



St. Boniface Church

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Dear Larry,

I feel compelled to write to you about the great unrest I feel monthly when **The Bulletin of the Diocese of Orange** arrives. I do not know what your level of authority is regarding this publication, but, in my opinion, Jim Graves, the editor, is not serving us well. In fact, in my judgment he is abusing his position.

There are, of course, positive elements. For example, I always appreciate Bishop McFarland's finely crafted articles. The parish profiles are interesting. The historical photo presentation of Bishop Brown was most interesting. And certainly there are some other items of merit. But there is a great deal that distresses me, and so I have discussed this with a good number of priests of this diocese in order to check out my reaction. I have discovered that there is strong general discontent similar to my own.

Let's look at the October 1998 issue. Fifty percent of the front page is a free advertisement for Catholic Family Radio. As we all well know, that broadcasting network is not an activity of the Catholic Church but of a group of Catholics with a particular ideological conviction which they wish to present as "the" Catholic position. Fr. Joseph Fessio, a key player in this new effort, is entitled to his viewpoints, but he represents an extreme position that is neither centrist nor inclusive. Archbishop Rembert Weakland asked the network to not locate inside the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, a request that was not respected by this supposedly very Catholic group.

Why is EWTN given free advertising every month? It's programming is actively promoted this month on Pages 1 and 13. Does the editor know that Cardinal Mahony has brought a case against it to the appropriate Vatican offices? Do we really want to encourage people to drink of Mother Angelica's religious intolerance and arrogance? I certainly do not.

The September 1998 issue of **The Bulletin** featured a major story about the University of Steubenville. This is the home of Catholics United for the Faith, a pathetic organization of bitter people. What criteria were employed to feature this university in preference to the hundreds of other Catholic colleges and universities in the United States that have a long and far nobler tradition of excellence? There clearly is an agenda here that is not that of featuring and promoting Catholic education.