



CATHOLICS UNITED

September 5, 2008

The Most Reverend Robert W. Finn
Roman Catholic Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph
300 East 36th Street
P.O. Box 419037
Kansas City, Missouri 64141-6037

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Your Excellency:

It is with great regret that I write to inform you about erroneous and misleading information that has been posted on the *Catholic Key's* official blog. Specifically, I refer to a September 3, 2008 story entitled "Cardinal George Slams 'Common Good' Fraud." This story makes several false claims about the work of Catholics United and Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good. Moreover, neither Catholics in Alliance executive director Alexia Kelley nor I was asked to comment for the story – which should be standard protocol for publications that endeavor to provide readers with accurate information.

I will allow Alexia Kelley to address the inaccurate claims about Catholics in Alliance – which are egregious – separately. As for my own group, Catholics United, I am particularly saddened by the suggestions that our organization serves as a front for pro-choice Democrats, and that we favor the "legal status quo" of abortion. Let me state unequivocally that we do not in any way lend our support to efforts aimed at keeping abortion legal. What we desire is a more positive and productive dialogue that can unite Americans of diverse ideological and political backgrounds behind practical and effective solutions to the tragedy of abortion – in accordance with *Evangelium Vitae* 73 para. 3.

I recognize that some within our Catholic community may not agree with Catholics United's particular take on all political matters. However, I would expect an official Church publication such as the *Catholic Key* to refrain from publicly questioning the faith of Catholics who express differing prudential judgments about how best to apply the teachings of our Church to public policy in a pluralist democracy. Unfortunately, when I voiced these concerns directly to *Key* editor Jack Smith today, I was informed that the diocese had no intention of

airing our objections or correcting the story's inaccuracies. On the contrary, it appears Mr. Smith is now using his diocesan credentials to pitch the story to other Internet news outlets.

On behalf of Catholics United, I respectfully ask you to take action to remedy this unfortunate matter. I can be reached at 207-221-2941 or ckorzen@catholics-united.org if you would like to discuss our concerns further.

In Christ's Peace,

Chris Korzen
Executive Director