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For John Alderdice

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Y.C.I Press Release

Challenge to Christians in the Orange Order to reform or resign

In the light of the recent sectarian events in Northern Ireland Evangelical Catholics call on Christians in the Orange Order to seriously consider their position and look at whether or not the following actions are in accordance with the Catholic gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. How can members of the Orange Order who profess to follow Christ remain in it despite the openly sectarian and anti-Catholic attitudes of some of its members and parading that is openly anti-Catholic and provocative?
2. Where is the love of Jesus in attacking, intimidating and even killing Catholics out of their homes?
3. Where is the love of Jesus when in the months to come many Catholics will be forced out of their homes and the police refuse to look into the crimes that are committed?
4. Where is the love of Jesus in the actions of the Orange Order in attacking Catholic Holy Communion and Holy Day services in order to resolve this issue over the 12 months preceding the Drumcree parade?
5. Where is the love of Jesus in the attitude of Orangemen who refuse to speak out against the sectarian abuse and intimidation of individuals who march in the Orange Order?
6. Where is the love of Jesus in the decision of the Orange Order to march down the Garvaghy Road after the Parades Commission had ruled that the Drumcree Parade should not proceed?
7. Why did the Orange Order, given the recent history of Drumcree, not seek to negotiate a peaceful parade from Friday to Sunday? Why did they refuse to talk to the Garvaghy Road Residents Group? Why did they refuse to accept the Parades Commission's proposal that the Orange Order parade from Drumcree Church to the Obelisk and back, and that the Garvaghy Road Residents Group would hold a silent protest at the Obelisk? Why did the Orange Order refuse to accept the Parades Commission's proposal that the Orange Order parade from Drumcree Church to the Obelisk and back, and that the Garvaghy Road Residents Group would hold a silent protest at the Obelisk?
8. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has declared that membership of the Orange Order is incompatible with membership of the Presbyterian Church. Why do Christians who are members of the Orange Order refuse to accept the teaching of the Presbyterian Church?
9. Do you not Evangelical Christians in the Orange Order realise that your membership of the Orange Order is a stumbling block to the Catholic Church and to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

We call on Christians in the Orange Order to reform or resign.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Paddy Mackenzie, Morgan McVeigh, Aubrey Boyle & Alan Harper

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