

Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission

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November 29, 2016
+Vigil of St. Andrew

Most Rev. Charles, J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia
222 North Seventeenth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Dear Archbishop Chaput,

I have been staying abreast of the latest assessments, opinions and implementations of Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*.

I have read with interest the criticism you received from the Cardinal-designate Kevin J. Farrell who was reported to have said:

“I don't share the view of what Archbishop Chaput did, no. I think there are all kinds of different circumstances and situations that we have to look at -- each case as it is presented to us. I think that is what our Holy Father is speaking about, is when we talk about accompanying, it is not a decision that is made irrespective of the couple. Obviously, there is an objective moral law, but you will never find two couples who have the same reason for being divorced and remarried.”

The new standard overthrows Catholic morality which has always held that in the “objective moral law,” the primary determinate of the morality is the act itself. The “reasons for” and various circumstances surrounding a sinful act can mitigate or aggravate the guilt but never excuse it. This moral truth has been reduced to a personal “view” Cardinal-designate Farrell does not share. I do not think Pope Francis shares your “view” either.

This is nothing more than a repackaging of situation ethics. Cardinal-designate Farrell understands that it is easier to move a heard letting peer pressure bring about conformity with the general indolence of the mob. Ultimately he claims that you have no right to exercise independent jurisdiction as an ordinary of your diocese, a power constituted by Jesus Christ in His Church, outside of the general consensus of the bureaucratic man-made institution of the national conference of bishops.

You replied to Cardinal-designate Farrell that:

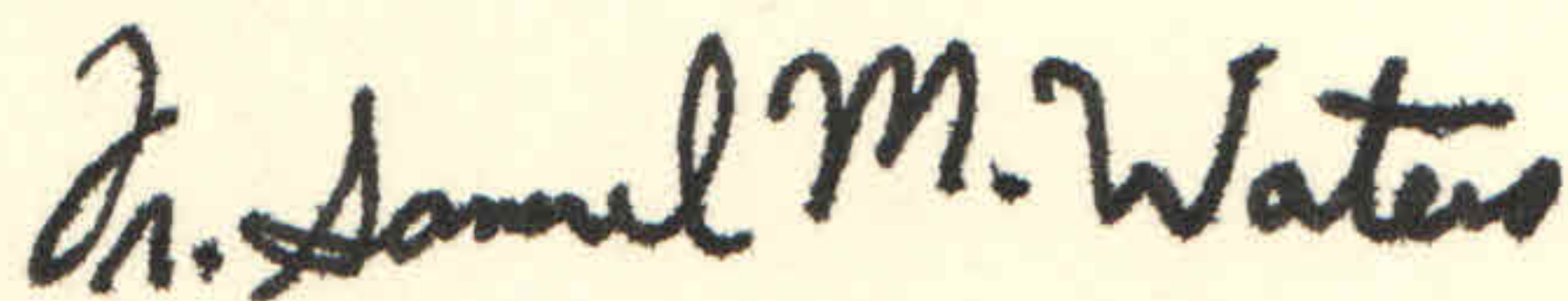
“Mercy and compassion cannot be separated from truth and remain legitimate virtues. The church cannot contradict or circumvent Scripture and her own magisterium without invalidating her mission. This should be obvious. The words of Jesus himself are very direct and radical on the matter of divorce.”

I find it interesting that your defensive reply to Cardinal-designate Farrell concerning this most serious matter involves an appeal to “truth,” the continuous teaching of the dogmas and doctrine of the Church. I find it interesting because when I appealed to the continuous teaching of the dogmas and doctrines of the Church to defend and justify my actions, you ignored the argument and demanded obedience as the only moral norm. You then claimed that the law itself excommunicated me and later unjustly and illegally implemented a process of administrative laicization to destroy my priesthood and deny my canonical rights of due process.

Surely you must appreciate the irony? You have already denied that the dogmas of our faith are legitimate grounds for disobedience. You have already denied the right to demand papal clarification of doctrinal questions. Soon you will be directed to follow the heard that will conform to the heretical and immoral accepted practical application of *Amoris Laetitia*. I applaud the action taken by Cardinal Burke and the other three cardinals. They like you have appealed to the truths of our Faith but that did not prevent the open reply of your brother bishop and fellow Franciscan, Frankiskos Papamanolis, OFM, Cap., Bishop emeritus of Syron, Santorini and Crete and the President of the Episcopal Conference of Greece, from accusing them of the “sin of heresy” and “schism,” possible “apostasy,” and “the grave sin of scandal” for their disobedience. But without a direct appeal and defense of *dogma* as *dogma*, the formal object of divine and Catholic faith, the four cardinals will be pushed aside by the “obedient” mob. Truth does not carry much weight in the Church of the New Advent.

The difference between you and me is that I still have the truths of our faith as my guide to which I have conformed my life and my actions, and you have not. I was going to ask, ‘How does it feel to be in my shoes?’, but you really are not in my shoes. You have already fired your best shot through the bottom of your little boat. You will have no time to set your course and row because you will be too busy bailing.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Samuel Waters
Pastor
Ss. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Mission

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P.S. Enclosed is a copy of the Open Letter to Pope Francis published in Catholic Family News that you should take the time to read and reflect upon.