

February 2, 2009

Re: Industrial Areas Foundation

Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight
c/o Columbia Magazine
Columbia@kofc.org

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I wish discuss a subject with you that is of utmost importance. Please bear with me, as I have much to say. After reading your article "A Catholic Difference" in the January 2009 issue of Columbia, I feel you will be concerned as well. I quote your article: "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." Mr. Anderson, I couldn't agree with you more.

I am a Catholic prodigal daughter, trying hard to bring my life and soul to goodness through God's mercy and grace. My husband and I have four children, ages nine to twenty. Though our pasts were not exemplary, we are striving to be deserving of God's love. We are very involved at our Church, St. John the Baptist in Edmond, OK—just north of Oklahoma City. Until recently, we were content, tithing, and parishioners.

On October 7th I was invited to join a group of parishioners who would become the core team for a new ministry forming in Oklahoma City. The group was to be 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 explained the process of forming a core team for Oklahoma City. 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, and got quite a shock. 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. (A list of articles I find authentic is attached.)

I have a strong determination and desire to know and show others the truth. After printing off a dozen or more articles and highlighting the critical/negative parts, 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 the IAF who dedicated one of his books to Lucifer).

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 the Archbishop's office, hoping to get an appointment to see him and show him my papers. His secretary promised to convey my message to someone who would listen. Tish Eason, the general counsel for the diocese, 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 and said I was interested in being on the new core team but wanted to know more, and the 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.

In early December, I received a letter from my pastor, that he received from Catholic Charities⁶, giving a few excuses for some of my concerns, but none satisfied me. I have since met with a liaison to Catholic Charities. I feel it is pretty much a hopeless cause. A paper I found on the internet by Anthony Mansueto⁷ stated something I hadn't yet seen: a contract is signed between the IAF and the member churches. I was aware of the dues each church pays (I stopped tithing when I found out about this, and have not tithed since.) 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 quit his job when the new bishop revealed his right wing ideology, which conflicted with Mansueto's left leaning beliefs. It is a very revealing article about the inner-workings of IAF.

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, 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, women as priests, etc. The IAF also supports anti-Catholic groups like Pax Christi and Call to Action. And of course CCHD, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief, as well as many parishes support the IAF groups. That does not legitimize them. Catholic Charities 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. KOC shows 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 Beltran of Oklahoma City wrote an inspiring article before the election entitled "The Single, Most Important Issue"¹³. That is one reason I wish to talk to him to explain to him personally about the IAF. I know he is a good man and might be convinced to break the contract. If he truly believes it is the most important issue, then we must do something different from what is being done now.

I am not sure you can help me, or have time, but I implore you to point me in a direction where I can find help. I want to do what is best for the future—for my children, and for the Church, and for the World. 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. The churches' goal must be focused on doing God's work while following the doctrines that guide and protect us.

I feel that by hiring or contracting with a group like IAF, the Church is taking a shortcut to helping the poor—and at the same time is compromising on issues that are vitally important to our faith. Biblically, any time a person in the Bible compromised, disaster followed. Adam and Eve compromised on God's command to not eat the fruit and were driven from paradise. Abraham compromised on the truth and almost lost his life. Sara compromised on God's word and through Hagar—we lost peace in the Middle East. Esau compromised a meal with Jacob and lost his birthright. Aaron compromised his convictions of idolatry and lost the Promised Land. Samson compromised righteous devotion and lost his strength, his eyes and his life. David compromised his morals and lost his child. Solomon compromised his convictions and married foreign wives and lost the united kingdom. Annanias and his wife compromised on their word about giving and lost their lives. Judas compromised his love for Christ for 30 pieces of silver, and lost his eternal soul. Compromising is a theme that over and over God tries to tell us will cause a loss—never a gain.

We must not allow a group like IAF, who is politically divisive, to damage the Church even more than the priest sex scandal. Already, it has 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.

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.

I have provided endnotes that tie to many of my statements. The attached list is only a fraction of what I have researched. Please conduct your own research. This has been a long, hard road for me. But if not me, then who? (I will go if you lead me...)

I have so much more I could say, but I had hoped to keep this short. If you have an interest in this, or any ideas, I would so appreciate some guidance. I have been keeping things somewhat quiet but I am not sure it should remain thus much longer. I feel I am not accomplishing anything the quiet, systematic way. Also in the book *GatheringPower*, 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. Except affect the weekly contributions. Fortunately, money talks, even in the silence of the church.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in Christ,

Jo Joyce

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¹ <http://awashingtondccatholic.blogspot.com> "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://ncrcafe.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 Haeefe 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. Catholic Church funds ACORN and systemic wars by Stephanie Block
3. Bishops: "Abortion...destroys the common good." By James Martin, S.J.
4. Organizer in Chief by Steven Malanga
5. Campaign Capers by Judith M. Gordon
6. The Other Side of Change: Obama and Saul Alinsky by Mary Jo Anderson
7. "And the Greatest of These is Social Justice" by Charlotte Hays
8. A Typology of the American Protestant Left by Laura R. Olson

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9. American Catholics and Faith in Public Life by Stephanie Block
 10. Party Politics and the Priesthood by Eugene F. Diamond
 11. www.Restore-DC-Catholicism.com
 12. Open Letter to the Catholic Bishops of the US: Reform the Catholic Campaign for Human Development by Mary Ann Kreitzer and Stephanie Block
 13. Vatican Official Warns Catholic Charities to Guard Religious Integrity by Kathleen Gilbert, LifeSiteNews.com
 14. No Faith in Austin Interfaith by Paul Geleneser
 15. The Center For Action and Contemplation by Stephanie Block
 16. Naked City-Among the Interfaithful by Emily Pyle
 17. The Delphi Technique, CatholicCitizens.org
 18. What Would Saul Alinsky Do? By Jim Britell (complete interview w/Alinsky)
 19. Buy Fr. Z a cup of coffee 11-18-08 "From a priest about the collection for CHD" by Father John Zuhlsdorf
 20. The Participation of Catholics in Political Life (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith)
 21. The Future of Civil Society by Michael Novak
 22. Bishop's Beware, Catholic Media Coalition
 23. The Systemic Wars: CCHD funded by Change Agents by Stephanie Block
 24. A New Experience of the Church? The burgeoning interest in Small Christian Communities by Stephanie Block
 25. "Catholic" Political Groups Being Financed by George Soros, EWTN News
 26. My Best Education, World Magazine 10-10-08 by William Dembski and Edward Sisson
 27. A Commentary on the Industrial Areas Foundation, Catholic Culture
 28. The True Meaning of Catholic Action by Gregory M.A. Gronbacher, Ph.D.
 29. Socialism, Liberalism, Cultural Socialism, Wanderer Forum Foundation
 30. Social Teachings At Risk in the American Catholic Church by Michael Warner
 31. Gramsci Week: Antonio Gramsci and "the long march through the culture", Maggie's Farm
 32. Alinskyian organizing: interfaith hazard? By Stephanie Block
 33. Dissonant "Voice" by Greg L.
 34. Rules of power tactics, Semcosh
 35. Vatican Official Warns Catholic Charities to Guard Religious Integrity, Brown Pelican Society Commentary
 36. The Role of the Church Militant Today by Fr. John Perricone
 37. The Politics of the Left On Being Politically Correct by Laurene Connor
 38. ACORN: Value of Community Organizing (from ACORN)
 39. Thank ACORN for Current Mortgage Crisis by Stan Liebowitz (New York Post)
 40. ACORN: Highly Professional Poverty Pimps
 41. www.DiscoverTheNetwork.org (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now)
 42. Connecting People to Politics: The Role of Religious Institutions in the Texas Industrial Areas Foundation Network by Mark R. Warren (Fordham Univ.)
 43. GoingGlobal: Interfaith Journeys on the Road to Liberation, Baylor Univ.
 44. Is Durham CAN Really Non-Ideological? (Carolina Journal)
 45. Industrial Areas Foundation, Washington Rural Organizing Project (page 10)

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46. Catholics rebuffing controversial charity by Julia Duin
 47. Jesus Christ Was NOT a Community Organizer! By Ariel 9-12-08 (read thru #26)
 48. 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