

**Portland Press Herald**

**September 30, 2009**

**As a Maine Catholic**, I am offended by the actions of Bishop Malone (who I did not elect) choosing to spend time and money in an attempt to reverse legislation crafted and applied by legislators and the governor (whom we the people did elect).

The bishop's latest attempt to persuade Maine Catholics to continue to support him financially has been through a note in the weekly church bulletins/ newsletters, an "Important Note of Clarification" reporting that money used in the "Stand for Marriage Campaign" is not coming from the regular contributions of Maine Catholics.

When thinking about all of the critical needs in the world and in our state and communities, I am astounded that the bishop would choose to invest the limited funds of the diocese in an effort to overturn a law that is grounded in equality, justice and compassion. And all this while closing churches and requesting that parishioners cut back.

I feel that the only avenue I have to voice my dissent is through my wallet, and so, until the bishop begins to focus on doing good and helping people in need and stops practicing politics, I will not contribute to the Bishop's Appeal (an annual request to all Catholics to support the diocese), but will continue to support and contribute to the charities that are helpful to people and consistent with my values.

**Lorrie Ferrari**

*Portland*