

Copy given to
Msgr. Driscoll

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Ans'd.....

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
January 12, 1985

Reverend Al Ramos
Pastor
St. Anthony Claret Church
1450 E. La Palma Ave
Anaheim, Ca 92806

File

Dear Father:

We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore! Sound familiar? You'd better believe it as this is fast becoming the rallying cry of Americans who are increasingly worried, angered and frustrated by situations very similar to that which is now taking place at St. Anthony Claret.

When you arrived in our parish, Father Ramos, we welcomed you with open hearts, even though you were replacing our beloved, Msgr. Nash. You seemed vital, dynamic and well prepared to handle a large parish. You were entrusted with a cohesive and loving parish where people of many ethnic backgrounds lived, worked and prayed together, and have been doing so for almost thirty years. In a few short months you have succeeded in taking that once pleasant parish and turning it into a political arena.

Bear with him, we said, and were silent, when you injected more and more Mexican emphasis into the ceremonies, when the rules at the time of Holy Communion were changed, the sanctuary bells were eliminated etc., but we can no longer be silent since you have insulted and degraded our country's flag.

Can you possibly imagine the shock we felt upon walking into our church to attend Mass and being greeted with the sight of the Mexican flag spread over the wall above the altar with a spotlight illuminating it, while the flag of the United States played second fiddle standing in relative darkness?

Can you possibly imagine the anger which built all during Mass as we were forced to sit and look at that fiasco?

We cannot believe that you intentionally degraded our country's flag. In your love and zeal for our Mexican brethren, you may have lost sight of the fact that this is the United States, not Mexico, and that your actions may be hurting, not helping, those people for whom you have so much compassion. They will never become American citizens if you insist upon emphasizing their Mexican heritage while ignoring that of the land in which they have chosen to live. These people will be at home in neither country. You, in your goodness, will have crippled them forever.

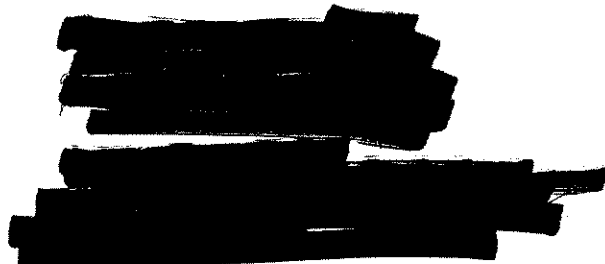
Although St. Anthony Claret has been our parish since its inception and we have always supported it both financially and with

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years of labor, we can no longer, in all good conscience, give support to it, or the Diocese. It is with deep regret that we take this action as St. Anthony Claret's has played a very important role in our lives and those of our six sons. Our financial donations will be sent instead to the Glen Mary Missionaries and the Catholic Relief Society until that day, and may God grant it be soon, in which St. Anthony Claret is once again a church for all nationalities, remembering that we are all Catholics in an English speaking nation.

Thank you for your time and may we meet again some day under more favorable circumstances.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction covers the signature and name of the sender.

cc: Most Reverend William R. Johnson
Bishop of Orange
Marywood Center
2811 Villa Real Dr.
Orange, Ca 92667