2 FFRF'ers defect from Catholic cabal

Refuse to base my life on a 2,000 year old piece of historical fiction. - Scott Brzezinski Out of the Closet Atheist FFRF. ORG FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

New York member Scott Brzezinski, baptized in 1969 at St. Francis Catholic Church in Traverse City, Mich., sent copies of his FFRF Certificate of Debaptism to the two parishes he was associated with as a child and to Bishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of Gaylord, Mich. (whose response is above). Along with the debaptismal certificate, he enclosed a letter to "renounce any and all affiliation with your diocese and its churches.

"I require that you immediately remove me and my name from any and all records and rosters you may have of parishioners, members or any way that counts me as a part of your organization. I happily ceased practicing Catholicism in 1983."

Finally free from the (un)Holy See

Colm O'Toole, Washington, writes: "Suitable for framing: FFTF's DeBaptismal Certificate" [April11] brought a smile to my face. It is with great joy and delight that I can state that I am one of a very small population who have actually defected from the Roman Catholic Church. In 1983, the church enabled parishioners to defect through an amendment to canon law enabling Actus formalis defectionis ab Ecclesia



Scott writes that Hebda responded

in about a week. "In the second para-

graph, he is correct in stating that bap-

tism leaves an indelible mark. What he

fails (or refuses) to realize is that the

meet. "Maybe I should take him up on

his offer to discuss this further when I

am back in Michigan in August." But

he thinks it would be a waste of every-

one's time. "If I did spend time to dis-

cuss this issue with him, I would be sure

to wear one of my three FFRF T-shirts."

ffrf.org/news/timely-topics/debaptismal-

Virtual billboard information is

certificate/

Debaptism information is here:

He also notes the bishop's offer to

mark is, in fact, a scar."

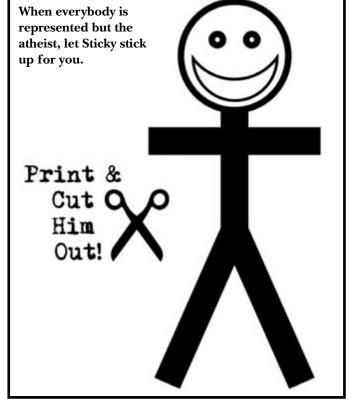
here: *ffrf.org/out/*

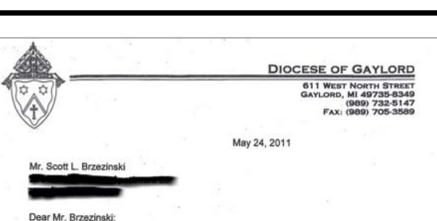
Colm O'Toole

catholica. This change to canon law was skillfully utilized by an Irish group which set up the website *CountMeOut.ie/*. But the popularity of this process became its downfall. In 2010, the Holy See amended canon law to remove the ability to defect. Attached is a copy of the letter which I received from the Archdiocese of Seattle, confirming my state of being "not in full Communion" with the Catholic Church. Many thanks for your great publication.

Sticky sticks up for atheists

When everybody is represented but the atheist, let Sticky stick up for you.





Thank you for your letter of May 16, 2011, forwarding to me a copy of your "DeBaptismal Certificate."

Allow me to note, however, that Baptism leaves an indelible mark upon the soul that can never be erased. While I can assure you that you are not counted among the faithful of St. Francis Parish or the Diocese of Gaylord, there is nothing that I can do to de-baptize you.

In the event that you ever return to Michigan, I would be happy to discuss this matter with you, as would the pastor at St. Francis.

In the meantime, you can count on my prayers-I'm hoping that God's love will produce a softening of your heart in His regard.

Sincerely in Christ, + ben A. Kelle

Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda **Bishop of Gaylord**

ALEXANDER BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND

THE AUTHORITY OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE ARCHBISHOP OF SEATTLE

DECREE OF DEFECTION

from the

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

for

COLM PATRICK O'TOOLE

Having received the duly executed and witnessed Declaration of Defection from the Roman Catholic Church from Colm Patrick O'Toole, and;

Having determined, after careful review and consideration, that the reasons set forth by Colm Patrick O'Toole qualify as a true separation from the constitutive elements of the life of the Church:

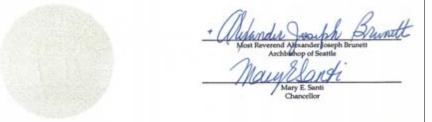
I hereby declare that, as of this day, September 22, 2009, Colm Patrick O'Toole has satisfied the requirements for Formal Defection from the Catholic Church (Actus formalis defectionis ab Ecclesia catholica) and is not in full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

en at the Chancery Of the Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington This 22nd day

in the year of our Lord, 2005

Eric Paul Erickson, author of Atheist Bliss, recommends placing Sticky wherever religious zealots threaten our constitutionally mandated secular government institutions. Sticky is also online at atheistbliss.com/sticky.html. Erickson's photo book is available at *ffrf.org/shop/*.



Women Without Superstition No Gods — No Masters

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