



A message to the faithful of the archdiocese from Archbishop Michael Jackels

12 August 2021, 2:00 PM

Statement regarding a radio station event featuring Fr. Altman

Various folks are asking for a comment from the Archbishop regarding a Dubuque-based radio station and a speaker event it is sponsoring.

It isn't a Catholic radio station *per se*. Its directors are Catholic. It airs Catholic programs. But it has no formal relationship with the Church or the Archdiocese.

To make use of the term "Catholic" requires the permission of the local bishop, which has not been given to this radio station for two reasons:

1. Because the Church would then be responsible for the doctrinal content of their broadcasts; there aren't the resources to do that.
2. And because that nomenclature would benefit its fund-raising efforts; there are more needy recipients of donations.

For these reasons, the radio station shouldn't in any way be associated with archdiocesan parishes, so as to avoid confusion about its relation to the Church.

And this applies most definitely to the speaker event featuring Father James Altman.

He is a priest of the Diocese of La Crosse, but *not* in good standing. As a consequence, he may not celebrate Holy Mass or the sacraments in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Also, at a recent speaking event he stated that some Vatican II documents are "bad news" and contain "sketchy stuff" which he says opens up the way to heresy.

He went on to say that Bishop Barron is in error for teaching from those documents, and that he should take back what he said, or be thrown out of the Catholic Church.

If that wasn't bad enough, the room full of Catholics who paid money to hear that priest speak, hooted and hollered, clapping loudly in approval!

For those reasons, but also because the priest claims COVID is a con, and that it's a sin to vote for or be a Democrat, faithful Catholics should not attend that event.

Michael O. Jackels

Archbishop of Dubuque
