozen or more articles and highlighting the critical facts, I attempted to bring convincing evidence to the deacon who attended the meeting (Gary Peterson). He was not in the office, and I tried every deacon and every priest (who were all at a retreat) and even our pastoral minister, Dr. Harry. No one was around that day. I met with a friend who understands Church doctrine and apologetics much better than I do, and showed her what I discovered. She was also concerned. I sent an email to Father John, our pastor, and told him I needed to see him as soon as he returned. He seemed very surprised when I showed him the negative information about the IAF and Alinsky³ (the founder of IAF).

Father John passed on my concerns to Gary Peterson (the deacon in charge of the social ministries board). When I met with Gary about my concerns, he told me it was approved by the diocese and would continue despite my objections. I called your office, hoping to get an appointment to show you my papers. Your secretary promised to convey my message to someone who would listen. Tish Eason called me and said she would look into it. I never heard back, but I delivered a package of papers to her office. I then went to Catholic Charities hoping to talk to Tim O'Connor. He was out, so I said I was interested in being on the new core team, but wanted to know more. A gal I talked to was very helpful—telling me how it all got started (from a nun at St. Charles Borromeo⁴—who has been involved in JustFaith⁵). I continued to research, seeking more information. I have contacted several journalists, as well as some of the people who authored the articles. I have also sent letters to the Supreme Knight, as well as other sources seeking help in finding the Truth, and in bringing it to the Catholic Church.

In early December, Father John gave me a letter from Dick Klinge, addressed to Ray Haefele, addressing some of my concerns, but none satisfied me. I have since met with Ray and discussed it further, including the involvement of Catholic Charities⁶. Although Ray listened, and offered to bring my concerns to Dick, he left me feeling it is pretty much a hopeless cause. But I am determined to get through to someone.

A paper I found on the internet by Anthony Mansueto⁷ gives a lot of information about the inner workings of the IAF. I was aware of the dues each church pays that are about \$5,000-\$8,000 per year. His paper (Mansueto's) is very long, but he was an employee of a diocese in Texas and fully believed in the IAF. He talks of communist influence, power building, and relationships with the Catholic hierarchy.

My research shows the IAF is very successful at accomplishing "actions." In my opinion (and the opinion of many better-qualified people), the IAF has cost the public much in morality, traditional family values especially (they contributed greatly to the opposition of Proposition 8 in California, and although they lost, they continue to fight it), and of course the election (including voter fraud⁸) of the most anti-life president ever. The Catholic Church is split over the interpretation of Social Justice⁹. Community organizers seem like wonderful, hard-working individuals, and in the purist definition, I find that I am one of them—I am passionate about helping others, and willing to work to accomplish good things for the people of my Church, my community, my country, and my world.

The research I have conducted demonstrates clearly that the leaders of the IAF and other Alinsky organizations misguide and manipulate the people into believing they are doing God's work, when they are really doing the work of a political party leaning toward socialism, and against Catholic beliefs.

Why was I the only one out of the approximately 15 people in that room who chose to research the IAF? My humble thought is God put me there for a reason—and that reason must be to fight this. I was there for the same reason as all the other people—to serve God by helping the poor in our community. I do believe all those people are good, caring people who have the right attitude about helping—but are either blindly following others, or are grossly misinformed about the IAF.

There are many reasons I believe it is wrong for the Catholic Church to collaborate with the IAF, but one reason is that they do not help with pro-life issues. In fact, they collaborate with other organizations that are pro-choice¹⁰, and on issues that are antithetical to Catholic beliefs, such as gay marriages¹¹ and women as priests, like Pax Christi and Call to Action. CCHD, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief, as well as many parishes support the IAF groups, but that does not legitimize them. Catholic Charities (national office) has a history of contributing to ACORN, IAF and other groups that are antithetical to the Church.

I am sure there are many methods for working to help the poor, and community organizing can be a good thing. The Knights of Columbus demonstrates many examples in each issue of *Columbia*. There are also several articles in each issue showing the hard work and financial support KOC gives to pro-life causes. I found an article on the internet that said a group recently started community organizing pro-life causes¹² in New York! I was excited. I thought—why can't my diocese (as well as others across the country) hire a community organizer (or more than one for a larger diocese.) to handle their social justice *and* their pro-life issues *equally*? I understand the desire for working with other denominations, but not to the detriment of other Catholics. Our own community organizer, instead of an IAF organizer, would be (in theory) true to the Catholic doctrine. Archbishop, you wrote an inspiring article before the election entitled "The Single, Most Important Issue"¹³. That is one reason I wish to talk to you to explain to personally about the IAF. I know you are a good man and might be convinced to break this contract. If you truly believe it is the most important issue, then we must find a better way to help the poor than hiring the IAF to spend our money. We are, in essence, hiring the fox to reorganize the henhouse. We are taking a short cut which will lead to scandal, like with ACORN and CCHD.

I want to do what is best for the future—for my children, for the Church, and for the World. I can only hope that you and others in our Church want the same thing. I know the IAF is a big machine, worldwide now, and that it has ties to the president. I know I am but a small pebble, but I am confident *if* I am doing God's work—and I believe I am—my ripple will reach the shore.

I am currently reading a book called *Gathering Power* by Paul Osterman¹⁴. It discusses getting the IAF deeply seated into various denominations. One Protestant minister explains it is difficult because organizing is not the main focus of a church. ***“The central issues in Christ’s church are, first of all, worship, praising God and joining together in God’s love; second, evangelism, winning people to Jesus Christ...; and third having won them, disciplining them in the faith so that they won’t remain baby Christians, so that they can grow in their understanding.”*** The IAF’s goals are to **use** the churches for money and power. This is stated over and over in many articles, including their own literature. The Church’s goal must be focused on doing God’s work while following the doctrines that guide and protect us. We cannot use others nor be used by others—individuals, politicians, or organizations.

I feel that by hiring or contracting with a group like IAF, the Church is compromising on issues that are vitally important to our faith. Our Church is more than just helping the poor—we are about evangelizing, and praising God in our living example. Our world in America is not an oppressive society. There are many opportunities for help in our government, and in our churches. I do not want to ignore the poor, but nor should they take more importance over pro-life issues. Nor should our government become socialist or communist to bring all people equal. We all know that does not work—and it will lose the faithful in many ways and for many reasons. I recently took my first trip to Europe and attended Mass nearly every day for 2 weeks in France and Italy. There were more American tourists in the Churches than locals! We do not want to become more like Europeans. We must concentrate on becoming the best American Catholics we can, and using a socialist leaning group like IAF will not help us! That is compromising our morals and values. The IAF is full of “leaders” like Delores Huerta and Heather Booth who are pro-abortion, like Obama. Does God not remind us over and over in Scripture that to compromise brings sadness and loss? Adam and Eve, Abraham, Sara, Jacob, Sampson, David, Solomon, and most of all—Judas.

We must not allow a group like IAF, who is politically divisive, to damage the Church even more than the priest sex scandal. Already, the IAF and other political organizers like ACORN, have swayed the votes of many Hispanics throughout the border states that have historically voted pro-life. This past election 66% of Hispanics voted for Obama, and 76% among the younger Hispanics.¹⁵ IAF is heavily involved with the Hispanic communities in all the border states. These statistics are not a coincidence. Many of the well-established IAF “alliances” are in areas that are politically liberal. Moving a liberal group like IAF into a staunchly conservative state like Oklahoma will cause much division in our Church. Can we afford it?

I know that God is in charge, and ultimately the Church will survive, but the hard times could be devastating to many faithful people through wrong decisions and actions of our leaders. When I am most distressed over this, I tell myself that the burden of proof should not be on me. If I am wrong—it has only cost me time, paper and ink. But if the decision-maker in our Church is wrong—***what is the ultimate cost?*** There is too much information available that shows IAF as a negative influence on churches, politics, and the poor. Much is at stake in our Church and in our Country. Are you willing to make

this decision and take responsibility for the consequences? You must be fully aware of the negative implications of working with the IAF. I feel it is my responsibility to do all I can to protect the Church—to aid you in your research and knowledge on issues that could harm our Church.

I have provided endnotes that tie to many of my statements. Please conduct your own research. This has been a long, hard road for me. But if not me, then who? When God calls us to a task, can we freely walk away? We cannot take our responsibilities lightly. We must constantly seek the truth. Often it evades us. I have no personal interest in the success or failure of IAF. I have only stumbled upon (divinely guided, as we are in all things) a cause that I feel will hurt the institution I love, because I love her founder—Jesus Christ.

I have so much more I could say, but I had hoped to keep this short. Also in the book *Gathering Power*, Osterman recognizes that the Catholic Church is hierarchical, and if the bishop supports the IAF's involvement in the diocese, there is not much any pastor or parishioner can do about it. I can only beg you to reconsider, do more research. And pray.

Yours in Christ,

Jo Joyce

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¹ "Catholic Campaign for Human Development and ACORN – Rotten to the Core" 10-1-08;
<http://www.realclearpolitics.com> "The ACORN Obama Knows" by Michelle Malkin 6-025-08

² <http://ncrcfae.org/node/2263> "USCCB: Catholic charities shouldn't go secular, Vatican official warns" by John L. Allen Jr

³ <http://www.catholic.org> "Alinsky is Dead, Long Live Paul 5/1/2005 by Fr. Robert J. Carr

⁴ 10-12-08 Sooner Catholic, "Commission Awards Grants to Support Justice Projects" (\$1,000 to St. Charles Borromeo Church of Oklahoma City—Oklahoma Interfaith Sponsoring Committee...to build a congregation-based community organizing project...)

⁵ JustFaith's summer '08 newsletter included information about contributing to ACORN's efforts

⁶ 11-14-08 Letter to Ray Haefele from Richard M. Klinge "Facts Regarding OKC Community Organizing Efforts"; <http://www.city-journal.org> "How Catholic Charities Lost Its Soul" by Brian C. Anderson

⁷ (<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/thebes/1593/des1.htm?200921?200922>) Beginning on page 10 under the heading "The Industrial Areas Foundation..."

⁸ http://www.cis.org/articles/2000/back_1000.html "Injustice for All" by David Schippers, 10/2000, page 3

⁹ <http://www.lesfemmes-thetruth.org> "Faith in Public Life: Ecumenical Politics" by Stephanie Block

¹⁰ <http://stjohnsvaldosta.blogspot.com/2008/10/> "Meet Heather Booth, Obama's Church-funded, pro-abortion cohort" by Paul Likoudis, *The Wanderer*

¹¹ <http://www.losangelesmission.com/ed/articles/2004/0412cz2.html> "Not As Sexy As You Think" by Christopher Zehnder

¹² Ruben Obregon is a founder of the No Room for Contraception Campaign and the Pro-Life Witness Project. To receive more information on pro-life community organizers, visit prolifewitness.com

¹³ *Sooner Catholic*, September 28, 2008 "...The Single, Most Important Issue"

¹⁴ *Gathering Power*, Osterman, Paul, 2002 (available at OK Metro Library)

¹⁵ <http://palmbeachpost.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Obamawon+a+>

List of Articles on IAF, ACORN, CCHD, etc.

1. Assessing the Catholic Campaign for Human Development by Patrick Reilly
2. <http://fratres.wordpress.com/2008/10/23/how-to-shoot-yourself-one-of-the-most-potent-weapons-serving-the-culture-of-death-by-stephanie-block/>
3. <http://fratres.wordpress.com/2008/11/04/cchd-collection-not-one-red-cent-ii-washington-times-reports>
4. Catholic Church funds ACORN and systemic wars by Stephanie Block
5. Bishops: "Abortion...destroys the common good." By James Martin, S.J.
6. Organizer in Chief by Steven Malanga
7. Campaign Capers by Judith M. Gordon
8. The Other Side of Change: Obama and Saul Alinsky by Mary Jo Anderson
9. "And the Greatest of These is Social Justice" by Charlotte Hays
10. A Typology of the American Protestant Left by Laura R. Olson
11. American Catholics and Faith in Public Life by Stephanie Block
12. Party Politics and the Priesthood by Eugene F. Diamond
13. www.Restore-DC-Catholicism.com
14. Open Letter to the Catholic Bishops of the US: Reform the Catholic Campaign for Human Development by Mary Ann Kreitzer and Stephanie Block
15. Vatican Official Warns Catholic Charities to Guard Religious Integrity by Kathleen Gilbert, LifeSiteNews.com
16. No Faith in Austin Interfaith by Paul Geleneser
17. The Center For Action and Contemplation by Stephanie Block
18. Naked City-Among the Interfaithful by Emily Pyle
19. The Delphi Technique, CatholicCitizens.org
20. What Would Saul Alinsky Do? By Jim Britell (complete interview w/Alinsky)
21. Buy Fr. Z a cup of coffee 11-18-08 "From a priest about the collection for CHD" by Father John Zuhlsdorf
22. The Participation of Catholics in Political Life (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith)
23. The Future of Civil Society by Michael Novak
24. Bishop's Beware, Catholic Media Coalition

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25. The Systemic Wars: CCHD funded by Change Agents by Stephanie Block
 26. A New Experience of the Church? The burgeoning interest in Small Christian Communities by Stephanie Block
 27. "Catholic" Political Groups Being Financed by George Soros, EWTN News
 28. My Best Education, World Magazine 10-10-08 by William Dembski and Edward Sisson
 29. A Commentary on the Industrial Areas Foundation, Catholic Culture
 30. The True Meaning of Catholic Action by Gregory M.A. Gronbacher, Ph.D.
 31. Socialism, Liberalism, Cultural Socialism, Wanderer Forum Foundation
 32. Social Teachings At Risk in the American Catholic Church by Michael Warner
 33. Gramsci Week: Antonio Gramsci and "the long march through the culture", Maggie's Farm
 34. Alinskyian organizing: interfaith hazard? By Stephanie Block
 35. Dissonant "Voice" by Greg L.
 36. Rules of power tactics, Sencosh
 37. Vatican Official Warns Catholic Charities to Guard Religious Integrity, Brown Pelican Society Commentary
 38. The Role of the Church Militant Today by Fr. John Perricone
 39. The Politics of the Left On Being Politically Correct by Laurene Connor
 40. ACORN: Value of Community Organizing (from ACORN)
 41. Thank ACORN for Current Mortgage Crisis by Stan Liebowitz (New York Post)
 42. ACORN: Highly Professional Poverty Pimps
 43. www.DiscoverTheNetwork.org (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now)
 44. Connecting People to Politics: The Role of Religious Institutions in the Texas Industrial Areas Foundation Network by Mark R. Warren (Fordham Univ.)
 45. GoingGlobal: Interfaith Journeys on the Road to Liberation, Baylor Univ.
 46. Is Durham CAN Really Non-Ideological? (Carolina Journal)
 47. Industrial Areas Foundation, Washington Rural Organizing Project (page 10)
 48. Catholics rebuffing controversial charity by Julia Duin
 49. Jesus Christ Was NOT a Community Organizer! By Ariel 9-12-08 (read thru #26)
 50. Texas Bishop Still Waiting on Hospital to confirm End of Sterilizations, Catholic News Agency 12-5-08

Many more—just research Industrial Areas Foundation and Catholic church

