

November 12, 2009

Dear St. Monica Parishioner:

The St. Monica parishioners listed at the end of this letter are among many who are concerned that St. Monica is participating in and donating money to a community organizing group that is focused on gaining political power to effect social change. The community organizing group is known as the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee, Inc. ("OSC"), an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation ("IAF") founded by Saul Alinsky in 1940. OSC claims to have at least 25 member organizations but refuses to identify them.

OSC has received tens of thousands of dollars from Catholics in this archdiocese, consisting of grants from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), Catholic Charities, and parishes including St. Monica. Participating parishes are expected to pay OSC up to 1% of their annual budgets. Money from St. Monica pays IAF/OSC to train members of St. Monica's "How's Your Life" committee to become community organizers and, ultimately, political agitators. According to its website, IAF, while purportedly nonpartisan, is "proudly, publicly, and persistently political." Indeed, "[t]he leaders and organizers of the Industrial Areas Foundation build organizations whose primary purpose is power—the ability to act—and whose chief product is social change." The OSC web site adds: "The time for institution-based community organizing is now. . . ."

Several parishes in our Archdiocese, including St. John's, Christ the King, St. James and Church of the Epiphany, severed their ties with IAF/OSC after members of those parishes voiced concerns about the divisiveness of parish involvement with these radical Alinskyian organizations. Likewise, Catholic Charities withdrew from participation with IAF/OSC after Archbishop Beltran and the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities determined that continued involvement would cause friction in the parishes and adversely affect Archdiocesan services to the poor. St. Monica, however, continues to be involved and to send money to IAF/OSC.

Although IAF/OSC enroll organizations and not individuals as members, St. Monica's participation in IAF/OSC effectively makes each of St. Monica's individual parishioners, willing or not, affiliates of these Alinskyian organizations. This not only is unfair to individuals who oppose radical, Alinskyian philosophy, but it also helps further IAF/OSC's goal of acquiring power for radical political purposes. Simply put, having a whole parish as a member enables IAF/OSC and their supporters to claim they have far greater support than actually exists.

We bring this matter to your attention to raise awareness about IAF/OSC. We encourage you to do your own research about IAF/OSC and to discuss St. Monica's involvement with other parishioners and with our pastor, Rev. Tim Luschen. You will find information about IAF on its web site at www.industrialareasfoundation.org. Additionally, members of our archdiocese created a web site that is an excellent resource for background and other information about IAF/OSC. You will find it at www.Johntwo24-25.net.

BACKGROUND

Saul Alinsky founded IAF in 1940 in Chicago. Alinsky was an early community organizer who advocated doing whatever it takes to achieve political power on the theory that the end justifies the means. He wrote two books on the techniques for acquiring power. The most well-known of these books is *Rules for Radicals*. Alinsky dedicated this book to "Lucifer", who Alinsky approvingly noted was the first radical to rebel against the establishment and win his own kingdom. IAF's defenders sometimes try to distance IAF from Alinsky. IAF's web site, however, still proudly lists Alinsky's infamous *Rules for Radicals* as one of IAF's publications.

IAF acts in our parish through OSC. While OSC claims that neither IAF nor any of its affiliates will ever take any action that conflicts with Catholic beliefs, IAF affiliates have promoted pro-abortion candidates and have also promoted causes that are inconsistent with Church doctrine. The "IAF in Action" section of the IAF website, for example, applauds the efforts of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization—a Massachusetts IAF affiliate—to successfully organize the passage of that state's sweeping health care reform law in 2006. Massachusetts taxpayers now subsidize health insurance plans that provide coverage for abortions (see www.massresources.org).

We have only recently learned about IAF/OSC even though the effort to bring these organizations into parishes has been going on for at least two years. Stated simply, ***Alinsky's dangerously radical philosophy that the end (power) justifies the means is not compatible with Catholic teaching, and financial entanglement with these admittedly "radical," "political" organizations is not an appropriate way to meet the needs of our community.*** As Pope Benedict observed in his discussion of the third temptation of Christ, the "fusion of faith and political power always comes at a price; faith becomes the servant of power and must bend to its criteria." Jesus of Nazareth, 40-42.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

First, pray. This is what Christ did before he acted. Pray individually and as a community.

Second, tell Father Luschen how you feel about parish participation in IAF/OSC activities.

Third, attend a meeting of the Pastoral Council and let your voice be heard. The Pastoral Council normally meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the St. Michael Room.

If you have any questions or want further information, please click on the “contact us” tab at www.Johntwo24-25.net or write to nyknlz7@sbcglobal.net.

May the Peace of the Lord Jesus Be With You

The following St. Monica parishioners endorse this letter:

Scott and Lori Ackman	The Jerry Jackson Family
Dan and Kara Allen	Bill and Patty Kaiser
Karen Banks	Tim and Donna Krist
Ken and Deanna Biddle	Tom and Katie Krug
Travis and Holly Black	Steve and Trish Kuper
Phil and Betty Bodman	Joseph and Melissa Lange
Bobby and Mary Burger	David and Cheryl Lassiter
Nick and Ellen Caporale	Chip and Janet Long Family
Mr. Steve DiRusso	Tim and Ann Morgan
Shawn and Julie Dowers Family	Robert and Anna Noll
The Duff Family	Tom and Nicole Owens Family
Raymond and Jessica Esquivel	Greg and Karen Pilcher
Chris and Gabby Evans	Oliver and Jinny Purcell
Greg and Joyce Greenlee	Carole Ryan
Brandon Hale	Susan and Mike Sadler
The Hamman Family	The Seliquni Family
Bob and Nancy Harwell	The Singeltary Family
The Herrick Family	The Steve Smalley Family
John and Maria Hey	Al and Anne Warren
Virginia Hogue	Alan and Anita Webb
Jim and Ali Howard Family	Chuck and Jaimee Zorio
Kenneth and Kelly Hughes	