

# Faithful Citizenship



March 16, 2008

It's been said many times that we voters have short memories. Rep. Abercrombie seems to be relying on that with his latest antic. He has, this week, written to the Vatican to ask for the Catholic Church's opinion on the waterboarding technique used in interrogating suspected terrorists. He specifically asked for "a statement as to whether the use or support for the use of torture as an instrument of state policy is a mortal sin." He further went on to say, "The church's judgment on this moral issue will provide a profoundly important context for the critical dialog taking place throughout the world."

I'm not sure just what stirred his interest in the Catholic Church's opinion on this matter. Rep. Abercrombie very cleverly lists "Unspecified" under "Religion" in his autobiographical sketch on the web. That usually means none.

What Rep. Abercrombie failed to ask the Vatican is the Church's opinion on cloning, embryonic stem-cell research and abortion, all of which he favors.

One of the criteria for a "just war" as described in our Catechism is "the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated." It would be wonderful if we had divine intervention to make each of these decisions. However, we are left with only our mortal leader's moral judgments. Many a military operation is begun with a prayer for guidance.

Our military performs under very specific Rules of Engagement. Reading them makes you feel as though our men and woman are forced to fight with one arm tied behind their backs and the other holding a law book. I find it difficult to judge without walking in their shoes.

Gotta go boot up my hard drive! Aloha-MaryB.