



ASSOCIATION OF U.S. CATHOLIC PRIESTS

A PASTORAL VOICE OF HOPE AND JOY WITHIN OUR PILGRIM CHURCH AND WORLD
P.O. Box 676, Tiffin OH 44883 • 872-205-5862 • office@auscp.org

AUSCP STATEMENT re SEPTEMBER 2020 NATIONAL CATHOLIC PRAYER BREAKFAST

The vision and mission of AUSCP includes contemplative prayer, dialogue, raising a prophetic voice, and undertaking prophetic action centered in faith. The recent decision of the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast (NCPB) to confer its *Christifideles Laici* award on Attorney General Barr at their September Breakfast is for us shocking, incomprehensible, and scandalous.

Specifically, we consider Mr. Barr's recent decisions and actions to be abhorrent in the context of Catholic faith. We consider especially scandalous his decision to begin again federal executions after 17 years of moratorium. Executions are clearly not pro-life. Pope St. John Paul II judged such actions as "unnecessary". Pope Francis defined them as "inadmissible". That position of the Magisterium is now affirmed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Mr. Barr also showed disrespect for sacred space when he was party to a recent show of force to enable the President to use the grounds and building of an Episcopal Church in Lafayette Square to hold up a bible in front of the church as a prop for a political photo op. Such actions do not express the Gospel values that we priests and friends of the AUSCP across the country hold dear.

We ask any Bishop who may have been involved in the choice of Mr. Barr to receive the NCPB Catholic award to reverse this regrettable choice and/or to remove themselves from NCPB. We have asked Bishop Robert Barron, who is scheduled to keynote the award virtually to withdraw from that role.

For these reasons the AUSCP urgently calls for the NCPB Board to reverse its scandalous decision.

Approved by AUSCP Leadership Team on 8/25/20

For questions/comments, contact: AUSCP Chair - Fr. Greg Barras (gregmbarras@gmail.com); or AUSCP Executive Director - Fr. Bob Bonnot (auscpbonnot@gmail.com)

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