

Voice of the People

Sunday, February 24, 2008

A mistake

University of Notre Dame President the Rev. John Jenkins claims that his decision to allow the presentation of the play "The Vagina Monologues" is based on academic freedom. But there is a crucial moral point that Bishop John D'Arcy and his colleagues want everyone to understand. Moving the bishops' theological seminar away from Notre Dame to a nearby convent is their teaching moment.

For example, sponsoring a public debate on the efficacy of abortion is a fine idea and Notre Dame should encourage such expression on campus, even when certain pro-abortion viewpoints contradict Catholic teaching. But allowing its facilities to be used for performing abortions would be acting in a way that the Catholic Church condemns. Jenkins and the university staff and its board and trustees would never allow this to happen.

Similarly, sponsoring a debate on the merits of "The Vagina Monologues" also seems compatible with academic freedom. But allowing the Notre Dame facilities to be used for the production of "graphic descriptions of homosexual, extra-marital, and auto-erotic experiences" is not just speaking against Catholic teaching, it is acting against Catholic teaching. And herein lies the big difference.

D'Arcy and his fellow bishops get it and decided to do something about it. Jenkins needs to seriously reconsider his mistake and cancel the March 26-28 production of "The Vagina Monologues" at Notre Dame.

Marc Brammer
Notre Dame Class of 1974
South Bend

WRITE TO US

Mail your letters to Voice of the People, The South Bend Tribune, 225 W. Colfax Ave.,



South Bend, IN

46626; e-mail them to vop@sbtinfo.com; or fax to (574) 236-1765. Letters may be no more than 200 words. Longer submissions will be considered for Michiana Point of View. All submissions are subject to editing. Please include your full name, which will be printed, and your street address and telephone number, which will be kept confidential but are necessary for verification purposes.