

A Thank You and an Apology

First of all, as a member of St. Matthew's Cathedral parish, I want to thank Bishop D'Arcy for the magnificent example of Christian witness he has given during the Obama commencement debacle. As he nears the end of his time as our bishop, he has, like the bridegroom at Cana, apparently saved the best for last.

Second, as a faculty member at Notre Dame, I want to apologize to Bishop D'Arcy for the breathtakingly shameful manner in which he has been treated by the administrators of my university. They think the bishop is out of touch. But the fact is that they themselves have lost touch with the faithful Catholics in the pews, the ordinary people who put faith in Jesus Christ at the very center of their lives -- the families with lots of kids, including handicapped kids; the people who have spent years helping women with problem pregnancies, both before and after the birth of their children; the people who take care of one another in emergencies; the younger idealistic "JP2" Catholics -- in short, the very people who have been quietly building an impressive culture of life in our country right under the noses of those who have led Our Lady's university astray. These people do not not have to reassure everyone that, despite appearances to the contrary, they are "unambiguously pro-life." They just *are* pro-life. And they instinctively recognize a great bishop when they see one.

Alfred J. Freddoso
Oesterle Professor of Thomistic Studies
University of Notre Dame