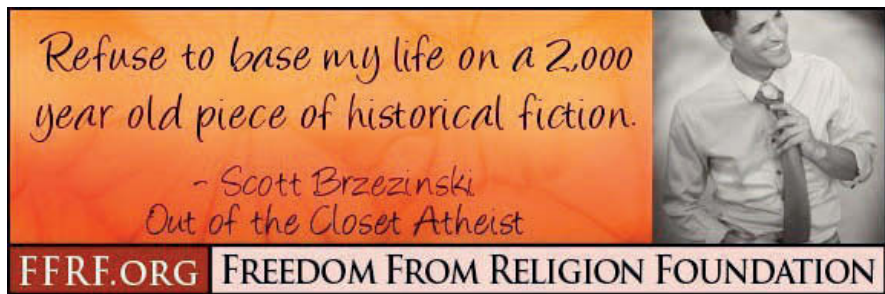


# 2 FFRF'ers defect from Catholic cabal



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 “re-nounce 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.”

Scott writes that Hebda responded in about a week. “In the second paragraph, he is correct in stating that baptism leaves an indelible mark. What he fails (or refuses) to realize is that the mark is, in fact, a scar.”

He also notes the bishop’s offer to 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 everyone’s time. “If I did spend time to discuss this issue with him, I would be sure to wear one of my three FFRF T-shirts.”

Debaptism information is here: [ffrf.org/news/timely-topics/debaptismal-certificate/](http://ffrf.org/news/timely-topics/debaptismal-certificate/)

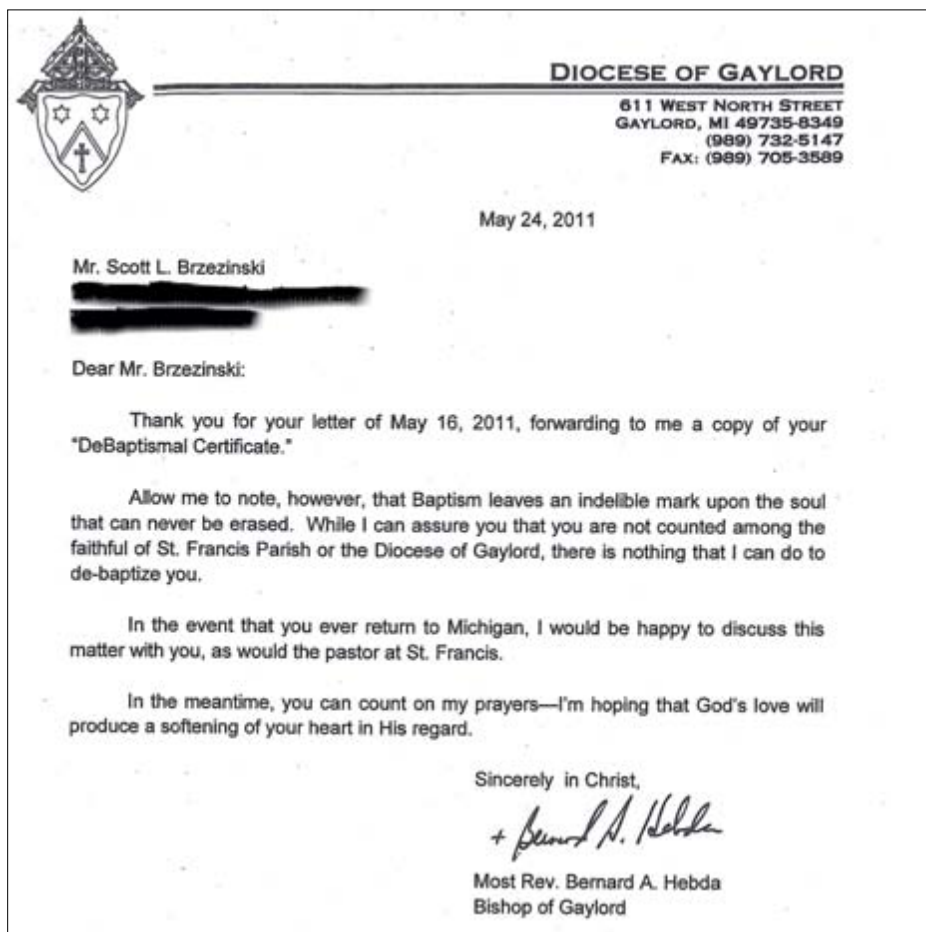
Virtual billboard information is here: [ffrf.org/out/](http://ffrf.org/out/)

## Finally free from the (un)Holy See

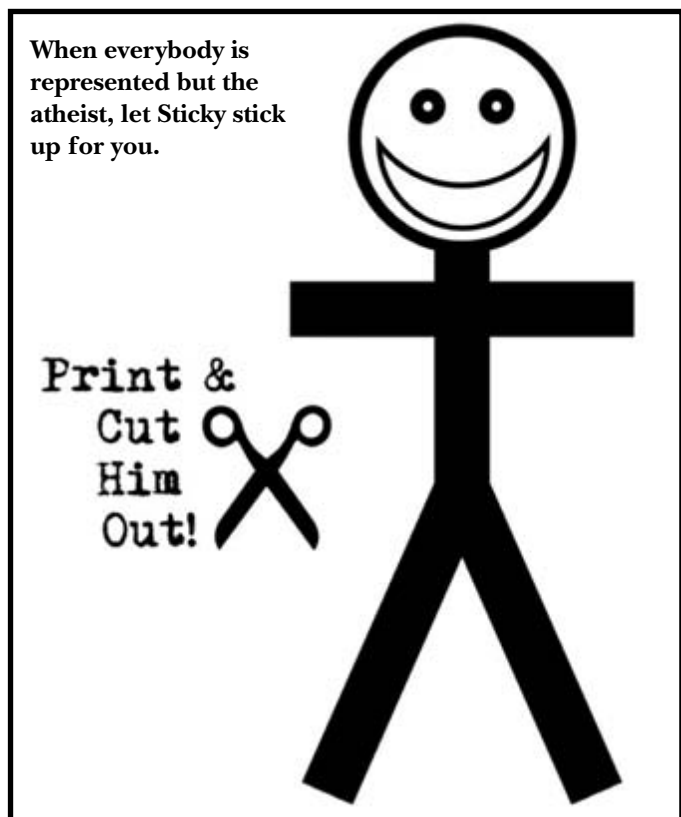
Colm O’Toole, Washington, writes: “Suitable for framing: FFRF’s DeBaptismal Certificate” [April 11] brought a smile to my face. It is with great joy and delight that I can state that I am one of a very small population who have actually defected from the Roman Catholic Church. In 1983, the church enabled parishioners to defect through an amendment to canon law enabling *Actus formalis defectionis ab Ecclesia catholica*. This change to canon law was skillfully utilized by an Irish group which set up the website [CountMeOut.ie/](http://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.



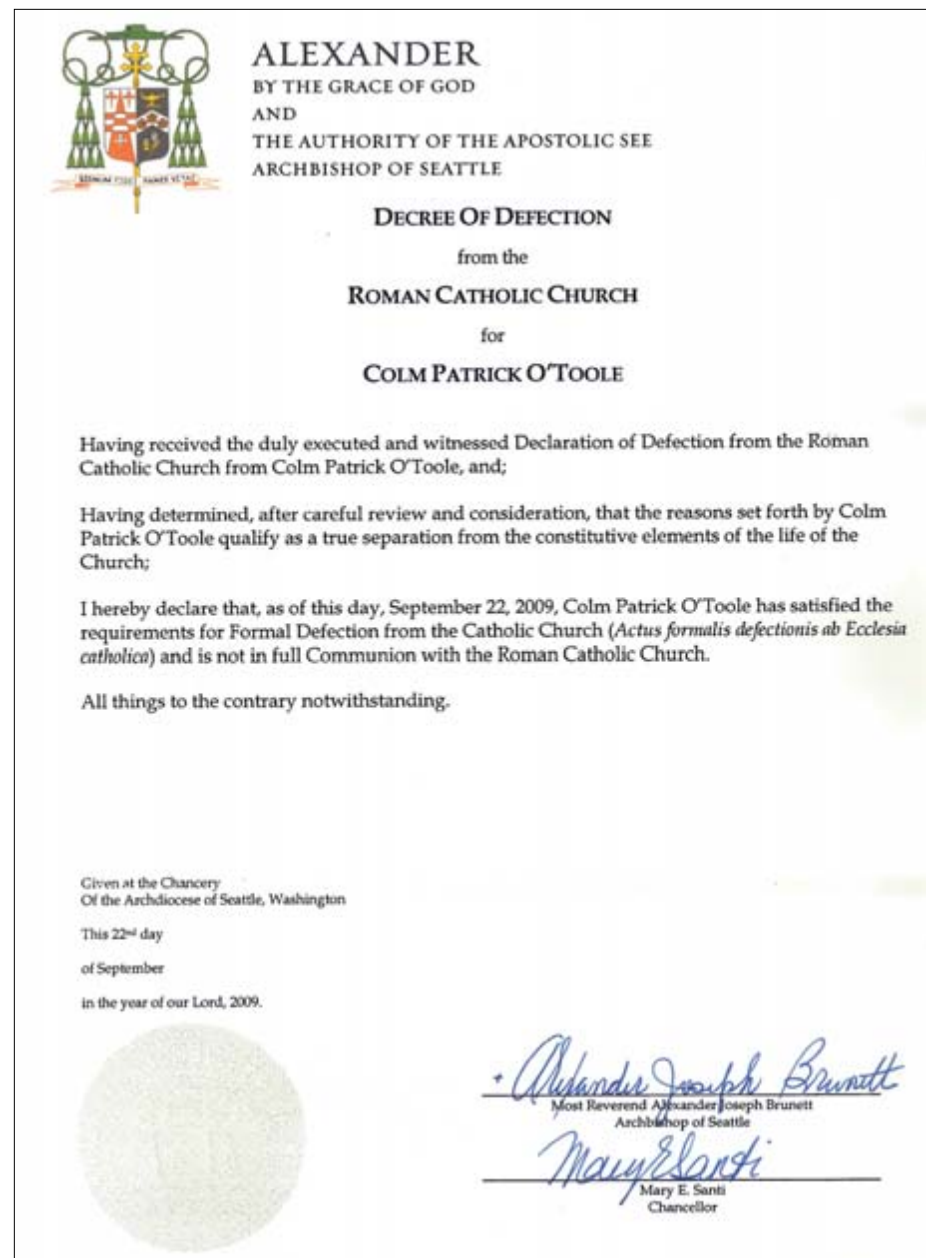
Colm O’Toole



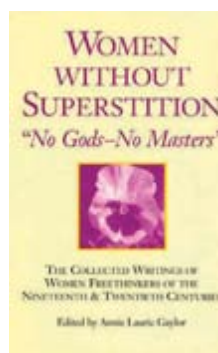
## Sticky sticks up for atheists



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](http://atheistbliss.com/sticky.html). Erickson’s photo book is available at [ffrf.org/shop/](http://ffrf.org/shop/).



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