



Sept. 10, 2012

Lois G. Lerner, Director  
Exempt Organizations Division  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Ms. Lerner,

A Roman Catholic Church in El Paso, Texas, appears to have violated federal law by issuing a statement of opposition to a candidate in the presidential election. I am writing today to request that the Internal Revenue Service investigate this matter.

St. Raphael Catholic Church ran a notice in a church bulletin dated Aug. 5 that reads, "I am asking all of you to go to the polls and be united in replacing our present president with a president that will respect the Catholic Church in this country. Please pass this on to all of your Catholic friends."

While I do not have a copy of this bulletin, I should note that the church is not denying that the notice appeared in the publication. In fact, the matter was the subject of a story that ran in the *El Paso Times* Sept. 7. (See copy enclosed.)

The language that appeared in the bulletin – an official publication of the church – clearly encourages parishioners to vote against incumbent presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Since federal law prohibits tax exempt, non-profit organizations (including houses of worship) from intervening in elections like this, I believe St. Raphael Church is in violation of the law.

St. Raphael's address is 2301 Zanzibar, El Paso, TX 79925. Telephone: (915) 598-3431.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Barry W. Lynn  
Executive Director

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