

Written by <u>C. Mitchell Shaw</u> on March 7, 2023





Patriotic FBI Agents Blow the Whistle

In the fight to preserve and restore faith, family, and freedom, the weaponization of the federal government — especially the FBI — is a serious problem. The Biden-era FBI appears hell-bent on the destruction of faith, family, and freedom. But while formidable enemies come from the FBI, so also do brave heroes who risk careers and more to expose those enemies.

As seen from the opening session of the House Judiciary Committee's Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government on February 9, the past year has produced a litany of both FBI abuses and brave FBI agents who have exposed those abuses. And while Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) — who heads the committee — highlighted a sampling including eight such abuses exposed by whistleblowers within the FBI over the last year, his opening statements did not include the recent leak of an FBI document detailing the agency's monitoring, surveillance, and infiltration of Traditional Catholic groups and organizations.

FBI Target: Traditional Catholics



Kyle Seraphin (GageSkidmore)

On February 8, former FBI special agent, federal whistleblower, and Air Force veteran Kyle Seraphin published an article for UncoverDC exposing the FBI's focus on "Radical-Traditionalist Catholics" (RTCs) — a designation and acronym created out of whole cloth by the extreme left-leaning Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). Seraphin's article included a document leaked to him by an unnamed current FBI agent in the Richmond, Virginia, FBI field office.

That document — dated January 23, 2023 — draws unsubstantiated connections between Catholics who are suspicious of the changes to the liturgical practices of the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s and an "adherence to anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQ and white supremacist ideology," leading to the equally unsubstantiated conclusion that Traditional Catholics are





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part and parcel with "Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists."

The leaked FBI document goes on to lay out the Richmond field office's plans to breach the Constitution's protections of both freedom of religion and freedom of association by targeting Traditional Catholics simply for *being* Traditional Catholics. Furthermore, the FBI document serves as a springboard for other FBI field offices across the nation to follow Richmond's example of targeting Traditional Catholics. As Seraphin states, "This document was reviewed and approved for release by the FBI Richmond Chief Division Counsel, who is the office's top lawyer."

Seraphin's article and publication of the leaked FBI document exposes what Seraphin calls the "circular path" of such counterintelligence and counterterrorism cases, which, he points out, "can continue indefinitely without any articulated goal." The FBI comes up with a theory and then moves hell and Earth to prove it. And even if it never succeeds, it wreaks havoc *ad infinitum*.

And while this document targets "Radical-Traditionalist Catholics," Seraphin exposes the danger of allowing a government agency to single out one particular religious group, writing that this "dangerous step" could be just the beginning. Seraphin writes, "Such investigations can easily lead to the same analysis of Radical Traditional Baptists, Radical Traditional Lutherans, and Radical Traditional Evangelicals." He reminds his readers that "The FBI is forbidden from opening cases or publishing products based solely on First Amendment-protected activities."

On February 12, during an appearance on Tucker Carlson's show, Seraphin made the same point, saying:

If we're realistic about it, what they're doing is they've found a gateway — in what they think is fringe Catholicism — in order to move into Christians in general and declare them to be the actual criminals in this country or the potential terrorists. And that's what I think we're seeing because the whole document basically is written from the perspective of somebody who thinks that there are significant abortion rights that need to be defended and also an LGBTQ agenda that has to be pushed down the American peoples' throats — and those are antithetical to Catholicism — so it's pretty easy, it's an open door into Christians in this country.

As Seraphin wrote in his piece for UncoverDC, "By tolerating the publishing of intelligence products as shoddy as this, they are crossing a line many Americans will find themselves on the wrong side of for the first time in history."

This is plainly an attack on faith, family, and freedom.

The FBI Relents

The brave disclosure of this attack by Seraphin and the unnamed FBI agent who leaked the report is the bugle sounding the battle cry. And that cry has already been answered. Within a day of Seraphin's exposure of the document, the FBI publicly claimed to rescind it. And while there is room to suspect that the FBI is playing a shell game to avoid yet another embarrassment, at least the agency had to publicly denounce the document.

Further, Bishop Barry Knestout of the Richmond Diocese called on all legislators in Virginia to condemn



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the FBI's targeting of Traditional Catholics, writing, "A preference for traditional forms of worship and holding closely to the Church's teachings on marriage, family, human sexuality, and the dignity of the human person does not equate with extremism."

His condemnation of the document was echoed by his brother bishops. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee for Religious Liberty, issued a statement saying that while the USCCB "roundly condemns" "racism," "violence," and "extremism," he agreed with Bishop Knestout that the leaked FBI memo was "troubling and offensive" in "its religious profiling and reliance on dubious sourcing." He added that he was "glad it has been rescinded" and said that the USCCB would "encourage federal law enforcement authorities to take appropriate measures to ensure the problematic aspects of the memo do not recur in any of their agencies' work going forward."

And the FBI is not only in trouble with the church, but it appears it is also in trouble with the state. On February 16, LifeSiteNews reported that Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) is demanding that the FBI answer for the memo. He and Representative Mike Johnson (R-La.) sent a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray stating that the FBI must respond to the since-retracted memo, which they called a "serious misuse of federal law enforcement resources."



Jim Jordan (AP Images)

Jordan and Johnson's letter to Wray comes just days after attorneys general from 20 states sent a similar letter to both Wray and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding that Wray and Garland produce the unredacted document and its accompanying paper trail, as well as "a full and complete briefing of the process by which the report was drafted, an explanation of its conclusions, and the effect that is likely to be experienced by the Catholic populations of the undersigned's States, and what efforts, if any, have been taken to ensure that the memorandum's recommendations have not been, and will not be, implemented." Finally, those 20 attorneys general demanded "information on whether the FBI has been adhering to its guidelines restricting the use of operatives to infiltrate houses of worship and if not, providing an explanation as to the extent of those activities and their





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constitutionality."

So, while the enemies of liberty have infested our government and its agencies, it is also true that they do not make up the whole. Thank God there are still men such as Kyle Seraphin and his unnamed FBI source who are on the side of faith, family, and freedom.



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