

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

COL. RICHARD H. BLACK

13TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
PART OF LOUDOUN AND PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES
POST OFFICE BOX 3026
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 20177
RICHMOND: (804) 698-7513
DISTRICT: (703) 468-1342



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

January 7, 2013

His Holiness Benedict XVI
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City State, Europe

Re: Canonization of Dorothy Day

Your Holiness:

The New York Times reported that upon Cardinal Dolan's recommendation, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops voted to advance the canonization of Dorothy Day.

I am appalled that a woman of such loathsome character might be considered by anyone in this fashion. For almost fifty years, Mrs. Day was the editor of a pro-communist news paper, *the Catholic Worker*. FBI files mention, "Suspicion that *the Catholic Worker* was a 'front' publication for the Communist Party..." The 581-page FBI file contains a recommendation that Dorothy Day be considered for custodial detention in the event of a national emergency.

I am particularly concerned about her favorable writings regarding Lenin, Castro, Mao, and Ho Chi Minh. As you well know, each of the above dictators ordered the execution of Catholic priests among the millions of other Christians murdered by these regimes.

I am particularly concerned about her support for Ho Chi Minh. Last night, I hosted a group of twelve Vietnamese men, each of whom served as senior officials in the Free Republic of Vietnam during the time when the North Vietnamese communists overwhelmed Saigon in 1975. Six of them were imprisoned in concentration camps no less severe than those of the Nazis in Germany.

We discussed the aftermath of the Communist takeover. All agreed that mass executions were common throughout South Vietnam. They made clear that the communists took particular interest in rooting out the Catholics, who make up about ten percent of Vietnam's population. One of the attendees described how the leader of one community, a

parish priest, was burned alive as an example to those inclined to become followers of Jesus Christ.

Successive Popes have condemned communism as, "intrinsically evil." In July, 1949, Pope Pious XII issued a decree of excommunication against anyone who collaborated with communists or joined their associations. Vatican archives are filled with reports of Christians martyred under the regimes that Dorothy Day supported.

I am revolted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' support for the canonization of a woman whose views supported the violent extermination of Christians throughout the world. I ask that these matters be carefully weighed so that the Holy See will not be inadvertently misled when considering the canonization of Dorothy Day.

Most Respectfully,



Richard H. Black
Senator of Virginia, 13th Senate District