

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
c/o St Paul's Lutheran Church

Comment [ccb1]: Addressed to Bp Rhoades because the Roman Catholics are the primary target just now ... and he has been a leading spokesman among Catholic bishops on this issue.

Dear Bishop Rhoades:

Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We the undersigned members of _____ Church in City, State, give thanks with you to our gracious God for the blessings we Americans have thus far enjoyed that result from our Constitution's protections for Freedom of Religion. We are thankful to have escaped the tragic results of government control of the Church that so many other lands have suffered.

Comment [ccb2]: Sep of Church and State was intended to protect the CHURCH from the State! Only recently has this been reversed.

We also give thanks with you for the many works of mercy – schools, hospitals, orphanages and other institutions – that Our Lord Jesus Christ has provided through His Church through the centuries to care for the poor, the infirm, youth, and the elderly. We are thankful that, in this country, these agencies have thus far been free to operate with minimal interference from the civil authorities, and thus through love bring healing and mercy that could not be accomplished by the sword of the State.

Comment [ccb3]: The CHURCH invented charity and was the main supplier until very recently.

Comment [ccb4]: The Church's instruments are the Gospel and love; the State's instrument is the sword: compulsion is NOT *caritas*

We are also thankful for your strong stand for Freedom of Conscience in the current struggles in which the civil authorities have been attempting to transgress fundamental rights guaranteed to us by the U.S. Constitution, especially Religious Liberty. We consider the freedom to preach, teach, and **practice** our faith in this land a real blessing from God and we stand with you in its defense. May God bless you and all those who labor in this cause, because it is our cause too.

We remain
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
c/o St Paul's Lutheran Church

Comment [ccb5]: Addressed to Bp Rhoades because the Roman Catholics are the primary target just now ... and he has been a leading spokesman among Catholic bishops on this issue.

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Comment [ccb6]: Sep of Church and State was intended to protect the CHURCH from the State! Only recently has this been reversed.

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Comment [ccb7]: The CHURCH invented charity and was the main supplier until very recently.

Comment [ccb8]: The Church's instruments are the Gospel and love; the State's instrument is the sword: compulsion is NOT *caritas*

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