

Letter From Russell Ford

Dear Friends,

August is a very significant month for me, as I have two feast days in that month: the feast of St. Lawrence (August 10) and the feast of St. Bartholomew (August 24).

St. Lawrence is my baptismal patron. I chose him because I wanted to imitate his courage and sense of humor in adversity. (At least I've managed to get the sense of humor down pat.)

St. Bartholomew the Apostle is my Confirmation patron. I chose him because it was on August 24, 1988 that I learned about the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. My godfather, Michael Mayola, had to stop my lesson that day because I wept heartily. As the truth of the Real Presence began to seep into my intellect, I began to weep tears of contrition and joy. My heart ached like it never had before. I fell hopelessly, helplessly, passionately in love with His Majesty in the Holy Eucharist that day. I am convinced it was St. Bartholomew, one of the chosen men who received the first Eucharist from the hands of Our Lord Himself, who won for me those very special graces.

The very first novena in Church history is found in the first two chapters of Acts. At the instruction of Our Lord, the apostles returned to the upper room to pray with the Mother of God for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They prayed for nine days. On the tenth day, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity breathed life into the Church in a visible way, settling on all present as tongues of fire. Moments later, St. Peter, our first pope, began his evangelistic ministry, making 5,000 converts over the next two days.

In 1998, His Majesty gave me the blueprint for an evangelistic apostolate. This apostolate, which we will begin through First Century Christian Ministries upon my release, is unique. Indeed, to the best of my knowledge it has never been done before in the history of the Church. As arrogant and feckless as I am, I have difficulty seeing 5,000 converts in a day (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief), but I am convinced the labors of our apostolate (including the fellow laborers God will send us) will yield thousands of converts each year...one soul at a time.

As you know, I am awaiting a decision from the 11th Federal Circuit Court in Atlanta – a decision we expect to be in my favor. This favorable decision would make me a free man within hours. Conventional wisdom says the court will not rule until at least December. Conventional wisdom does not take into account the power of faith and prayer.

You are all my friends and you are all prayer warriors. I have two very special friends whose feasts are observed in August. Therefore, I ask you to join me in at least one novena; two, if Our Lord desires to witness perseverance in prayer. I ask you to join me in a novena to St. Lawrence, beginning August 1st. We will expect our answer on his feast day, the 10th. If His Majesty desires our perseverance in prayer, I ask you to again join me in a novena to St. Bartholomew on August 15th, the feast of the Assumption, which would automatically invoke the intercession of Our Blessed Mother.

Nearly a quarter of a century of living on concrete and steel in a place where cruelty and violence to body and soul are the order of the day has worn me down. I need a good six months to prepare myself physically and spiritually for the apostolate. When that time has passed, please be assured we will obey the clarion call His Majesty issued to this broken down old convict in 1998. In the mean time, I thank you for your prayers and I assure you of mine.

In Mary's loving embrace,



latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-wildmon-gay-marriage-20100813,0,1854572.story

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A biased ruling on gay marriage in California

U.S. District Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker should have recused himself, but he had a legal and political statement he wanted to make.

By Tim Wildmon

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The people of California spoke clearly at the polls in 2008 when they passed an amendment to the state Constitution that defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman. The public debate was held, the media wars were fought, both sides spent millions of dollars and the people voted for Proposition 8 by a margin of 52% to 48%.

The people's will carried the day, as it is supposed to — until U.S. District Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker came along.

Last week, Walker nullified the votes of 7,001,084 people. In his decision to invalidate the constitutional amendment, he wrote: "That the majority of California voters supported Proposition 8 is irrelevant."

This judge believes that defining a person by sexual behavior is the same as defining a person by skin color. And given the fact that he is widely reported to be homosexual, it is obvious he believed this before the case was even brought to his courtroom. Walker should have recused himself, but he had a legal and political statement he wanted to make.

Colin L. Powell once said of this comparison: "Skin color is a benign, nonbehavioral characteristic. Sexual orientation is perhaps the most profound of human behavioral characteristics. Comparison of the two is a convenient but invalid argument."

This case will end up in the U.S. Supreme Court sometime soon, and there will be a 4-4 split in opinion, leaving the decision once again to one man in a black robe — Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

The Constitution envisioned a system in which the judiciary would serve to check the excesses of the legislative or executive branches. But today, federal judges have far exceeded their intended role, becoming little gods in our republic. They have lifetime appointments, and their only accountability is the potential for impeachment.

But in the history of our country, only 15 judges have been impeached by the House of Representatives. Of those, four were acquitted, seven were convicted, three resigned and one is still pending. In other words, Congress almost never removes federal judges. For all practical purposes, the checks and balances of the federal government no longer exist. The judiciary trumps. Our country is basically now run by judges.

Thomas Jefferson warned about this possibility in a Sept. 28, 1820, letter to William Jarvis: "You seem ... to consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions; a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy. Our judges are as honest as other men, and not more so ... and their power [is] the more dangerous, as they are in office for life and not responsible, as the other functionaries are, to elective control. The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal, knowing that to whatever hands confided, with corruptions of time and party, its members would become despots."

The Founding Fathers understood the selfish and sinful nature of man and therefore divided the government up so that no one branch would be all powerful over the other branches or over the American people. What we have today is judicial tyranny and exactly what Jefferson feared. Unless Congress asserts its constitutional power of impeachment, judges will continue to impose their personal opinions on whatever controversy is before them, regardless of what the Constitution does or does not say.

In his ruling, Walker wrote: "The evidence shows conclusively that moral and religious views form the only basis for a belief that same-sex couples are different from opposite-sex couples."

This is clearly a judge imposing his personal opinions. What Walker is saying is that you cannot hold a valid view about marriage if you base it on religion or morality. Those are illegitimate considerations in his worldview.

Contrast Walker's dismissal of our country's rich Judeo-Christian heritage with George Washington's affirmation in his famous farewell address: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

If moral and religious values are no longer valid, what does the judge put in their place? I would suggest, as Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, that we continue to rely on, and revere, "the Laws of Nature and Nature's God."

Tim Wildmon is president of American Family Assn., a national organization promoting traditional values.

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"The Secular Humanist moral relativist liberal progressive carnal men" are using the power of the courts to reshape our society with a preemptive strike on Christianity. *All Christian bibles, books, crosses, symbols, ceremonies and holidays have been ordered out of the public schools. Out went Adam & Eve, in came Heather has two Mommies. Out went Easter, in came earth day. Out went collections for the poor and homeless and in came recycling and the "go green" earth worshipers. Out went Bible teachings about the immorality of homosexuality; in came the homosexuals to teach about the immorality of homophobia. Out went school prayer and in came pornography, obscenities, vulgarity and profanity. Out went boys military haircuts and in came purple, orange and green hair Mohawks with nose, tongue and cheek piercings. Out went our Judeo Christian heritage and in comes an Introduction to Islam & the dogma of Darwinism. Out goes modest dress and in comes the dress code of freaks. Out goes music & the fine arts and in comes Planned Parenthood. Out goes the electives on "etiquette and manners" and in comes the promotion of the lesbian gay bisexual transgender lifestyle. Out went the teachings about right and wrong and in comes politically correct tolerance and moral relativism. Out went the 10 Commandments and in came condoms and birth control. Out went the parental rights of Mom & Dad and in came medical marijuana. Out went the notion of "One Nation Under God" and in came the study of witchcraft, vampires and totem poles. Out went any mention of the Christ and in came chaos, shootings and violence.*

For the sake of our children it's time we fight back. These are hard times for loyal Catholics. The media assaults us, our culture of death mocks us and dissenters from within (called cafeteria Catholics) undermine us from within. But Holy Mother Church was founded by Jesus upon the Rock who was Peter, and He promised that the gates of hell would never prevail against her. And they haven't. The Catholic Church is the oldest institution in the western world, perhaps the entire world. The Church has been attacked from within and outside for 20 centuries, the Church has prevailed over wicked Roman Emperors, heretics, Alaric the barbarian King, Attila the Hun, Genseric the Vandal King, the Visigoth invaders, Mohammed & the Muslims crusades which lasted 8 centuries, the corrupt kings of England, the Mongolians, the Protestant Reformers, Ivan the terrible the 1st Russian Czar, the French Revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles Darwin, King Mwanga, The Japanese shoguns ("military dictators"), Benito Mussolini, Vladimir Lenin, Primo de Rivera (Spain), Joseph Stalin, Plutarco Calles, Adolph Hitler, Mao Tse Tung, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Islamo Fascism, liberalism, modernism.

All Christ asks of us is that we go back to basic training and prepare ourselves for these battles which only the Catholic Church has the resources to fight. Remember that our "General" is coming soon - and we want to be ready. Our Lord Jesus said, "Fear is useless, what is needed is trust...Let not your hearts be troubled." What matters is that we run the race to the finish line and fight the good fight. Many saints will be forged in the crucible (of fire) in the coming years. Make sure you are among them. Don't "go with the flow," for as the great Archbishop Fulton Sheen reminds us, "Dead bodies float downstream." More than ever we shall have to be strong in the faith. In the end we have the certainty that truth will triumph over lies, light over darkness and good over evil. So stand firm Catholics & rush to the battle lines with Jesus in your heart, a rosary in one hand and a bible in the other hand. No matter what happens, no matter how this battle turns out, we know that WE WIN! No matter what political party is in power at any given point in time, in the end those that remain faithful to Jesus Christ WIN - WE WIN!