

To: Mr. Gilbert Bailon
Editor
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

From: Peter Frangie
Executive Director of Strategic Communications
Archdiocese of St. Louis

Dear Mr. Bailon,

I write to share the hurt felt by many of the 500,000 Catholics of the Archdiocese of St. Louis as it pertains to the cartoon printed on the Op-Ed page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Understanding that the cartoon was taken from the Chattanooga Times Free Press in an attempt to condemn a politician for ties to a group of extremists, your decision to print the cartoon is clear pandering to all extremism, both liberal and conservative, which has so greatly divided our nation. It ridicules a representative from a district 450 miles away, someone many St. Louisans do not know. The late Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill would remind us that "All Politics Is Local".

As this cartoon works to widen the divide at a time when the message should be unity, it is more clearly anti-Catholicism at its worst, and a particular affront as we inaugurate our country's second Catholic president. It mocks the core beliefs of the Catholic faith to feed the fringe forces that work to divide us.

In the future, I encourage you and your team to avoid falling into such salacious rhetoric which has damaged the reputation of many media outlets.

Please share this letter with your readers as it will be shared on the communication channels of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Frangie