



Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church

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August 14, 2008

Father John Sivalon, M.M, Superior General
Maryknoll Council Members
P.O. Box 303
Maryknoll, NY 10545

Dear Father Sivalon and Council Members,

The whole Church is aware and grateful for the long and wonderful contribution of Maryknoll and the truly heroic men and women who have dedicated their lives to spread the message of Jesus throughout the world. The *Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church--ARCC* Board members have known many of them, worked with them, and shared their spirituality, joy, and dedication.

Surely no one has demonstrated this prophetic spirit and clear commitment to the message of Jesus more than Father. Roy Bourgeois. At baptism we followers of Jesus did not receive a pick and choose commitment to justice—"loves minimum," according to Pope Pius XI. It was and is clear and unconditional. Roy Bourgeois is a shining Maryknoll light for the world to see, a courageous example of the spirit of Maryknoll's clear dedication to justice and peace. He is one of your most visible spokespersons.

We urge you to support him as he lives and expresses what is known in the hearts of the people of God, namely, that violence against anyone, not only physical, but psychological or spiritual as well, is contrary to God's will and a betrayal of our commitment to Jesus.

ARCC has supported the equality of women from its inception over 25 years ago and we support Father Bourgeois in his courageous stance. We urge you to be true to the Maryknoll charism of Justice and also strongly sustain Roy Bourgeois.

Sincerely,

Leonard Swidler, Ph.D., S.T.L., LL.D., LL.D.
Professor of Catholic Thought and Interreligious Dialogue
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