

11-16-07 – LETTERS, Stamford Advocate, Stamford, CT

To the editor:

Father Michael Jude Fay's narcissism knows no bounds ("Former Darien pastor asks for sentencing delay," news story, Oct. 16), as he asked the federal court to postpone his sentencing due to cancer.

Worse than Fay's pathology are the quotes by Deacon William Rowe and a former parish council member, John Franko, of St. John's Parish in Darien. The former does not want to "condemn the guy too much ... you've got to be Christian about it," while the latter makes a wacky distinction between crimes against one's body versus financial crimes when he says: "You condemn only those who do a lot of hurt, bodily or otherwise, and this was financial."

The language used by both the ordained deacon and parish lay leader is bizarre. Was Denis Kozlowski "condemned"? John Rigas? Ken Lay? Ask the shareholders, retirees and employees if the financial crimes in these cases hurt or not. Closer to home, ask Catholic parishioners in Spokane, San Diego, Los Angeles, Portland and Boston whether gross negligence and crimes resulting in massive financial obligations hurt or not.

Thank God the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Haven successfully fought this move by Fay. The presiding federal judge, Janet Bond Arterton, appropriately rejected the sentencing delay Fay requested ("Judge denies sentencing for Darien priest," Nov. 14). It will go forward as scheduled on Dec. 4. She will determine the precise implementation of the sentence, taking into consideration the value of Fay's rendition of "Fiddler on the Roof," as Mr. Franko suggests.

With comments by Deacon Rowe and Mr. Franko, one wonders how deep the dysfunction goes at this Catholic parish.

The late Cardinal John O'Connor of New York took as his motto, "There can be no love without justice." I hope the federal court will give us some justice; it's the Christian thing to do. After this, there will be plenty of time for love.

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