

It is a sad day when faithful Catholics have to demonstrate against their Bishop. It is an even sadder day when the laity and hierarchy block the attempts of faithful laity to educate their fellow laity about events, betrayals, and erroneous beliefs about our faith in the secular world and within church walls. This is exactly what happened on Wednesday of Holy Week 2006.



Jean Barry, holding sign at St. Mary's Church in Bangor during Bishop Malone's visit on April 12, Wednesday of Holy Week.

Bishop Richard Malone visited All Saints Campus on Wednesday, April 11th, as he does each year and said a Mass at the St. Mary Campus on 12:15 pm. At about 11:30 am, Terry Hughes, Ron Stauble, Ernie Gallant and Jeff Harden showed up with signs at the street. When I arrived, the parish secretary, sextant and parish manager were all watching activities on the street. I drove into the parking lot, at about 12:30 pm and began leafleting cars. I got 45 cars leafleted before I was discovered by the parish secretary. She came up to me and immediately demanded that I leave. She was visibly upset and accused me of breaking the law because I was leafleting on private property. I assured her that I was within my rights, but that I would leave as she asked. I asked her her name and she accused me of threatening her. Her name was Ann Dowd. Then Ken Hutchinson, the parish manager came up to me and also requested that I leave. I got into my car and was attempting to drive off when Ann Dowd stood in front of my car and refused to move. I told her she had no right to block my exit. However, I abandoned my car in the middle of the dooryard, took the poster out of my car saying, "What happened to your promise, Bishop Malone? "No Platform For Pro-Aborts" and proceeded to the street. A police car showed up a few minutes later and after discussions with the three parish stooges, the police kindly asked me to move my car and I gratefully obliged.

Two tv stations and the Bangor Daily were given advanced warning of the event. However only one tv station, I believe channel 2 showed up. We continued to stand at the street with our signs until all the children, buses, cars and adults were gone. Bishop Malone with his cohort of priests and assistants had entered the rectory for refreshment. A few of us continued to wait with our posters and signs for his exit. Our wait was not in vain. He emerged and drove past us in his chauffeured driven car, at which point we also left. Mission accomplished.

What was the purpose of our demonstration? In May of 2002, a group of us began demonstrating in front of St. John's Catholic Church in Bangor in objection to a spaghetti supper fund raiser sponsored by 100 % Pro-Abort Congressman John Baldacci running for governor held at said church. In June of 2004, the USCCB released a statement, "Catholics In Political Life". It states, "no pro-abortion should be given honors, awards, or platform at any Catholic institution". . In September of 2004, newly installed Bishop of Portland, Richard Malone spoke at the PLEA luncheon in Augusta. He promised us at that time that he would uphold the USCCB statement and no pro-abortion would be given a platform at a Catholic institution in this diocese. Yet, in February of 2006, another election year, at St. Hyacinth's Parish in Westbrook, Representatives Duplessie and Dricsoll, also 100% Pro-Aborts sponsored a spaghetti supper under the guise of raising money for the Keep Me Warm fuel initiative to raise money for the poor of Westbrook.

Matthew 25: What you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me. If we give support, platform, credibility to those who would deny life in the womb, do we not thereby also deny and betray Christ? Yet this is what our Bishop, our shepherd has allowed to happen in our diocese, just as Peter betrayed Christ on Good Friday. Let us look unto our own hearts and ask how we have betrayed each other , our loved ones, even our own kindred by our denial of life in the womb. Let us from this day forward, be committed to affirming life in all stages and furthermore, refuse to give credibility, platform, or support to those in positions of power and authority who would deny life in the womb and thereby also deny Christ.