

Rev. Msgr. Vincent N. Foy
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November 1, 2010

Most Rev. Brian Dunn, DD
Bishop of Antigonish
168 Hawthorne Street, PO Box 1330
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Your Excellency,

A good friend recently told me that some years ago he was in correspondence with Bishop Colin Campbell, then Bishop of Antigonish. The bishop remarked "Dissent is still alive and thriving in the Diocese of Antigonish." Now, the same situation persists: dissent is still alive and thriving in the Diocese of Antigonish.

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

I served the Church in many capacities: as Vice-Chancellor, in many positions in the Archdiocesan Curia, as Officialis of the Toronto Provincial Matrimonial Tribunal, as Director of Catechetics under Cardinal McGuigan, as Pastor, and as Chaplain of a number of groups. I was named a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII in 1957. I am the co-founder of the Canon Law Society of Canada.

Recently, a seminar was given in your diocese by Dr. Paul Lakeland. I believe it was scheduled before Your Excellency was installed as Bishop of Antigonish on January 25, 2010. You must know by now that Paul Lakeland proposes both heretical and schismatic views. Several persons, scandalized by the recent seminar, have asked me to write to you in the hope that your Excellency will repudiate the errors being spread to the priests and laity of your diocese.

Paul Lakeland: as Example

As is widely known, Paul Lakeland is the present name of laicized priest, Rev. Aloysius P. Kelly S.J.. He is married and has one son. He is hardly an example to be imitated by your priests or laity. The Holy See has asked that laicized priests not be

engaged in Catholic education, except in individual cases for grave reasons. I submit that these do not exist in the case of Paul Lakeland.

Paul Lakeland has a heretical opinion on the nature of the Church

Paul Lakeland claims that Christ did not found a Church in the sense that He did not found the hierarchical Roman Catholic Church. This is contrary to defined doctrine. As *Lumen Gentium* of Vatican II teaches us: “They cannot be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it, or to remain in it” (*Lumen Gentium* n.19). The hierarchical nature of the Church is defined and described in Chapter II of *Lumen Gentium*: “The laity should promptly accept in Christian obedience what is decided by the pastors who, as teachers and rulers of the Church, represent Christ” (*Lumen Gentium* n. 37).

We are told also that pastors should recognize and promote the dignity and responsibility of the laity in the Church (cf. *Ibid*). *Lumen Gentium* explains in detail what this means. It is in this sense that Pope Benedict XVI teaches that the laity should be given responsibility. This is not the co-responsibility taught by Paul Lakeland. In 2009, he opposed the Connecticut bishops by backing a state bill that sought to transfer control of Roman Catholic parishes to lay-run boards. His heretical views are expressed in his book “*Catholicism at the Crossroads: How the Laity Can Save the Church*” (Continuum, March 2007).

Other Errors of Paul Lakeland

Paul Lakeland openly holds erroneous views on abortion, homosexuality, contraception and women priests. Abortion and contraception are condemned in *Humanae Vitae* with the authority of Christ (*Humanae Vitae* n. 6). Pope John Paul II has affirmed that the prohibition of ordaining women is infallible teaching. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the decree of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith’s “*Persona Humana*” affirm “Homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered – under no circumstances can they be approved” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 2358).

An Appeal

Your Excellency, when Paul Lakeland spoke without authorization in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the Archdiocese warned the faithful of their obligation “to safeguard reverently and expound faithfully the doctrine of faith and morals proposed definitively by the magisterium of the Church”. Should not that also be the attitude of the Diocese of Antigonish towards the heretical and schismatic teaching of Paul Lakeland?

Your Excellency, for your own sake, for the sake of the priests and faithful of Antigonish and for the sake of the Church, I beg and exhort you to publicly warn against the errors proposed by Paul Lakeland. I pray that he not be allowed any input into your diocesan synod now being prepared.

May I hear from Your Excellency?

With prayers and respectfully regards, I am,

Yours in Jesus and Mary

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



Diocese of Antigonish

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November 12, 2010

Msgr. Vincent Foy
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Dear Msgr. Foy,

Thank you for your kind letter of November 1, 2010, expressing your concerns about the Lakeland conference. As you note in your letter, this conference was planned long before I was appointed here.

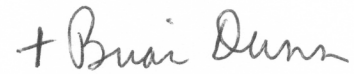
The Conference was entitled: "Catholicism at the Crossroads: How We Can Save the Church" with presenter Dr. Paul Lakeland. This conference was sponsored by the graduates of our Diocesan Faith Development and Ministry Program and had been in the planning stages for almost two years. The participants of the conference were challenged to dialogue positively with some real issues in our Church. I might add that he also gave a workshop to the priests of the diocese on the role of the laity and the essential relationship required between the priest and the laity.

I sat in on every talk that he gave, both for the priests and for the weekend conference, and throughout these talks, he was always faithful to the teaching of the church for every issue. While I am aware of how some of the media presents Dr. Lakeland as well as some of the material in his books, I need to say that his presence here in this diocese was one that was within the orthodox teaching of the church.

As a new bishop in this diocese, my experience of the people is that our faith is relatively well founded and strong and we can enter into discussion even of contentious and difficult issues. The hope of the conference was to assist participants to embrace the vision of co-responsibility that the Church encourages and I believe that was achieved. In fact, Lakeland spoke of assisting participants to consider ways of co-responsibility that are possible within our present church structures. This is how the idea of a synod arose and, even though he did not give much background on the idea of a synod, the participants seemed to embrace this way of gathering as church. At the end of the liturgy, I expressed my support for the idea of a synod, with the idea that it would not take place until we have completed issues connected with the Legal Settlement and until we have consulted all those that need to be consulted. Moreover, a synod cannot be celebrated without many months, and even years, of preparation.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for your concern for the diocese. Please remember all of us in your prayers. May the Lord continue to bless all of us as we respond to our individual calls from the Lord.

Sincerely in Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "† Brian Dunn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

† Brian Joseph Dunn
Bishop of Antigonish

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December 2, 2010

Most Rev. Brian Dunn, DD
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Your Excellency,

Thank you for your gracious letter of November 12, 2010.

If Your Excellency sees nothing questionable about the invitation to Dr. Paul Lakeland, I have little more to say.

Perhaps a problem is with the graduates of the Diocesan Faith Development and Ministry Program in your diocese. In the two years of preparation for Paul Lakeland's Conference, they must have been aware that he openly taught views both heretical and schismatic. When one considers the long list of those required to make the Profession of Faith (Canon 833) it is evident that Paul Lakeland does not quality to give a Conference to priests or laity.

Incidentally, it is distressing that the student council of St. Francis Xavier University in your diocese has voted for scrapping the long standing practice of automatically naming the bishop of Antigonish as the school's Chancellor. This may reflect the teaching of Paul Lakeland, but not that of the Church. Surely the bishop by office is the preeminent guardian of the Faith.

Wishing Your Excellency a blessed Christmas-tide, I am,
Yours in Jesus and Mary,

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