

Charles E.F. Millard

April 29, 2003

To Holy Cross Trustees:  
I feel I owe you an explanation.

In the absence of any substantial response from Fr. McFarland or the trustees (other than a very gracious letter about process from Michael Collins) I felt compelled to "go public." Anybody who knows me and my love affair with Holy Cross knows how painful it was for me to air the laundry in public. It's against my nature; I am loyalist by nature and am not glued to Holy Cross.

That said, we are where we are and I accept whatever measure of responsibility you care to assign to me, while stipulating that the responsibility is not mine alone. I am sorry for any consternation, embarrassment or difficulty I may have caused you or the college.

As, most of you probably know, I/we have proposed a one sentence solution, to include in the citation text to the effect:

*"We pray that you will ameliorate your pro choice position, thus further demonstrating your worthiness to receive this honor."*

This speaks volumes, but it seems innocuous. It is not the stuff of headlines. The fairness of this one sentence solution is demonstrated by the following:

- Chris Matthews gets his honorary degree, to almost universal approval
- Holy Cross affirms its pro-life position
- The loyal opposition (me, et al) is silenced
- The controversy is dissipated and decompressed and there is no risk of embarrassment to Cardinal Dulles, the college, or anyone else.
- There will be no feeding frenzy at Commencement

Thanks for listening.

**Lift High the Cross!**

*Chairman Collins did NOT read this letter to the Board as I had requested of him.*

*Going Wobbly*  
**"Standing For the Unborn"**  
**An Open Letter to President McFarland, of Holy Cross College**

Dear Fr. McFarland:

I hereby resign as honorary chairman of the Campaign for Holy Cross.

I find myself in conscientious objection to the Trustees' persistence in awarding an honorary degree to Chris Matthews in spite of his pro-abortion views. The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) recently published an inspiring paper "Standing for the Unborn." Clearly the Holy Cross version should be renamed "Going Wobbly for the Unborn."

I am astonished that a majority of the Board of Trustees, comprised largely of Holy Cross graduates and including 5 or 6 Jesuits, would repudiate the Church's clear and explicit teaching and align themselves and the college with your fallacious assertion that it is "allowable within Catholic thought."

You've successfully diverted attention from the merits, and succeeded in getting a majority of the Board - including your fellow Jesuits - to repudiate the unequivocal Church teaching and embrace a pro-choice position on the part of the college.

I only pray that you, and those who voted with you in this scandalous way will ameliorate your pro-choice views.

Respectfully,

Charles E.F. Millard, '54, L.H.D. '99  
Chairman of the Board, 1977-1982

**Holy Cross Alumni Students, Parents, Friends:**  
Contact Fr. McFarland and/or Board Chairman Collins  
**To Let Them Know of Your Disagreement.**

By mail to: College of The Holy Cross  
Worcester, MA 01610

By Telephone to:  
Fr. Michael McFarland: 508-793-2525  
mcfarland@holycross.edu  
Michael F. Collins, MD: 617-789-3187  
michaelcollins@cchcs.org

If anyone needs further information,  
I can be reached at:  
26 Fenwick Avenue  
Fenwick, CT 06475 860-388-0815

**The Washington Times**

INSIDE THE BELTWAY  
John McCaslin  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
CATHOLIC THOUGHT

Now it's Chris Matthews who is embroiled in a public dispute surrounding the commencement appearance he's scheduled to make at his Catholic alma mater, the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts.

Catholic World News reports that the Jesuit Institution in Worcester has come under fire from alumni groups and others for inviting the Washington-based commentator of MSNBC - who is described as a "supporter of legal abortion" - back to the campus.

Since complaints from the alumni groups, CWN reports the Holy Cross chapter of the Cardinal Newman Society, as well as Charles Millard, the former longtime chairman of the school's board of trustees, have joined in the criticism.

Mr. Millard is slated to receive an alumni award at the commencement this month.

But Father Michael McFarland, president of Holy Cross, has gone beyond criticizing the groups and individuals who oppose Mr. Matthews' appearance, and said that the commentator's support for abortion is "allowable in Catholic thought."

Father McFarland's statement, in and of itself, is causing an uproar in the Catholic community.

The priest's position "is clearly incompatible with the teachings of Pope John Paul II and the Catholic Church," CWN says.

Fr. McFarland also lashed out at his college's alumni, saying they have "no authority whatsoever to dictate what is 'Catholic'."

"If we checked their conformity with every point in Catholic teaching, we would have no honorees, including Charlie Millard," the college president said.

Mr. Matthews was out of town yesterday and not available for comment

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