



TO: The Catholic Bishops of the United States, Clergy,
Members of Religious Institutes and Societies of
Apostolic Life, Staff of the United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops and State Catholic Conferences, and
our fellow Catholic Voters, and all people of Good Will

FROM: Brian Burch, CatholicVote President

DATE: September 25, 2024

SUBJECT: The clear and present danger presented by the Harris-
Walz-Biden faction of the Democratic Party to all
practicing Catholics and to those Church-sponsored
institutions faithful to the Church's teachings

It is with deep anxiety that we write to address the recent comments from Pope Francis that both President Trump and Vice President Harris are "against life" because Trump "kicks out migrants" and Harris supports "killing babies." The Holy Father added that American Catholics must decide which of the presidential candidates represents the "lesser evil" when casting our votes this November.

We write to warn you – our shepherds, priests, religious, Catholic brothers and sisters, and all people of good will – that Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz represent a "clear and present danger" to practicing Catholics and to all Church-sponsored institutions that are, and seek to remain, faithful to the Church's teachings.

We respectfully submit that we must come together, as Catholics, to defend not only our hard-won freedom to practice our faith openly and without penalty or restraint, but also the many Catholic institutions and associations built and supported by generations of Catholics, often in the face of great prejudice and overt hostility.

Harris' Shockingly Open Belief that Catholics Are Unfit for Public Office

As a member of the United States Senate, Kamala Harris used her position on the powerful Judiciary Committee to attack Catholic nominees. She made no secret of her belief that Catholics, precisely due to their deeply-held religious beliefs, are unfit to serve on the federal bench.

"Kamala Harris used her position on the powerful Judiciary Committee to attack Catholic nominees."

When Brian Buescher was nominated for the Nebraska Federal District Court, Harris confronted him in writing because he was, in her words, "a member of the Knights of Columbus, an all-male society comprised primarily of Catholic men."

"Were you aware," she asked Buescher in a questionnaire, "that the Knights of Columbus opposed a woman's right to choose when you joined the organization?"

She was equally hostile to Buescher on the issue of marriage, and she suggested that his belief – required by Catholic teaching – that marriage is between a man and a woman disqualified him from serving on the federal bench.

Her display of anti-Catholic bigotry against Buescher in 2018 was not an isolated incident. Harris grilled two other Catholics nominated to the federal bench – Paul Matey and Peter Phipps – in the same way.

And after making clear the shocking anti-Catholicism that motivated her decision in each case, Harris voted against all three nominees.

Many in the public, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, were outraged by Harris' open display of bigotry against Catholic nominees.

As a member of the bar and the former attorney general of the largest state in the nation, Harris well knows that Article VI of the Constitution prohibits such discriminatory questioning. It clearly states: "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

The embarrassment she caused herself likely shaped her line of questioning during the much higher-profile hearings for Supreme Court nominees Amy Coney Barrett and Brett Kavanaugh, both Catholics: While Harris was just as aggressive in confronting their convictions about marriage and abortion as she was in confronting the previous nominees' – she studiously avoided directly mentioning their Catholic faith.

With that background in mind, however, it's impossible not to read into Harris' hostility toward

the justices of the Supreme Court (four of them Catholic) who repealed *Roe v. Wade* the same anti-Catholic sentiment she made so clear during her time in the Senate.

Harris herself seemed to anticipate how unmistakable the consistency of her opposition to Catholic jurists has been during a 2024 campaign speech just last month. After vowing to “fight for a woman’s right to choose,” she hastened to add: “because one does not have to abandon their faith or deeply held beliefs to agree the government should not be telling her what to do.”

Her very next remark made clear how focused she was on those Catholic justices. Former President Donald Trump “hand-picked three members of the United States Supreme Court because he intended for them to overturn *Roe v. Wade*,” she said, lamenting that the high court was “previously the court of Thurgood and RBG.”

In the Border Crisis, Harris Has Overseen an All-Out Assault on Human Dignity

Harris was one of the loudest critics of the Trump administration’s efforts to secure the southern border of the United States. She claimed Republican policies were inhumane and vowed to act with compassion on behalf of migrants if elected vice president.

But after she entered the White House and President Joe Biden entrusted her to lead his administration’s immigration policies, her previous rhetoric quickly proved empty.

“Don’t come,” she said to desperate refugees in an incompetent and vain effort to stem the crush at the border in 2021. The televised statement was simplistic, insensitive to the plight of those wishing to enter the country via a humane and orderly process, and perfectly expressed Harris’ unwillingness to engage in the hard work that the horrific human rights crisis at the border requires.

House oversight officials have also raised alarms that much of the worsening of the humanitarian crisis at the border came as a direct result of executive orders by the Biden-Harris administration – some of which Harris had a hand in implementing almost immediately upon taking office.

Since then, there have been 1.9 million reported “gotaways” – cases in which illegal border crossers evaded formal processing of any kind. At the beginning of this year, Biden-Harris Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas admitted at least 70% of illegal border crossers were being released into the U.S. He also acknowledged that the numbers of border-crossings had reached “historic” levels.

With soaring numbers of asylum seekers at the border and Harris’ refusal to offer any clear directives to address the growing crisis, we have seen almost weekly reports over the past four

years of vulnerable migrants, many of them women and children, sheltered under bridges or in makeshift hostels on school properties and at warehouses.

Those who do manage to enter the country and settle in without full legal status are forced into a dangerous situation all their own: without recourse to the workplace safety laws available to citizens, migrant workers are notoriously vulnerable to overwork and other abuses.

And perhaps most horrifying of all, Harris has entirely lost track of tens of thousands of migrant children.

The non-partisan, Pulitzer Prize-winning Center for Public Integrity reported this year:

According to the FBI, more than 98% of all children that go missing in the U.S. are found. But the numbers for migrant children are grim. Less than 1% of the 3,340 migrant children reported missing to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services between October 2019 and April 2023 have been found.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement received 6,318 calls “reporting missing or runaway migrant children between January 2018 and April 2023,” the Center reported. “We also found that the number of calls more than doubled every year since 2020.”

An internal investigation within the Biden-Harris administration released a report last month (August, 2024), and its findings were damning. As ABC News reported:

The interim report, sent to Congress on Tuesday and obtained by ABC News, said that -- in the past five years -- more than 32,000 unaccompanied migrant children failed to appear for their immigration court hearings, and ICE was “not able to account” for all of their locations.

...

“Without an ability to monitor the location and status of [unaccompanied migrant children], ICE has no assurance [they] are safe from trafficking, exploitation, or forced labor,” Inspector General Joseph Cuffari wrote in his interim report.

A former senior Biden-Harris administration official told the news site Axios this year that Harris has “been at best ineffective, and at worst sporadically engaged and not seeing” the immigration crisis “was her responsibility. It’s an opportunity for her, and she didn’t fill the breach.”

“Kamala Harris and Tim Walz represent something more jarring and unprecedented than any Democratic position on a single issue: A policy of directly targeting and doing harm to Catholics who reject their agenda.”

Unprecedented: Harris has Catholics Threatened, Surveilled, and Prosecuted

Over the decades, the Democratic Party has increasingly advanced positions that run counter to Catholic beliefs. The party’s embrace of abortion has become more emphatic with each election cycle – going from the relatively measured “safe, legal, and rare” rhetoric of the Bill Clinton years to today’s popular protest chant “abortion on demand without apology.”

In addition, somewhere between the 2008 election and 2012, the Democratic Party adopted the cause of redefining marriage – over and against the objections of faithful Catholics.

But Kamala Harris and Tim Walz represent something more jarring and unprecedented than any Democratic position on a single issue: A policy of directly targeting and doing harm to Catholics who reject their agenda.

ANTI-CATHOLIC VIOLENCE GOES UNPROSECUTED

After a May 2022 document leak revealed that the Supreme Court appeared poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the FBI became aware of numerous radical activist groups’ plans to carry out what they called a “Summer of Rage.”

According to Justice Samuel Alito, the leak not only “created an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust” within the Court; it made the Catholic justices “targets of assassination.”

Secretive terrorist organizations like “Jane’s Revenge” posted calls for violence on social media and online message boards. They targeted not only the homes of Catholic Supreme Court justices but the churches they attended and even the Catholic schools they sent their children to.

The activist group “Ruth Sent Us” publicly organized demonstrations at “the homes of the six extremist justices, three in Virginia and three in Maryland.” Federal law prohibits picketing or parading near the residence of a justice, judge, juror, or witness “with the intent of influencing ... the discharge of his duty.”

Nonetheless, citing the First Amendment, Biden-Harris Attorney General Merrick Garland refused to enforce the law, even though Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin and former

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan requested that they do so.

By early June, law enforcement had arrested a gunman near the home of Catholic Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The suspect admitted to police he had planned to kill more than one member of the court, and that he was motivated by their reported plan to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Within days of the Supreme Court leak in May, the list of targets grew to include churches throughout the nation – whom the radicals considered guilty by association due to our shared Catholic faith. They disrupted Masses and menaced churchgoers on Sundays throughout the summer of 2022.

“CatholicVote has documented nearly 300 acts of violence and vandalism against churches, sacred statues, and other Catholic properties, since May 2022.”

They also began a campaign of attacks – most of them in the dead of night – on Catholic churches. Those attacks spiked in 2022 *but are still ongoing*. In fact, just in the past month a Catholic church building in Michigan was broken into and vandalized – for the third time in a year.

Along with others, I have repeatedly contacted the Biden-Harris administration to ask for updates on these anti-Catholic terrorist activities, which we know the FBI began tracking as soon as they started. Many of the attacks arguably constitute felony crimes, violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, a federal law whose text protects not only medical facilities but also houses of worship.

In response, the administration has done virtually nothing, all but ignoring our warnings and letters of concern.

My organization has documented *nearly 300* acts of violence and vandalism – including obscene and blasphemous anti-Catholic graffiti and even arson – against churches, sacred statues, and other Catholic properties, since May 2022.

The Department of Justice for the administration in which Harris – an experienced prosecutor – plays a leading role has only taken legal action against a single perpetrator.

In that case, the DOJ recommended no jail time.

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION INSTEAD TARGETS CATHOLICS

As pro-abortion terrorists began their campaign of anti-Catholic intimidation and violence, the Biden-Harris administration made a shocking move.

Rather than prosecute attacks on Catholics, the administration began prosecuting pro-life activists – many of them Catholic – for FACE Act violations.

From her perch within the administration, Vice President Harris has since overseen a barrage of legal actions against *dozens* of pro-life Americans in what the Catholic legal group the Thomas More Society called an onslaught of “virulent prosecutions” against pro-life citizens.

In one of the most outrageous cases, the Biden-Harris Justice Department sent a SWAT-style team to the home of pro-life Catholic husband and father of seven Mark Houck in the early hours of the morning. They arrested him at gunpoint as his wife and terrified children looked on, still in their pajamas.

The new onslaught of attacks from Harris’ administration is entirely unprecedented, representing an alarming new agenda of punishing those who hold the Catholic Church’s view on the sanctity of life.

Houck was later acquitted of the FACE Act charges the Biden-Harris team brought against him. Those charges were based on an incident when Houck defended his 12-year-old son from a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic volunteer who was harassing the boy during a peaceful protest.

Others targeted in these prosecutions were not as fortunate, including young stay-at-home moms and elderly women. Some of the “crimes” the Biden-Harris administration paraded through the courts amounted to

little more than praying on a public sidewalk.

Just last month (August, 2024) an 89-year-old Christian woman named Eva Edl was found “guilty” under the FACE Act. She now faces over 10 years in prison and a massive fine upon sentencing. As a girl, Eva survived a concentration camp in Eastern Europe before fleeing to the U.S. When the Biden-Harris administration first brought her up on charges, Edl said she began preparing to die in prison.

Many others now face years in prison too for praying and peacefully witnessing outside of abortion facilities – as thousands of Catholics have done throughout the country for decades.

The new onslaught of attacks from Harris’ administration is entirely unprecedented, representing an alarming new agenda of punishing those who hold the Catholic Church’s view on the sanctity of life.

BIDEN-HARRIS FBI SURVEILLED CATHOLIC PARISHES, ATTEMPTED TO CULTIVATE 'SOURCES' AMONG DIOCESAN EMPLOYEES

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The memo at first seemed only to target what those officials deemed "radical-traditional" Catholics, labeling their parishes as potential breeding grounds for domestic terrorism.

It soon became apparent that the scope of the memo was far greater.

The FBI, in its own words, had been working to develop "new avenues for tripwire and source development" at ordinary Catholic churches, which the Bureau called "mainline Catholic parishes."

The FBI had also been recruiting "sources" among "local diocesan leadership."

The Biden-Harris administration has stonewalled both CatholicVote (we have filed suit for more information) and Congressional lawmakers charged with oversight of the agency. We still do not know the full scale of the FBI's invasion and surveillance of Catholic citizens' church communities and the offices of our religious leaders.

The FBI and DOJ did reveal to Congressional investigators that the administration had aimed to "sensitize" Catholic Mass-goers "to the warning signs of radicalization," and to "enlist their assistance to serve as suspicious activity tripwires" – essentially recruiting Catholics to report one another to the Biden-Harris administration's top law enforcement agencies.

Catholics were astounded and chilled by these revelations. Bishops spoke out against them. Harris, for her part, has made no comment and offered no apology or explanation regarding the historic scandal.

HARRIS' RECORD SHOWS SHE CONSIDERS CATHOLICISM AN AFFRONT TO THE LAW

But the Biden-Harris administration's shocking aggression against Catholics and other pro-life Americans is not entirely new. When she served as Attorney General in California, Kamala Harris

pushed numerous legislative efforts designed to silence and threaten citizens who opposed her policy preferences, an extreme measure even for a progressive state.

Harris threw the weight of her office behind California's Reproductive FACT Act, which would have forced pro-life pregnancy resource centers – many of them run by Catholics – to refer women for abortions. The law so clearly violated the conscience rights of Christian clinic workers that the Supreme Court quickly struck it down.

In her later position in the Senate, Harris advocated for bills that directly attacked religious freedom.

She introduced and was the lead sponsor of the Do No Harm Act, which would have gutted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a bipartisan Clinton-era measure that protects Catholics from being prosecuted or coerced over their religious beliefs.

In making the case for her legislation, Harris argued that Catholics and their allies used the religious freedom protections she wanted to do away with as a "license to discriminate" – suggesting that Catholic views ought to be treated as illegal violations of the "rights" to abortion and LGBTQ practices.

The devastating implications of her proposed legislation can hardly be overstated. Under the Do No Harm Act, Catholic hospital workers could be fired and even prosecuted for objecting to abortions.

They would similarly be forced to subject children to sexual surgeries and hormone treatments.

Even members of religious orders like the Little Sisters of the Poor would be required, on pain of fines and possible imprisonment, to assent to abortions and the controversial tenets of the LGBTQ movement.

And faced with the draconian requirements of Harris' proposed law, Catholic adoption and foster care services would likely be forced to close down rather than violate their faith. The result? Thousands of America's most vulnerable children would be left without the desperately needed support provided by Catholics.

Harris also co-sponsored the Equality Act, which would have threatened the tax-exempt status of faith organizations and forced Catholic medical professionals to choose between their faith and their careers by compelling them to participate in procedures the Church forbids.

In 2020, as if her hostility to Catholics weren't already clear enough, Harris became a strident backer of the lockdowns that numerous legal experts decried for particularly targeting houses of worship after the outbreak of COVID-19.

Her choice of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate is related to the position she took four years ago. Walz's appointment is disturbingly consistent with Harris' record of animosity toward Catholics.

In 2020, Walz issued an executive order that banned Masses and church services with more than ten people – effectively forcing Catholic parishes across the state to shutter their doors.

Yet the same executive order allowed retail stores “to operate at 50 percent capacity.”

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty wrote in a May 2020 press release: *“Governor Walz’s latest reopening order allows the Mall of America to open its doors to those seeking retail therapy but disallows churches from providing spiritual healing to their congregations.”*

Neither Walz nor Harris ever issued any apology to Catholics or accepted responsibility for this uncalled for singling out of houses of worship– some of which have still not fully recovered from the interruption in attendance and charitable giving among their parishioners.

And as Vice President just two years later, Harris invited a group of “faith leaders” to the White House to discuss “reproductive rights” after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe*.

She hosted this summit while Catholic institutions were under attack by pro-abortion terrorist organizations.

Significantly, not a single Catholic leader was invited to the White House that day, despite the fact that the Catholic Church is the single largest private provider of services to women and children in the United States.

Harris' Abortion Activism Targets Believers, Catholic Institutions

Kamala Harris is a longtime, fervent promoter of abortion – itself an evil that the Catholic Church's timeless teachings oppose. But on top of that, she consistently goes beyond mere abortion advocacy. In fact, in virtually every one of Harris' attacks on Catholics and Catholic institutions I've written about in this memo so far, she used abortion advocacy as the justification.

Put another way, in all of her abortion advocacy, Harris almost always manages to go about it in a way that directly confronts and threatens Catholics or insults our bishops.

Her aggressive anti-Catholic questioning of judicial nominees while she served in the Senate starting in 2018 is far from the only instance. Even the attacks on Catholic charitable

organizations, hospitals, and foster-care providers over our faith's teachings on the sanctity of life don't exhaust the examples I could give.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HARRIS ATTACKED A PRO-LIFE JOURNALIST

While serving as California's attorney general in 2015, Harris launched a campaign of shock-and-awe lawfare against a Catholic investigative journalist operating in her state.

David Daleiden's investigation had exposed Planned Parenthood and its affiliates, embarrassing them on the national stage. Daleiden's undercover videos showed executives speaking with appalling callousness about preborn babies and their mothers.

The videos also captured abortion executives handling the actual remains of children who had lost their lives in abortions.

These abortion industry insiders showed no regard for human dignity.

In response, reportedly at the request of Planned Parenthood itself, Harris lent her full power as California's top prosecutor to the abortion industry. She sent armed officers to Daleiden's home. She ordered that his files and footage be ransacked, and she confiscated the evidence he had accumulated.

SENATOR HARRIS STOOD AGAINST BISHOPS URGING THE PROTECTION OF BABIES WHO SURVIVED ABORTIONS

In her later term as a senator, Harris went on to vote NO on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a bill vocally backed by Catholic leaders that would simply have required healthcare providers to give medical care to babies who survive abortions rather than leave them on an operating table to starve and die.

She voted NO on the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The bill would have protected unborn babies from late-term abortions, during stages when science has discovered they are capable of feeling excruciating pain inflicted by the tools used in abortion procedures.

She voted NO on the Support and Value Expectant Moms and Babies Act, which would have prohibited the Food and Drug Administration from rubber-stamping mail-order abortion drugs for dangerous at-home abortions.

And she voted NO on a bill that would have codified the Hyde Amendment – a bipartisan bill (supported by majorities in both parties for decades) prohibiting the use of taxpayer dollars to directly fund abortions.

VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS ‘MADE HISTORY’: FIRST SITTING CABINET MEMBER TO VISIT ABORTION FACILITY

In March of this year, Harris touted herself as the first sitting member of an administration to visit an abortion facility.

“I am here to uplift the work that is happening in Minnesota as an example of what true leadership looks like,” she said to her audience at a Planned Parenthood facility in the state. “And please do understand that when we talk about a clinic such as this it is absolutely about healthcare and reproductive healthcare.”

That day, Harris was joined by her future running mate, Governor Tim Walz, and an abortionist active in multiple states.

GOVERNOR WALZ MADE MINNESOTA ONE OF THE MOST PRO-ABORTION STATES IN THE UNION

Since his election in 2018, Governor Tim Walz has made his state a haven for the abortion industry – and a dark and threatening environment for babies and new mothers.

“SF 2995, which Walz signed in May 2023, effectively repealed Minnesota’s informed-consent law,” leading to a 37% increase in abortions during the following three months, reports pro-life researcher and legal expert Michael J. New, who teaches at the Catholic University of America and serves as a Senior Associate Scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute.

Walz’s law also eliminated a \$3-million grant program for pregnancy resource centers offering support to expectant mothers as an alternative to abortion, instead increasing state reimbursements for moms who abort via Minnesota’s Medicaid program.

“It also repealed provisions preventing coerced abortions,” New wrote:

It gets even worse. Data from the Minnesota Department of Health indicate that since Governor Walz was inaugurated in 2019, eight babies survived abortion attempts

in Minnesota. On five occasions, no measures were taken to preserve life. On three occasions, only comfort care was provided. Tragically, all of these babies died. Instead of strengthening protections for these children, SF 2995 repealed the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, which was intended to provide legal protection for infants who survived abortions.

“Overall, Tim Walz’s record on sanctity-of-life issues is clear,” New reports. “He wants more taxpayer funding for the abortion industry. He wants less taxpayer support for pro-life pregnancy centers that help pregnant women, families, and children in need. He wants dramatically less government oversight over the abortion industry. He opposes legal protection for infants who survive abortion attempts.”

“These positions,” New added, “are clearly out of step with the views held by most Americans. Unfortunately, they are similar to the positions held by Kamala Harris and countless other Democratic elected officials.”

Harris-Walz Hostility to the Family

Harris’ use of abortion advocacy as a cudgel against Catholic institutions has a strong parallel in her promotion of lockstep uniformity in the public school system as a weapon wielded against the institution of the family.

HARRIS HELPED USE TITLE IX TO MANIPULATE AND COERCE SCHOOLCHILDREN

The Biden-Harris administration has launched numerous attacks against the interests of American families via a radical rewriting of Title IX protections that many experts have decried as legally untenable.

In continuity with past Harris-backed legislative efforts like the Do No Harm Act, the administration’s Title IX interpretation radically undermines the purpose of the hardwon landmark legislation.

Title IX originally represented a great victory for women, offering them their own legally defined and protected spaces in education and sports. But the Biden-Harris rewrite eliminates protections from discrimination on the basis of “sex” in favor of banning actions taken on the basis of a person’s claimed “gender identity.”

Harris, an experienced lawyer and prosecutor, likely foresaw many of the results of this radical new legal philosophy: Years of heartbreak, legislative battles, and intimidation for female

students and athletes.

Numerous women's advocates have united against the presence of males who claim to be female in full-contact competitive sports arenas with girls and young women. Women robbed of championships, forced to change in front of males in previously female-only locker rooms, and even physically injured by larger male competitors are taking legal action across the country.

Unsurprisingly, many polls show the public blindsided by the radical moves the Biden-Harris administration has made to impose its vision on American schools.

Also unsurprisingly, there has been resistance from parents and school officials concerned for the safety of their students.

But last year, the Biden-Harris administration concocted a plan to force schools to cooperate: penalize schools that fail to implement its Title IX rules by depriving them of the funding they need for school lunches.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack explained at the time that the draconian move was for the purpose of "rooting out discrimination in any form" from schools, "including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity."

"At the same time, we must recognize the vulnerability of the LGBTQI+ communities and provide them with an avenue to grieve any discrimination they face," Vilsack added. "We hope that by standing firm against these inequities we will help bring about much-needed change."

THE SCANDALOUS CONSPIRACY TO LAUNCH A DIRECT ATTACK ON PARENTS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

The Catholic Church teaches that parents' role as the primary educators of their children is a sacred principle, foundational to a healthy civil society. Harris has repeatedly shown herself hostile to that principle – especially in the positions the Biden-Harris administration has taken in the area of education.

Most of the public initially supported school closures as a precaution directly after the outbreak of COVID-19. But as time went by, and especially after 2020 had passed and Democratic officials – including a newly elected Vice President Kamala Harris – supported a policy of prolonging school lockdowns, parents of every political stripe grew concerned.

The length of the closures, combined with controversies stemming from parents' discovery of questionable materials in their children's curricula, led to widespread parental attendance at

school board and parent-teacher meetings.

In many cases, members of local school boards agreed with the pro-lockdown position of the Democratic establishment and leading teachers' unions. Parents, increasingly, did not.

Rather than listen respectfully to the concerns of parents, however, teachers' union bosses and other education officials went to the Biden-Harris administration for backup. Unfortunately, the administration obliged – siding with those who rejected the rights of families to offer input on their own children's education.

In October 2021, administration officials announced they would send FBI and Department of Justice officers to "identify" and "prosecute" "threats" connected with public unrest against school officials.

The decision came in response to a letter from the National School Boards Association (NSBA), which called on the administration to invoke the Patriot Act against concerned parents, whose vocal complaints at school board meetings could be prosecuted as a form of "domestic terrorism."

The attempt to intimidate parents and rob them of their sacred role in the education of their children backfired immediately.

Regardless of political affiliation, parents across the board took action. Some ran for school board seats themselves – and many won in the 2022 election season. Others simply opted – in huge numbers – to pull their kids out of the public school system and either home-school them or send them to private schools. Catholic parochial schools saw an increase in business during this period.

A scandal began to emerge when, during later hearings before lawmakers overseeing the administration, Biden-Harris Attorney General Merrick Garland admitted he issued the threat to deploy the FBI and DOJ against parents at the behest of the NSBA.

The scandal reached a new peak, however, when further investigations revealed that officials within Biden-Harris administration, including Garland himself, *had collaborated with the NSBA to produce the initial letter calling on him to act against parents.*

ROBBING PARENTS OF THE RIGHT TO SEND THEIR KIDS TO THE SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE

In the leadup to the 2020 election, then-presidential candidate Joe Biden made clear his position on the issue of school choice. "When we divert public funds to private schools, we

undermine the entire public education system,” he stated. “We’ve got to prioritize investing in our public schools ... I oppose vouchers.”

The Biden-Harris administration has a record of “actively suppressing” charter schools, according to a recent report by education experts Michael Hartney and Daniel DiSalvo.

Clearly, the administration opposes families and sides instead with the public education establishment, including the same massive teachers’ unions that have alienated a great number of parents since 2020.

Some may argue the positions of a potential Harris administration can’t be predicted based on those of the current administration. Perhaps that is Harris’ hope – and the reason why she has so far been “avoiding the issue” of whether she would favor expanding the school choice cause on the campaign trail, as Hartney and DiSalvo noted.

“Harris’ vice-presidential pick of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz signals that she may continue the Biden administration’s hostility to the issue,” however:

Walz, a former high school teacher, has not supported school choice reforms, despite their broad public support in Minnesota, and is a staunch ally of organized labor. This could spell trouble for the ticket. ...According to Harvard University’s 2022 EdNext poll, a staggering 72% of Black Americans support private school vouchers, but just 41% of White Democrats do.

The national pro-school choice organization Invest in Education issued a statement as soon as the Harris-Walz ticket was fully formed, accusing the vice-presidential candidate of favoring “special interests over parents and children.”

“Governor Walz has opposed empowering parents and giving children the opportunity to get the education of their choice and has defended the educational status quo, which has hurt students across the country,” said Anthony de Nicola, chairman of Invest in Education Coalition:

We need strong leaders who will fight to expand school choice so that every child, regardless of their ZIP code, has a chance at a great education. Instead, Kamala Harris and her running mate are bankrolled by the teachers’ unions and are prioritizing special interests over parents and their children.

Invest in Education also cited the nonpartisan school choice organization EdChoice, which found “Gov. Tim Walz does not have a history of supporting educational choice in Minnesota... He also has a history of declining meetings with educational choice parent advocates.”

Catholic educators, school principals, and bishops throughout the country have consistently

pleaded with public officials to support school choice, citing the teachings of our faith that put the freedoms and responsibilities of parents first.

It appears, however, that education is yet another policy area in which a Harris-Walz administration could be expected to act against America's Catholics.

HARRIS-WALZ TICKET THREATENS TO TEAR FAMILIES APART OVER ABORTION, 'TRANSGENDERISM'

There is a disturbing theme that runs through nearly all of the abortion- and LGBTQ-related legislation and policy that both Harris and Walz favor: the annihilation of parents' rights to know and have a say in what is going on in their children's lives.

THE TRANSGENDER INDUSTRY ROBS PARENTS OF THEIR CHILDREN

The result could quickly be that Catholic parochial schools would find themselves forced to comply with a gender ideology that violates Catholic beliefs – or risk losing their tax exemptions.

The Harris-backed Equality Act makes no distinction between ages. It encourages children in schools to take on new "gender identities" and even to pursue dangerous drugs and surgeries to "affirm" them.

Worse, it often does not distinguish between public and private schools. The result could quickly be that Catholic parochial schools would find themselves forced to comply with a gender ideology that violates Catholic beliefs – or risk losing their tax exemptions.

As if a mandated invasion of Catholic institutions by secular authorities weren't bad enough, the legislation also lays the groundwork for parents to be excluded from their children's formation. The Equality Act would have teachers label children as "transgender," for example, *without informing their parents*.

It is not an exaggeration to suggest that, under the Equality Act, parents with children in Catholic schools could soon find themselves fighting with LGBTQ operatives over whether their daughters should be planning to have their breasts removed.

An outcome like that seems too hideous to be a real possibility, and we may be tempted to dismiss it as fearmongering. But not when the Harris-Walz ticket openly advocates it.

Just last year, Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order promoting “transgender” surgeries in Minnesota.

In a press release, his office made it very clear what the order was truly about: “children.”

“Our number one job is to keep children safe,” said Walz’s lieutenant governor in a joint statement with Walz. “This Executive Order does just that.”

“Gender affirming health care is safe, scientifically proven, and lifesaving,” the statement went on. When children “tell us that this care will help them feel safer, happier, and more themselves, it is our job to listen and to believe them.”

There is in fact nothing “scientifically proven” about these dangerous experimental surgeries, and the position of Harris and Walz is in fact radical – far out of step with the latest science-backed policy moves of officials in Europe.

In the last year, for example, the United Kingdom has drastically curtailed the “transgender medicine” industry, having found through the latest research that children subjected to its methods suffer horribly as a result.

In the U.S. meanwhile, politicians like Harris and Walz ignore a growing number of young men and women bringing lawsuits against the school counselors and doctors whom they say horribly wounded them during their most vulnerable years.

A common theme in the victims’ complaints is that when they were first labeled and “affirmed” as “transgender,” they were extremely depressed or otherwise mentally unstable. Combined with being in a state of great trauma and confusion, they were also very young – too young, in many cases, to make decisions (under current, commonsensical laws we all agree on) without the approval of a parent or guardian.

But in the radical view of the current Democratic ticket, the “transgender medicine” industry is somehow so important that it deserves exemption from all the norms that we apply to all other life-changing decisions made by minors.

PROMOTING ABORTION TO UNDERAGE GIRLS, OVER-AGAINST PARENTS

Kamala Harris was among the first cosponsors in the Senate of the Women’s Health Protection Act of 2019. The legislation would have imposed abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, nationwide.

It also would have trumped and undone numerous state laws enacted by the people's elected representatives and approved by the public. Among the laws Harris' bill would have overridden are those requiring that parents be informed if their underage daughters seek abortions.

Walz's Minnesota is also exceptionally unfriendly to parents. "In 1990, after a protracted legal battle, Minnesota started to enforce a strong pro-life parental-notification law," reported Michael J. New. "It was one of the few laws that required the involvement of both parents."

Walz has been a vocal opponent of such requirements, and in 2022, after a series of legal efforts, a district judge struck down the parental involvement law.

Conclusion

From a Catholic perspective, the real harm we can expect from a Harris-Walz administration transcends politics-as-usual and deserves urgent moral consideration. Their agenda and our response to it is not a matter of petty debates over "issues," but a matter that deeply implicates our consciences – and our fundamental duties of charity, justice, and solidarity.

The Catholic Church and Catholics who remain faithful to Her teachings are formidable obstacles in the current Democratic ticket's ongoing efforts to realize their vision for America's future. Catholics therefore have both a moral and political duty to resist that vision and insist on our own: the broad and tolerant vision of true religion which we share with our nation's founders and no doubt – if we make our case in all truth and charity – the majority of our fellow citizens.

If the ongoing, selective prosecutions and targeting of Catholic citizens over the past four years have taught us anything, it is this: *All* Catholics must understand that more of the same and worse could be the fate of those who remain faithful to Our Lord under a Harris-Walz administration.