



*Alumni Protecting Notre Dame's Catholic Identity*

October 9, 2009

Rev. John I. Jenkins  
President  
University of Notre Dame  
317 Main Building  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Father Jenkins:

As I expect you know, questions about your membership on the board of Millennium Promise have been raised in a number of quarters recently because of that organization's policy of promotion of abortion and artificial birth control. (See, e.g., "contraceptive services are critical to allow women to choose family size and birth spacing"; "safe abortion services should be established," Millennium Villages Handbook p. 92.) Since the matter relates to the Catholic identity of the University, we will include it in a newsletter, but as usual we first invite you to comment. We will be pleased to include whatever you write.

We recognize, of course, that the organization does much good and that Notre Dame is engaged in related work, but I assume that such a consideration would not lead you to serve on the board of an organization promoting, say, racial or gender discrimination or capital punishment, so perhaps there is some other factor involved that is not evident. It has been noted also that two prominent Notre Dame former trustees play important roles in the organization.

The issue of your serving on this board has gained special prominence because of your recent announcement of a pro-life initiative and in particular your citation of your serving on the board of the Women's Care Center as evidence of Notre Dame's institutional commitment to the pro-life cause. With respect, I suggest that the apparent disconnect is striking.

We will be glad to postpone including this subject in a newsletter to await a response, but I understand you have not answered inquiries on this matter in the past and therefore I hope it will not seem presumptuous of me to ask you to let me know promptly if you do intend to reply.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Dempsey".

William H. Dempsey  
President, Sycamore Trust