

319 Blackstrap Road
Falmouth ME 04105-2449
December 12, 2003

Reverend Michael C. McFarland, S.J.
President
Holy Cross College
One College Street
Worcester MA 01610-2395

Dear Father McFarland,

As an added postscript to my letter to you of November 12, last, I wish to make some further observations on the invitation to Chris Matthews that you extended for your May 23, 2003 commencement.

With all due respect, Father, as a life-long Catholic, speaking from the heart, I must tell you that in pandering to a pro-abortion pundit by inviting him to Holy Cross as a commencement speaker, you seem to act as if you were accountable to no one, least of all to parents, to the general Catholic public in New England, to the authors of the booklet containing the Jesuit position on abortion, and to such governing Catholic directives as Canon 1398 and paragraphs 2270 to 2275 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, not to mention the risk of your own fate at the Particular Judgment. This must end. Elitism in any form is not only unhelpful but it acts to subvert the mission of Jesuit education, as well as the mission of Holy Cross in particular.

Chris Matthews bills himself as Catholic. He knows that abortion is a mortal sin against the Fifth Commandment of Almighty God, yet you invited him to address the graduating class. What good did it do? (in Latin, *cui bono?*)

Michael Paulson of the Boston Globe, May 22, 2003, reported that Matthews described himself as a supporter of abortion rights. "I'm pro-choice, he told former Vice-President Al Gore during a televised interview last December (2002)". But there are no abortion rights, Chris! It is against the natural law, and that is why it was condemned centuries before Christ by the ancients, e.g, by Hammurabi, the Father of Laws, in his Code. Also, by

Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, in his Oath. Choice to do what, Chris? To kill a live, helpless, innocent, unborn, baby, trapped in the womb, as you, Father, and Matthews, and I, all were at one time?

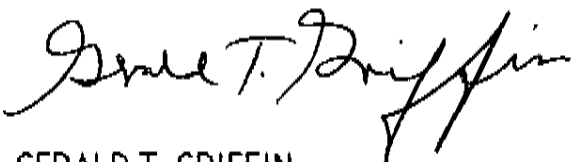
On May 24, 2003, Heather Allen, also of the Boston Globe, wrote that, .."he (Matthews) said his position on abortion boils down to one issue - choice. In the end it's one person's decision. In a free society you can't stop someone from doing what they want to do". Well, gee, Chris, why then is there a Worcester Police Department? Couldn't we just abolish it and tell its Chief to find some other line of work? That, in fact, we can't stop people from doing what they want to do? Did not Matthews, himself, tell us so?

Also, on the same date, Matthews met with Emilie Astell of the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram and Gazette, and told her that, "Deciding to have an abortion is a personal decision allowed in a FREE (my caps) society", although he emphasized that, "he supports limiting the number and frequency of abortions." Well, that sounds so magnanimous and altruistic, Chris, but why didn't you tell the reporter how many abortions would be too many for you, and also what frequency of abortion would be too frequent for your taste? Why the limits? Are you then, uncomfortable with the killing, Chris? Face it.

But get it, Father McFarland? Matthews, who graduated from H.C. in 1967 and who was in his twenties on January 21, 1973, is implying that we Americans were, somehow, living in an unfree society from 1776 until 1973. Is this true? Or is Matthews, in fact, engaged in hardball lying about this to everybody in America, including Catholics?

You are an articulate Jesuit educator and intellectual. Therefore, I need your answers to the above questions.

Yours in Manresa,



GERALD T. GRIFFIN



AP PHOTO

Abortion protesters targeted MSNBC talk show host Chris Matthews (right), a commencement speaker, during ceremonies at Holy Cross yesterday. At left is college trustee Michael Collins.