

munication to this crime against human life. "A person who procures a completed abortion incurs excommunication latae sententiae," "by the very commission of the offense," and subject to the conditions provided by Canon Law. The Church does not thereby intend to restrict the scope of mercy. Rather, she makes clear the gravity of the crime committed, the irreparable harm done to the innocent who is put to death, as well as to the parents and the whole of society.

CCC 1463 - Certain particularly grave sins incur excommunication, the most severe ecclesiastical penalty, which impedes the reception of the sacraments and the exercise of certain ecclesiastical acts, and for which absolution consequently cannot be granted, according to canon law, except by the Pope, the bishop of the place or priests authorized by them. In danger of death any priest, even if deprived of faculties for hearing confessions, can absolve from every sin and excommunication.

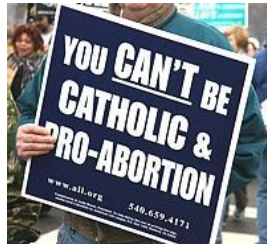
Heretic: A baptized and professed person who denies or doubts a truth revealed by God or proposed for belief by the Catholic Church is a heretic (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Robert C. Broderick, Ed., Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987, p. 262).

Can. 1364 §1 An apostate from the faith, a heretic or a schismatic incurs a latae sententiae excommunication, without prejudice to the provision of Can. 194 §1, n. 2; a cleric, moreover, may be punished with the penalties mentioned in Can. 1336 §1, nn. 1, 2 and 3 (*Code of Canon Law*).

Any Catholic who supports intrinsically evil acts (abortion, euthanasia, cloning, same-sex marriage, etc), votes for them, or otherwise financially supports or furthers their cause, cannot remain Catholic. Catholics must adhere to Catholic teaching or they separate themselves from the Church; the Body of Christ.

Such Catholics are excommunicated by virtue of the acts themselves. A latae sententiae (automatic) excommunication is triggered when they support, enable, and perpetuate such obvious and egregious evil (Cf. Code of Canon Law, Canons 1364, 1398; Canon 1329, §2).

They are in turn forbidden from approaching the sacraments as the result (Cf. Catechism of Catholic Church # 1463).



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Pamphlet 470

Can a Catholic Vote for a Pro-Abortion Political Candidate and Remain a Catholic?

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Recently, (Oct. 2008) in one of the most far-reaching statements about Catholics and the presidential election, Bishop Robert Finn of Kansas City has urged Catholics not to vote for Barack Obama. Bishop Finn says Catholics who support him put their souls at risk by supporting Obama's "fanatical" stance on abortion.

The comments came in an interview with KCMO 710's Chris Stigall.

"There are Catholics listening to me right now who are thinking strongly or are convinced that they will vote for Barack Obama. What would you say to them?" Stigall asked the bishop.

"I would say, give consideration to your eternal salvation," Finn responded.

"To vote for a person who has a fanatical determination to not only support abortion as it is now but to remove all limitations on it through the Freedom of Choice Act and to extend it without any recourse -- throwing out all of the efforts of citizens over the last 35 years to place reasonable limits on abortion," Bishop Finn explained.

"By voting for a person who has expressed his determination to do this to Planned Parenthood and NARAL -- you make yourself a participant in the act of abortion and you mustn't do it because your eternal salvation is

.....
tied up with that important choice," Bishop Finn said.

Following his appearance on the radio program, Bishop Finn appeared on the Mike Gallagher Show on another station.

Gallagher asked: "In good conscience, how can a Catholic vote for Senator Obama?"

Bishop Finn replied, "I don't think any Catholic can in good conscience," he said. About Obama, Finn added, "In his brief career, he has collected a very consistent record of a kind of fanaticism for abortion."

.....
A Catholic can disagree with the Church's position on health care, education, economic security, immigration, and taxes and still remain a Catholic in good-standing.

These issues are not codified by either Canon Law or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). However, if when aware of the Church's position that abortion and euthanasia are intrinsically evil, a Catholic deliberately votes for a pro-abortion candidate when there is a pro-life alternative, he separates himself from the Church and from Jesus Christ - forfeiting salvation.

Let's review that Church's position on this issue.

(CCC) 144 - To obey (from the Latin *ob-audire*, to "hear or listen to") in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself.

CCC 168 It is the Church that believes first, and so bears, nourishes, and sustains my faith.

CCC 171 - The Church, "the pillar and bulwark of the truth," faithfully guards "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." She guards the memory of Christ's words; it is she who from generation to generation hands on the apostles' confession of faith. As a mother who teaches her children to speak and so to understand and communicate, the Church our Mother teaches us the language of faith in order to introduce us to the understanding and the life of faith.

CCC 182 - We believe all "that which is contained in the word of God, written or handed down, and which the Church proposes for belief as divinely revealed" (Paul VI, CPG, § 20).

CCC 1850 - Sin is an offense against God: "Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight." Sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it. Like the first sin, it is disobedience, a revolt against God through the will to become "like gods," knowing and determining good and evil. Sin is thus "love of oneself even to contempt of God."

CCC 1857 - For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must together be met: "Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent."

CCC 1858 - Grave matter is specified by the Ten Commandments, corresponding to the answer of Jesus to the rich young man: "Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother."The

gravity of sins is more or less great: murder is graver than theft. One must also take into account who is wronged: violence against parents is in itself graver than violence against a stranger.

CCC 2246 - It is a part of the Church's mission to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it.

CCC 2256 - Citizens are obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order. "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

CCC 2258 - Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being.

CCC 2261 - Scripture specifies the prohibition contained in the fifth commandment: "Do not slay the innocent and the righteous." The deliberate murder of an innocent person is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human being, to the golden rule, and to the holiness of the Creator. The law forbidding it is universally valid: it obliges each and everyone, always and everywhere.

CCC 2272 - Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excom-