

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RCWP Condemns Dismissal and Excommunication of Fr. Bourgeois

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ROMAN CATHOLIC WOMENPRIESTS USA

Roman Catholic Womenpriests-USA stands in solidarity with Fr. Roy Bourgeois, "fired" as a priest and excommunicated as a Catholic, a bloodless yet painful martyrdom, because he has been a vocal and visible champion for women's ordination as essential for a just Church. Bourgeois was dismissed Monday from the priesthood and his order by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), for refusing to recant his advocacy for full equality of women in the Roman Catholic Church. RCWP publicly expresses respect, support and concern for Fr. Roy, a Maryknoll priest for 45 years. RCWP decries this injustice and calls on all Roman Catholics to express their own dismay, anger, disgust and rejection of the CDF's action.

Fr. Roy told an RCWP member, that his "dark night of the soul has ended in a moment of grace" where he understood that "this sense of dismissal is what women feel."

The dismissal and excommunication warrant solidarity by all outraged Catholics. RCWP calls all Catholics to action to protest against the dry rot of sexism in the RC Church: "Boycott the Basket," by redirecting financial support to any Progressive Catholic reform organization: RCWP, SOA (School of the Americas Watch), CTA (Call To Action USA), VOTF (Voices of The Faithful), SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests), etc. Write op-ed letters. Read *My Journey from Silence to Solidarity*, by Roy Bourgeois, www.roybourgeoisjourney.org. Purchase and view the DVD, *Pink Smoke Over the Vatican*, www.eyegoddessfilms.com. Send letters of support to Fr. Roy: P.O. Box 3330, Columbus, GA 31903.

This grievous excommunication continues the CDF bullying against those who advocate for an inclusive and just Church. No predator priests or their protective bishops have been excommunicated for their crimes against the innocent. The few dismissals of pedophile priests by the CDF did not occur with the speed or severity as did this reaction to a priest who has refused to recant his stand for women's equality in the Roman Catholic Church.

Fr. Roy said, "The Vatican and Maryknoll can dismiss me, but they cannot dismiss the issue of gender equality in the Catholic Church." We agree.