

Reply from Vatican to Robert Sungenis' Letter to Cardinal Levada Regarding the *US Catholic Catechism for Adults*

For those who are interested in any developments from the letter I wrote to Cardinal Levada in September 2007 regarding the erroneous statement in the *US Catholic Catechism for Adults* on page 131, which declares: "Thus the covenant that God made with the Jewish people through Moses remains eternally valid for them," I received a reply from the Vatican on October 11 from the Secretary to the Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Archbishop Angelo Amato. A photo copy of the letter with his signature is given below. Reverend Amato assured me that Cardinal Leveda wanted to express his thanks for the information I gave him in my 15-page letter showing that the Mosaic covenant, according to Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium, does not remain eternally valid for the Jewish people, and is, in fact, revoked. He also stated that Cardinal Levada will take the information into consideration.

One interesting note that may or may not be connected to the Vatican's movement on the USCCB's catechism is the recent paper published by Bishop William Lori, representing six other bishops and the USCCB at large. Bishop Lori, who is the chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine, was recently asked by Cardinal Levada to write a critical exposé on the book written by Fr. Peter C. Phan, which book was published by Maryknoll Press in 2004. Fr. Phan holds the prestigious Ellacuria Chair of Catholic Social Thought in the Department of Theology of Georgetown University, an institution that has been rapidly slipping away from the Catholic faith in recent years. The title of Fr. Phan's book is *Being Religious Interreligiously: Asian Perspectives of Interfaith Dialogue*. It is filled with erroneous ideas and concepts which essentially foster the idea that it is not necessary to preach the Gospel to non-Christian religions since they can be saved in their own faith. The USCCB's document was published on December 10, 2007, and you can access the document in PDF form here:

<http://www.usccb.org/dpp/StatementonBeingReligiousInterreligiously.pdf>

Bishop Lori and his committee are to be highly commended for their refreshing reassertion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the face of attempts today to claim that non-Christian religions are independent from Christ and Christianity in the realm of salvation. Although the document does not specifically mention the Jews or Judaism by name, it does not mention any non-Christian religion. One can tell from the tenor of the document, however, that Lori and his USCCB committee do not consider Judaism an exception to the rule. This document shows us that despite the liberal bent of the USCCB on many other issues, there are still some faithful representatives within its walls that will do the right thing. The six other bishops who were on the committee are: Leonard Blair (Toledo); Jose Gomez (San Antonio); Robert McManus (Worcester); Arthur Serratelli (Paterson); Allen Vigneron (Oakland); and Donald Wuerl (Washington).

Robert Sungenis

