

Concerned Parents, Alumni, and Donors of Jesuit High School

- *A faithfully Catholic, diverse, multi-racial, and multi-ethnic group of Jesuit High School Parents, Alumni, and Donors, from multiple Diocese of Sacramento parishes, with family and individual roots in Jesuit schools in California and across the country, assembled for the purpose of seeking a return of Jesuit High School to a place training “Men for Others” in the Roman Catholic tradition*

URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 4, 2021

VIA EMAIL AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Most Reverend Jaime Soto
Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento
2100 Broadway
Sacramento, California 95818

Re: Jesuit High School’s departure from Roman Catholic theology and teaching norms

Dear Bishop Soto:

We come to you as scandalized faithful, dedicated to the success of Jesuit High School, but now painfully aware that the school is being deliberately steered toward radical secularism.

Under the guise of “anti-racism,” the school is now aggressively transforming itself into one where race factionalism is taught and encouraged, “gender fluidity” is not only taught and encouraged but *promoted*, “LGBTQIA+” awareness has been politicized and introduced into multiple classroom settings and subjects, western civilizational norms (incubator and foundation for democracy) are now aggressively questioned, with science itself under attack as being “European.” Teaching materials have been brought into multiple classrooms from the University of Michigan under a retraining program at that university that includes Christianity, “ableness”, cisgenderism, and United States citizenship as being indicators of “privilege” and therefore “oppressive.” Contrary to its external alumni and donor literature promoting traditional “Men for Others” and Roman Catholic messaging, the young men’s actual classroom experience is materially different. It is manifestly not Roman Catholic.

Our work began last June, when a letter supposedly spontaneously drafted by a group of hand-picked students was presented by the school’s “Diversity and Inclusion” director to the student body, petition-style, asking for student signatures. With a limited exception, the letter was a hard-left, radicalized manifesto of demands. (See Student Letter, attached as **Tab A**.) It also appeared to have been fully facilitated by the Diversity and Inclusion director, and not a spontaneous student effort (which Jesuit now does not contest). Parents became aware of the attempt to coerce student signatures because of access provided by distance learning. Jesuit refused to address the letter or its content, refused to present it to the parents, and finally agreed to post it on its website, but in a remote location without fanfare. Here and elsewhere,

Jesuit administrators were hostile and defensive. At no point did Jesuit attempt to legitimize theologically what it was doing, further evidence of rogue teachings that contradict the Church.

In the ensuing weeks, parents became even more acutely aware of Jesuit's drift from Catholicism. These concerns were eventually captured in a parent letter dated October 6, 2021. (**Tab B.**) Coincidentally, Jesuit alumnus Christopher J. Bakes (Jesuit '74, USF '78, USF Law '81) delivered a letter to the Jesuit Board that same day. (**Tab C;** Mr. Bakes wrote a further letter to the Jesuits West Province, **Tab D.**) Jesuit President Rev. John McGarry, S.J., next insisted that the "Concerned Parents" identify themselves, which the parents did on condition of anonymity which the school agreed to recognize. Rev. McGarry then requested that at least one parent publicly represent the group by name, insisting he would not deal with "a group." A name was provided: Mary Jo Herrmann, lifelong Catholic, graduate of Catholic schools, and mother of a Jesuit senior due to graduate in May.

News continued to reach parents that wayward teachings were intensifying. Sources for this information included students, still further parents, and intensifying linkages between the websites of Jesuit High School and the Jesuits West Province. All manner of radical secularism was now rampaging through these websites and into Jesuit classrooms – by design. (**Tab E;** discussing Annie Fox, Provincial's Assistant for Social Ministry Organizing. *See also [Press Release.](#)*) Seminar programs and workshops (under various names) promoted "struggling with your whiteness," "white privilege," and the United States as comprehensively racist, with sign-ups for students and others asking them to "pick your preferred pronouns." (**Tab F.**) Parents continued to make discoveries. The agenda was far broader than just "race." Email signatures of Jesuit teachers and administrators now listed their "pronouns." (**Tab G** [Peter Ferrari, English teacher] and **Tab H** [Colin O'Connor, Assistant Principal].) This is pernicious in two ways. It announces to the male students that they too must carefully consider their gender and be certain to select an appropriate pronoun. When promoted by an administrator, it signals that teachers should comply. They in turn do, encouraging students to pick up on the trend. We now have the insidious pattern that Jesuit High School teachers openly proclaim to their students that there are more than two genders. This not only threatens the mental health of vulnerable youth, it is an explicit affront to the Vatican's own recent directive to the schools: "*Male and Female; He Created Them*" (2019), linked [here](#).

Teaching handouts – including in an *English* class (a recent incident) – were sourced by Jesuit from the University of Michigan, under a program there that cast being male, cisgendered, able, a United States citizen, *and Christian* as being both privileged and oppressive. (**Tab I** (handout).)¹ This is despite the fact that nearly all of the student recipients of this handout

¹ Here is a verbatim text from the source University of Michigan materials in use at Jesuit High School: "*This activity has students read Peggy McIntosh's 'White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack' to familiarize themselves with examples of oppression that they do not experience based on skin color. Students form small groups based on six types of privilege: ability, Christian in the U.S., cisgender, man,*

Most Reverend Jaime Soto

February 4, 2021

Page 3

would be classified by these categories as both privileged and oppressive, an accusation now being made by their teacher and their school ostensibly in the name of the Catholic *Christian* Church under whose local authority this school operates.

To see how all of this plays out in the daily lives of our young who are being fed this poisonous and irreligious secular propaganda, we have the recent profanity-filled Instagram post from a young Jesuit senior. It symbolizes the destructive hopelessness Jesuit is teaching.² Jesuit boys and young men report to their parents that this indoctrination causes them anguish and self-doubt, pitting former friends against friends, or in Jesuit's traditional parlance, brother against brother.

In a world where we the Church must be counter-cultural and stand tall for the timeless wisdom of Scripture, the Magisterium of the Church, and lessons in place since the dawn of time and Genesis itself, we simply cannot tolerate in our Catholic schools – supposedly founts of societal and spiritual stability – teaching that is not only not Roman Catholic, but is destructive, divisive, and corrosive to the very notion of universality and the universal Church. While Jesuit could be teaching our young men to be Men, about sacramental marriage, about the stabilizing effects of marriage and family, about the comprehensive ways we as Roman Catholics can be witnesses for divinely-inspired social stability and personal goodness, Jesuit instead has veered off into teaching what is actually anti-Catholic, intended by its irreligious and

socioeconomic status, and U.S. citizenship. Students are asked to join a small group based on a privilege that they hold. This discussion-based activity guides students in understanding privilege as a concept and helps students recognize how their own privileges benefit them and impact daily life."

² [Edited for profanity.] *"White Americans are not afraid of the police. They don't have to be. Even when occupying the Capital (sic) in an attempt to possibly steal the votes of the minority people, white Americans are NOT AFRAID OF THE POLICE.*

"In their mind, they think they own this country. In their mind, minorities don't have the right to say or do anything. In their mind, being white is a blessing and a privilege. They think they own the Capital and the police. And at the end of the day the cops DO work for them. Not for US. America as a whole, the police work for the white people.

*"I really don't even post s**t like this on a main story, but some of you white mfs need to open your fuckin eyes! Look at how fuc*in dumb you're making the U.S. look. And then some of yall got the nerve to say white privilege isn't real. 🤔"*

*"Our generation is supposed to change this country. Like why tf do none of y'all talk about this and use your voices? This sh*t is real. White privilege is funkin real. The death of George Floyd is fuckin real. Yet some of yall "take it as a joke. 😏"*

"Sum to think about."

Most Reverend Jaime Soto

February 4, 2021

Page 4

non-religious originators to be deconstructionist, dedicated to the *removal* of Christianity as timeless counterpoint to chaos.

The Jesuit administration and Board of Trustees agreed to meet. In consecutive letters, they cancelled the meeting. (**Tab J** (first letter), and **K** (second).) We promptly released this information to the Concerned Parents group in both English and Spanish. (**Tab L**.) We supplemented this information with news of a similar parent protest at The Dalton School in New York City, made relevant by the fact that it was coming from a “progressive” school, undercutting any notion that these divisive theories are Scriptural. (**Tab M**.)

As it stands now, here in the Diocese of Sacramento, Jesuit High School has rejected the clearest possible Catholic teaching. Jesuit is building a new creed. Jesuit is leading our young men into heresy.

Mid-morning on February 3, Rev. McGarry phoned and left a message for Mrs. Herrmann and her husband, Dr. Michael Herrmann, M.D. They were ordered into his office to discuss whether their son can remain at Jesuit past this week. He is due to graduate in May. Mrs. Herrmann, in the great tradition of Mothers as advocates (and honoring our own Blessed Mother), has been the picture of decorum, faithfulness and calm. For her, her lifetime Catholicism, and her profound commitment to be targeted is unfathomable.

We believe your urgent intervention is called for. Jesuit is not teaching Roman Catholicism, and this failure is occurring in your Diocese. Jesuit is scandalizing the faithful. This will affect not only Jesuit, but more and more parishes as the faithful begin to discover that Jesuit’s apostasy is going unchecked. We believe the faithful have suffered from enough scandal over the past generation, which also fell most heavily on the young and vulnerable. Jesuit now misleads the young and vulnerable, confuses them, teaches contrary to Genesis and Creation itself. Our students are taught new ways to factionalize and hate. How is this not heresy?

We ask our Shepherd to act.

The Concerned Parents, Donors and Alumni of Jesuit High School