

25 March 2014

Fr. Matthew Kauth and Sr. Jane Dominic Laurel,

We are writing to you in response to the presentation given to the students of Charlotte Catholic High School on 21 March 2014. As both alumni and current students of Charlotte Catholic, we are disappointed that a place that we called home for four years would enable the dissemination of the misleading, offensive, and hateful messages contained within Sister Dominic's programme.

As Catholic educators, it is your vocation and your responsibility to bring the message of the Church to students. However, you took advantage of this position to push your own prejudices and bigotry upon the Charlotte Catholic community despite this community's deliberate efforts to avoid it when presented as an extracurricular event.

Using outdated or false statistics to tell children and young adults that their LGBTQ friends, family members, and colleagues are the result of their parents' missteps is damaging. Suggesting that LGBTQ members of the *very audience you were addressing* owe their sexual identities to pornography and masturbation is abhorrent. Presenting these false ideas to high school students not only advocates discrimination of LGBTQ students, but also tells those individuals that they are damaged or incomplete. Consider for a moment the severe and ongoing effect this type of message has on the current LGBTQ students at Charlotte Catholic. Consider the power this message has to empower bullies of these same students.

We were also deeply troubled by the message Sister Dominic offered to the women in the audience. Schools are forums to empower young men and women and to instill in them the knowledge that they are both equally capable and equally valuable contributors to society. Your oppressive assertions that women are confined to the spheres of the home and of child-rearing undermine these truths.

Last week's presentation represents a betrayal of trust. Your responsibility to provide nurturing and informative education to the students of Charlotte Catholic was shrugged off. Your mission to truthfully convey the teachings of the Church—the teachings of love, compassion, and humility—was replaced by teachings of hate and intolerance.

As a result, we ask that a formal apology be given to the students, families, faculty and staff of the Charlotte Catholic community so that some of the damage you have caused can begin to be repaired. More importantly, we ask that, in future, the administration of Charlotte Catholic High School and the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools take seriously their responsibility to provide accurate programming consistent with the true teachings of the Church.

Sincerely,

[LIST OF SIGNERS]

CC:

Dr. Janice Ritter, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Steve Carpenter, Assistant Principal, Charlotte Catholic High School  
Mrs. Angela Montague, Assistant Principal, Charlotte Catholic High School  
Mr. Randy Belk, Dean of Students, Charlotte Catholic High School  
Mr. Rick Thames, Editor/VP News, The Charlotte Observer  
News Editor, WCNC