

Fort Collins Colorado July 31, 02

Letters To The Editor

Moral authority is gone

Owen Smith and Howard Robinson (July 13) claim Life and Liberty for Women executive director Peggy Loonan (July 8) was attempting to use the Catholic Church sexual abuse scandal to justify legal abortion.

But she wasn't making an argument for legal abortion. She was challenging the moral authority of the Catholic Church to speak and act against legal abortion.

Moral authority is based on the principle of right conduct and involves the right to speak and take action on a moral issue because one is right in conduct, principles

and standards.

Priests preach the sacredness of all human life from church doctrine, denouncing abortion while sexually abusing children. Members of the church hierarchy become co-conspirators, enabling molesting priests while saying no to a zero-tolerance doctrine against the sexual molestation of children. Clearly, such behavior negates the Catholic Church's moral authority to ever speak or act against legal abortion.

How many young men has Robinson demonstrated condom use to? Condoms are 98 percent effective when used consistently and correctly. Men and condoms could prevent thousands of abortions every year.

While adoption is a viable option to an unintended pregnancy, it isn't without serious life-long consequences to birth mothers, adopt-

ed children and adoptive parents, consequences every woman contemplating adoption should consider. Most women died pre-Roe from self-induced abortions. Illegal abortion doesn't save babies. Smith should know a constitutional amendment wouldn't stop desperate women from terminating unintended pregnancies, just as prohibition made alcohol more dangerous and didn't stop the production, sale or consumption.

**Julie Maslowski,
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