

# WE PROTEST

To: The Most Reverend Archbishop William J. Levada  
Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican

**We protest the forced resignation of Thomas J. Reese, S.J.** as editor of *America* magazine. In an action rightfully called “tragic” by *National Catholic Reporter* and a “scandal” by *Commonweal*, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith responded to requests from unnamed American bishops by demanding the resignation of Fr. Reese. The undersigned protest this wholly unwarranted action against a faithful servant of Catholicism who promoted valuable dialogue on contemporary issues of great interest to thoughtful Catholics.

**We oppose the secrecy of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith**, a secrecy that only conjured up the worst images of Inquisition-style purges in the minds of Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The Congregation has harmed the reputation of our Church in the eyes of the world by its failure to explain its action, and by its failure to give Fr. Reese an opportunity to answer complaints against him. If the Congregation had a complaint against Fr. Reese or *America* magazine, this complaint should have been made public in a formal way, and he should have had an opportunity to respond. It is not Christ-like to act in secret, to dismiss without discussion, or to fire without fairness.

**We thank Thomas J. Reese, S.J.**, applaud his skillful service to all thinking Catholics by presenting a wide variety of viewpoints on important moral, ethical and societal issues in the pages of *America*, and encourage all Catholics working in the media to emulate his sense of balance, fairness and intellectual honesty.

**We support *America* magazine**, which has faithfully pursued its mission of publishing important articles on topics of interest to Catholics, we commend the Society of Jesus for its continued support of this apostolate, and we encourage its new editor to continue this invaluable work.

**We support the Catholic tradition of intellectual inquiry**, a tradition that runs from Augustine and Thomas Aquinas right up to our own Benedict XVI, a tradition that respects theological inquiry, respectful discussion and continuing exploration of the richness of our faith, cognizant of the fact that we never possess a full or complete understanding of that faith, but are always seeking to deepen our awareness of the gift God has given us.

**We oppose the closing of the Catholic mind**, the argument made by some that Catholics should only discuss what we already know, and ignore what we have yet to fully understand.

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Signed

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Name of Signatory

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City and State of Residence

Sign and mail to: VOTF NY, P.O. Box 6407, New York, NY 10150  
or visit our website at [www.votf-nyc.org](http://www.votf-nyc.org) and sign electronically.

Please pass this petition along to friends. Our goal is to collect as many signatures as possible by June 30 for presentation to Archbishop Levada.

**This petition drive is organized by Voice of the Faithful New York.**

