



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

6399 Drexel Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19151 Tel. 215-877-2660 Fax. 215-877-2688 www.ncbcenter.org

September 25, 2006

Hon. Richard M. Daley
Office of the Mayor
City Hall - 121 N. LaSalle, Room 507
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mayor Daley:

We were delighted to learn of the passage of an ordinance to end the sale of foie gras in Chicago. However, we are now sorry to hear that some are working to repeal it.

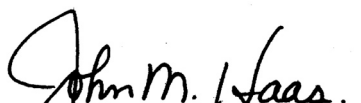
As I stated when I wrote to you last April, the Catechism of the Catholic Church acknowledges that animals may legitimately be used for food and clothing, but enjoins us to exercise “a religious respect for the integrity of creation” (Paragraph 2415). It further states that man’s power over creation is not absolute. Any abuse which causes them to suffer or die needlessly is considered “contrary to human dignity” (Paragraph 2418).

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, in a 2002 interview spoke to the issue of the abuse of animals, specifically mentioning the production of foie gras: “Animals, too are God’s creatures [and] we cannot just do whatever we want with them. ... Certainly, a sort of industrial use of creatures, so that geese are fed in such a way as to produce as large a liver as possible... [is a] degrading of living creatures to a commodity [that] seems to me in fact to contradict the relationship of mutuality that comes across in the Bible.”

It is clear that the industrial production of foie gras by force-feeding geese in such an inhumane way is a serious violation against the integrity of the natural order mentioned in the Catechism and by our current pope. Such a violation does not only affect the object, i.e., the geese themselves, but all those involved in the production, sale, and consumption of such an inessential food product as this.

It is my sincere hope that you will stand behind the current ordinance and resist its repeal.

Sincerely Yours,


John M. Haas, Ph.D, S.T.L.
President