

My remarks flow from the following assumptions: that there is “**objective reality**,” there is **objective supernatural law**, there is **objective natural law**. A **rightly-formed conscience** is tuned into the natural law, the supernatural law, objective reality to the degree that an individual person cooperates with the grace of God who wants to be in “conscience-based-dialogue” with him/her. The **content of the objective reality** (revelation – Scripture/Tradition) is **Jesus Christ**, the Person – who is also found in Word, Sacrament, dogma, and in doctrine. The fastest and easiest way to get to the bottom of any “issue” is to see it **in the Light of Christ!**

My remarks also take into consideration the **Fallacies of Aristotelian logic**. There are many of them, and some of them will be employed in these observations.

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Regarding Father Jenkins’, CSC welcome and introduction of President Obama at the Commencement Exercises at Notre Dame on May 17, 2009 – “appealing to authority” – he deliberately used a calculated “vision of the Church” that was “equivocal” to justify his actions in inviting Mr. Obama. A president of a university who clearly opposes the most fundamental ground of all Catholic Social Doctrine, the inviolable dignity of every human life from conception to natural death ought not be given a platform at a Catholic University, himself. Again, using the fallacy of “appeal to authority” and “drawing irrelevant conclusions” – Fr. Jenkins made it appear that Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI somehow concur with what is going on there that day! This of course is fantasy: neither Pope’s would ever condone what was happening!

President Obama’s remarks – after receiving the honorary doctor of law degree – were staged to be and were successfully carried out as a giant “red herring.” Herrings are usually silvery in color – so finding a “red” one in the net would certainly distract one from the rest of the herring – and from what you are doing

entirely. This was definitely a “red-herring” speech – **it was masterfully co-written by many individuals to “throw off track” those who have rightly-formed consciences regarding the dignity of human life at its smallest quantity!**

**The President’s Primary Premise was seriously flawed:** he assumes that there is a common, neutral ground that lies between Life and Death (Pro Life, Pro Choice) – there is no common ground – **the right to choose death is not a right, it is a demonstration of a perversion of conscience.** What he proposes as a *simmering of the situation* is only a tactical method for him to gain more support before lowering the boom with **FOCA** – which he has already promised he would do and will do- unless the Catholic Church stops him. **We already know what he thinks personally about abortion and stem cell research** – his “appeal to emotion” display in this speech: to be the “great neutralizer, arbiter and peacemaker” is quite **evident and flawed. He has always gotten his way already in these matters – and chances are he always will. A speech like this which assuages both sides: is seriously flawed.** It is suspicious from the get-go. [The only compromise/common ground that would make sense for those shouting: KILL THE BABIES / DON’T KILL THE BABIES is: **“kill the babies SLOWLY”** This is absurd. He himself has described the conflict as “irreconcilable” which pretty much tells you where **he** stands – **he is unwilling to budge.** The “giving the dog a bone” fallacy of insuring conscience protection for medical staff is also quite obvious. He already has the works going to sign the fact that they have no rights to refuse due to conscience, without losing federal funding. **For those who switch off their consciences there is no reconciliation available! And this, for eternity – not just here and now!**

The fallacy of “affirming the consequent” was employed (he has very good speech writers) which goes something like this: *Obama said that “a doctor told me to use more fair-minded words in talking about my plans for abortion, I changed the words on my website regarding abortions, therefore, now all of my words are fair.*[This is the unspoken assumption and fallacy here]. *And so, you can be confident that I have an open-mind, an open-heart and use fair-minded words.* **Even a third grader would see the illogic in this way of thinking.**

A most frightening part of the speech was the “appeal to popular sentiment” “conventional propriety” “use of technical language” – like: *original sin, secularism, materialism* – these are basically theological terms that some priest or group of them, must have provided for him, perhaps Fr. Jenkins himself,” “proving the proposition under dispute without any certain and qualified truth” – if it is not based on objective reality, supernatural and natural law, then it simply is not true no matter how much you talk about it. And his goal was to convince the world that was watching and listening on television that what he was saying was ultimately best for everyone, everywhere “another fallacy – a “converse fallacy of accident” arguing from a special case to a general rule – but without giving any balanced concrete logical presentation which takes into consideration *objective reality, the supernatural law and the natural law*. It does not seem possible for anyone to write a presentation on anything really – even a graduation speech - which does not in some way touch on these things. All learning is “discovery” – it is not “creating something out of nothing” – only God can do that!

A seeming positive remark made by the president was when he encouraged the graduates “to have confidence in the values, in which they have been raised and educated...to hold firm to their faith ‘to guide you on your journey’” – **but with his own personal agenda of completely separating faith and reason in the political realm – he will be tying these graduates hands behind their backs:** “persuade with reason” but [paraphrase of past remarks: do not mix it with faith: the only ideology in this country, is that we will have no ideology [which itself seems to be an ideology, Mr. President]]. “Stand up for your rights graduates! Speak out!” [But not here, not now, don’t heckle, don’t protest or you will be arrested like what is probably going on outside this campus right now]! “Stand up, but shut up” would be his real advice!

“Verbosity” is also a fallacy, along with a “superior attitude.” There was evidence of these throughout the speech.

**Then, he shot himself in the foot** – he used the grandest “appeal to authority” fallacy of them all: by reaching for the **GOLDEN RULE** – this was a huge mistake on his part: *Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you*. With his own

proven track record – **where action speaks volumes over his carefully chosen words – it is very evident that he does not understand the full depth of this RULE at all: for it includes ALL HUMAN BEINGS FROM FERTILIZATION/CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH!** It all comes down to the babies, as you regard them, you regard ALL of life: and it is this regard, this quality with which you paint all of your other life-affirming decisions. Killing babies in their mother’s wombs, using embryos for scientific research and then throwing them away, is neither life-affirming nor in keeping with the Golden Rule.

Proceeding on to some other shameful fallacies: “appeal to authority” “citing support of important individuals to encourage listeners to agree with a conclusion” – in a selective sort of matter, taking what agrees with your position out of context: the President brought in the matter of Civil Rights (which Pro Choice violates through and through) and referring to someone right on the stage with him: Father Theodore Hesburg, CSC, former President of Notre Dame who worked tirelessly in the 1950’s and 60’s to help bring about the Civil Rights Act: gave him a backhanded slap in the face, which Hesburg graciously accepted (in all ignorance): complementing him on his work, **while Hesburg’s presence on stage itself compromised his own dignity and tainted all the work he did in the past: by concurring with the denial of human dignity to the unborn – as a civil right!**

Along with Fr. Jenkins’ invitation of the President to speak and receive an award, this was the unkindest cut of all – and a deep-seated blow to the Congregation of Holy Cross, the University of Notre Dame and the entire Catholic Church – and the good people of the United States of America.

**Then Mr. Obama has the audacity to draw into his equation Cardinal Joseph Bernardin** (rest in peace) of Chicago, whom he first of all fallaciously held up as his personal role model, then inferred strongly that, though Pro Life, Cardinal Bernardin would concur with his presence at Notre Dame, his honor and his agenda of calling for a “common ground.” Fallacy. Fallacy. Fallacy. **There is no common ground for killing. Any common ground that the Cardinal called for was based on LIFE, not death.** Mr. Obama was seriously out of line mentioning Cardinal Bernardin. The Cardinal was a man of the Church and would never go contrary to what his brother bishops signed – and he himself would have signed,

if he were alive in 2004, regarding the giving of a platform and honors to pro-abortionists – even if they are the President of the United States. I am deeply offended as a Catholic for such name-dropping.

All, in all, the speech was about what I expected. It was in fact anti-climactic. I didn't even listen to it; I printed it out after it was over: [I believe all of Obama's words need to be "read" rather than "listened to" – to diffuse his overhearing personal rhetoric and spin-delivery]. The fox in the henhouse! The red herring! I prayed for God's will to be: it appears God did not will what happened – God can only will LIFE – but he allowed this evil discourse and event for his own good purpose which is unfolding already:

there is good news is coming forth from it: since all the debate about the appearance started, the country has shifted from 42% for Life, to %52. **And if the Church takes the bull by the horns right now – those numbers could increase dramatically! NOW IS THE TIME FOR RELENTLESS, PERSISTENT, CONFIDENT CATHOLIC ACTION!**

**It was a red-herring speech** – made by a President who thought that he might now – since he is an alumnus of Notre Dame – have American Catholics in his back pocket! Think again, Mr. President! **You want debate – you will get it – and you will lose!** – unless of course you switch on that part of your conscience that has to do with the dignity of **ALL OF HUMAN LIFE: FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH!** *Catholics are praying for this for you! We care about your soul!*

Now about this: "taking the bull by the horns":

The person directly responsible for this grave scandal is **Fr. Jenkins' Superior in the Congregation of Holy Cross;** and then his superior all the way to the Congregation for Religious in Rome. **They should never have allowed this enormous scandal to escalate as it did.** The poor Catholic in the pew who is watching this on TV and reading it in the newspapers is shell-shocked by now. **"Woe to those who bring scandal to these little one: it would be better if a millstone was tied around his neck and he was cast into the sea."** JESUS IS VERY

**PROTECTIVE OF HIS FLOCK.** If I were Father Jenkins, and all his superiors I would be very afraid: until conversion, repentance and restitution is accomplished! I would also be prepared to spend a very long time in purgatory!

The Catholic Bishops too, and the Vatican itself could have been much more vocal and present to the situation: 75 bishops out of 250 in the country was not a very good showing for opposition. They are equally to blame with the Congregation of Holy Cross.

It is now time to clean up the mess – by revamping the Catholic Curriculum across the board so that actual Catholic Teachings are taught to ALL STUDENTS, as a refresher for Catholics and as a comparative study for non-catholic students. Then, and only then, will any of the students have the combined faith / reason resources to make truly balanced, informed decisions regarding everything. The fact that 97% of the Senior Class welcomed Obama with open arms proves the point exactly and precisely: that they learned very little, *if anything at all*, about what the Catholic Church actually teaches. Even 50% of the country was not in favor of the appearance: there is something very wrong Notre Dame.

My only contribution can be to faithfully, daily present to the people that I minister to the teachings of Christ as they come in Scripture, in Tradition, in the Teachings of the Church, in prayer, in liturgy and in living out the Catholic Faith. I dedicate myself to doing this. I also dedicate myself to the Pro Life Movement – that is actually gaining ground now. Perhaps we can prevent Notre Dame from one day soon declaring itself to be non-Catholic. Maybe not! This is what other colleges have done who have compromised on core Catholic teaching. It is quite inevitable, unless there is a conversion of the whole campus! It can be done! Come Holy Spirit.

Father William Dinga, Jr. May 18, 2009 - The day after!

While the 2009 Commencement Exercises were proceeding at Notre Dame University in South Bend, I was here in New England, in my personal prayer-space praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the whole process: then I opened my New Jerusalem Bible at random: and this is what I read: I meditated on it for quite a while: it was as if a tiny, little, weak voice was speaking it: very much like that of a very tiny unborn babe in its mother's womb: this is what I read and heard the voice say:

**To Yahweh I cry out with entreaty,  
I pour out my worry in his presence,  
in his presence I unfold my troubles.  
However faint my spirit,  
you are watching over my path.**

**On the road I have to travel,  
they have hidden a trap for me.  
Look on my right and see --  
there is no one who recognizes me.  
All refuge is denied me,  
no one cares whether I live or die.**

**I cry out to you, Yahweh,  
I affirm, "You are my refuge,  
my share in the land of the living!"  
Listen to my calling,  
for I am miserably weak.**

**Rescue me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me.  
Lead me out of prison  
that I may praise your name.  
The upright gather round me  
because of your generosity to me.**

This is no coincidence that I opened to this page (Psalm 142) - no coincidence at all!

I had the truly awesome privilege of baptizing a baby at Mass today - he was a year old - and after the water had been poured and the amazing gift of new-life in Christ was now in him: in his mother's loving arms, he looked directly at me; our eyes met and just lingered for a while: and it was as if he was saying: "Thank you for all you are doing for the babies - those much younger and more helpless than I am!" I shall never forget it!