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South Carolina: Priest Is Rebuked

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Roman Catholic priest should not have told parishioners who voted for President-elect [Barack Obama](#) to refrain from taking Holy Communion because of support of abortion, the church's senior officer in the state said. Earlier this week, the Rev. Jay Scott Newman said in a letter to parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greenville that they were putting their souls at risk if they took Holy Communion without first doing penance for voting for Mr. Obama. But Msgr. Martin T. Laughlin, administrator of the Diocese of Charleston, said, "If a person has formed his or her conscience well, he or she should not be denied Communion, nor be told to go to confession before receiving Communion."

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