

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 18, 2006 LB 57

civil authorities. They quote where Jesus told somebody, give to Caesar what's Caesar's. Roman Catholic Archbishop John Vlazny, V-l-a-z-n-y, says the church will follow its own internal law on property ownership, defying a federal bankruptcy judge ruling on how to satisfy claims by victims of alleged sex abuse. Aren't they supposed to follow the law? We've got an archbishop defying the court? Then they want to make children wear uniforms to school, and if they don't wear uniforms that's a terrible thing? The archbishop is defying the court, not using the court system which is available, but is using the arrogance of Catholic power, that he thinks remains intact, to defy the court. And what brought them to this turn? Not because the court says, you cannot teach that the church can turn wine into blood and crackers into flesh, and you all eat it. You can do that, if you want to. The church...the court didn't say, you can't worship who you want to, you can't have plaster statutes of saints scattered around wherever you want to. It didn't say you cannot teach that statutes cry and bleed. No, all this court is saying is that the church is bound by the laws of the United States. The church gets all kinds of breaks, not just the Catholic Church, all of them. We subsidize these churches. We pay taxes for the streets that go past their churches. We pay for the fire protection that they have. We pay for the power lines, the power poles that they take advantage of, and they don't pay taxes. So they're subsidized by everybody when they don't have to pay taxes, and not only that. They don't want to abide by the law. So when the hierarchy is wrong, the organization is wrong. Are there individual Catholics, some of whom being more offended than I am by what the church is doing? Beyond a doubt.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Not only in this country, but all around the world, they are fed up with what the church is doing. They see the conduct of the church as being criminal. They know that it is. When a person wants to put into the law a point of Catholic doctrine, my job is to stop it. I may not be able to stop it right at this stage of debate, and maybe I can. But we're going