

Vatican praises Bishop Foley's TV norms

WASHINGTON (CNS) - In a letter to a U.S. bishop, the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has rejected arguments that priests should give preference to Eucharistic Prayer 1 and should stand at the altar with their back to the people when they celebrate Mass.

The letter, responding to inquiries by Bishop David E. Foley of Birmingham, Ala., was sent to all U.S. bishops and was made public Feb. 22.

Also sent to the bishops were copies of detailed new norms Bishop Foley has issued for the proper celebration of any televised Masses produced in his diocese. Accompanying the norms was a second letter from the Vatican worship congrega-

tion, praising the norms and commending Bishop Foley for producing "a most useful pastoral instrument for the regulation of telecasts of the sacred liturgy."

While the norms apply only to televised Masses produced in the Birmingham Diocese, they have global import because that is the home of Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network.

EWTN airs a live Mass daily at noon Eastern time and reruns the tape each evening and again the following morning. The telecast can be seen across the United States and in numerous other countries where EWTN is carried. It also can be picked up worldwide on the Internet at www.ewtn.com.



Father Richard E. Donohoe, Birmingham diocesan secretary for liturgy, told Catholic News Service that Bishop Foley is supportive of Mother Angelica's work and appears personally each week on EWTN's "Pillars of Faith" program.

The televised Mass norms "are not going after her, but they are intended to make her work even better," he said in a telephone interview. He said the bishop

sent the norms to priests of the diocese and discussed them personally with the priests who celebrate the televised Masses before making the norms public.

The two Vatican letters to Bishop Foley were signed by the worship congregation's prefect, Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, and secretary, Archbishop Francesco Pio Tamburrino.

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Activist puts local face on international movement

Back in the mid-1980s, Carol Crossed, a parishioner at Rochester's Corpus Christi Church, was one of dozens of women in an encampment dedicated to protesting the alleged storage of nuclear weapons at the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus.

A feminist, anti-hunger and civil-rights activist as well, Crossed was regularly berated by a woman whose letters to area newspapers called her a Marxist, a lesbian and a witch.

For the record, Crossed was none of these things, though she said she doesn't consider such names to be insults. She was distressed by the letter-writer's constant barrage of criticism, however, so she looked up the woman's phone number and gave her a call.

The woman laid it out in plain English why she didn't like Crossed, who was also spearheading the local thrust of a national boycott of a major corporation's distribution of infant formula in Third World countries.

The boycott sought to prevent babies in those countries from becoming sick when formula was mixed with polluted water or malnourished when the formula was overdiluted.

"She said, 'You care about all these children dying from infant formula and dying from war — why don't you care about the unborn children,'" Crossed recalled, as she sat in her living room in Brighton.



Michelle V. Agins/NT Pictures
Carol Crossed is arrested for blocking a driveway in front of an abortion clinic in Amherst, N.Y., on April 22, 1992.

With that conversation began Crossed's foray into the anti-abortion movement, a cause she said she once thought was the province of "right-wing wackos." Today, there's no doubt that Crossed, who has been arrested for blocking abortion clinic entrances, is a pro-life wacko of the highest order. She now calls abortion "the slaughter of innocent children," yet has continued to pursue activism on fronts ranging from war to poverty. Crossed is that rare nonviolent activist who has been arrested for sitting-in anywhere she sees death laughing at life — be it at nuclear test sites, abortion clinics or even the office of a pro-military congressional representative.

Indeed, her allies in the consistent-life-ethic movement say that few activists wrap themselves more tightly than Crossed does in the "seamless garment of life," an umbrella philosophy that regards abortion, violence, war, the arms race, poverty, racism, euthanasia and the

death penalty as equally abhorrent.

Father Daniel Berrigan, SJ, the famed anti-Vietnam War activist, was arrested alongside Crossed for blocking a Monroe County abortionist's office. In a phone interview from his residence in New York City, he said Crossed was crucial to the fostering of the consistent ethic of life in this country.

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Story by ROB CULLIVAN