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July 26, 2010

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI  
Vatican City  
Rome, Italy

Your Holiness,

Blessings! Many thanks for Your Holiness' faithful and courageous pontificate!

Permit me to introduce myself. I am the oldest priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto. I was born in August of 1915 and ordained in 1939.

From 1939-1942 I took the doctoral course in Canon Law at Laval University in Quebec City. There I met the late Cardinal Gagnon, with whom I corresponded for many years concerning the condition of the Church in Canada.

My service of the Archdiocese of Toronto includes the following:

1. Vice-Chancellor
2. Director of Catechetics under Cardinal McGuigan
3. Most positions in the Archdiocesan Curia
4. All positions in the Toronto Provincial Matrimonial Tribunal. When I was appointed Officialis in 1957, I was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII
5. Pastor of three parishes
6. Chaplain of a number of groups.

The Church in Canada is in a suicidal mode. While living in Rome in 1978, I often served as a Eucharistic minister at papal Masses. I assisted at the last Mass of Pope Paul VI in St. Peter's Basilica. In his homily, referring to the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, His Holiness repeated three times "I did not betray the truth." Tragically, the Canadian Bishops betrayed the truth of *Humanae Vitae* in their commentary on the encyclical, given at Winnipeg on September 17, 1968. This "Winnipeg Statement" told Catholics that in some circumstances they could use those means of contraception "which seemed right to them" (paragraph 26.) Now, about eighty percent of women of childbearing age in Canada are either sterilized or use contraceptive pills or devices.

In October of 1968, Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington asked me to write a critique of the Winnipeg Statement for the American Bishops. My evaluation was highly critical of the Canadian Statement. I sent a copy to His Holiness Pope Paul VI. In response, in an open letter sent to me through the Apostolic Delegation and my own Archbishop Pocock, I received the thanks of Cardinal Cicognani, Secretary of State. He said that the Holy Father also thanked me. However, the Holy See has never requested the withdrawal of the Winnipeg Statement. Thus, it's evil fruits still remain a major factor in the crisis of the Church in Canada.

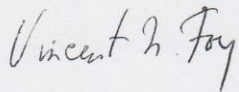
About ten years ago, I asked Archbishop Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Nebraska, whether he could advise me on how to get the Winnipeg Statement withdrawn. He thought that if about five or six Canadian Bishops were to ask the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for an evaluation of the Statement, this would lead to its withdrawal. I wrote to about ten of the most orthodox bishops in Canada, requesting this procedure. Not one bishop of the Roman Rite would cooperate in this matter.

#### A Request

Because of age and illness, I am not far from death. I am emboldened to petition and beg Your Holiness to please require the Canadian Bishops to withdraw the Winnipeg Statement. Enclosed with this letter is an article I have just written entitled "The Recovery of *Humanae Vitae* in Canada." It will be published in the September issue of *Catholic Insight* magazine, a fine and orthodox Canadian periodical. The article makes some suggestions on how the Church in Canada may teach and live the Truth about Life and Love.

With profound thanks to Your Holiness for considering this plea; in full submission and obedience, I am,

Most Respectfully Yours in Jesus and Mary



(Msgr.) Vincent N. Foy P.H.



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS

From the Vatican, 13 September 2010

Dear Monsignor Foy,

I am writing to thank you for your recent letter of 26 July 2010 addressed to the Holy Father. I would assure you that His Holiness has read your letter and appreciates both the devoted sentiments which motivated your writing to him and your many years of faithful service to the Church and her Magisterium.

Invoking the intercession of Saint Michael, Patron of the Archdiocese, the Holy Father willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With every good wish, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Peter B. Wells  
Assessor

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