

Topic: Seminarians Being Removed for Not Being Vaccinated.

Statement

The removal of seminarians for not submitting to an order to be vaccinated (i.e., coercing seminarians to act against their consciences) is unjust, as implied by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The CDF has further stated there is no moral obligation to be vaccinated and that vaccinations must be voluntary. The right to free exercise of religion is not subject to any statement of belief of any religious group but is rather an individual right, one not tied to adherence to any religious organization or its precepts.

Justification

Pontifical Academy for Life (with direct approval from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith)

June 9, 2005

“There is a grave responsibility to use alternative vaccines and to make a conscientious objection with regard to those which have moral problems.”

“[To be] forced to choose to act against their conscience ... is an unjust alternative choice, which must be eliminated as soon as possible.”

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Dec. 20, 2020

“Vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and ... therefore, it must be voluntary.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church (§2295)

“Experimentation on human beings does not conform to the dignity of the person if it takes place without the informed consent of the subject or those who legitimately speak for him.”

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

Guideline on Discrimination Because of Religion

“The fact that no religious group espouses such beliefs or the fact that the religious group to which the individual professes to belong may not accept such belief will not determine whether the belief is a religious belief of the employee or prospective employee.”

United States Supreme Court

***Frazee v. Illinois Dep't of Emp. Sec.*, 489 U.S. 829 (1989)**

“We reject the notion that to claim the protection of the Free Exercise Clause, one must be responding to the commands of a particular religious organization.

Conclusion/Summary

The use of experimental vaccines on unwilling individuals violates the dignity of the person and is contrary to the moral law.

Because the right to free exercise of religion is not tied to a statement of belief of any religious group or adherence to its precepts, the U.S. Constitution protects the individuals' practice of their faith whether or not they are supported in their choices by any church or religious institution. This interpretation has already been recognized by the EEOC.

Therefore, the removal of seminarians for not submitting to a vaccination is seen by the Church as unjust and demeaning of human dignity and also as conflicting with Church doctrine regarding freedom of conscience, as well as the moral law. It further attempts to limit an individual's legal right to free exercise of religion.

In Christ,
Patres Fidelium Christi (PFC)