



## EDIFY EPISODE: ANTI-CATHOLIC AMENDMENTS

PRESENTED BY ANDREA PICCIOTTI-BAYER

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### FOR ADULT FORMATION GROUPS

#### For Understanding

*Watch Andrea Picciotti-Bayer's "Anti-Catholic Amendments" to learn the answers!*

1. What is a Blaine Amendment? Why are Blaine Amendments anti-Catholic?
2. What is unique about Maine in its need for vouchers for non-public schools?
3. Which specific types of schools does the State of Maine's current law prohibit families from using state vouchers for?
4. How is the "separation of church and state" argument being misused in Maine and in the 37 states with anti-Catholic Blaine Amendments?

#### To Go Deeper

*Draw from your own experience or invite a local expert in to help you think more deeply about this video and how it can inspire you to live out the faith in the public square!*

1. Why do you think anti-Catholic and anti-Christian discrimination statutes (such as Blaine Amendments) have widely been legal up until this point?
2. How do Catholic and Christian schools serve the country as a whole?
3. Let's look at the closing quote from the *Catechism* (no. 2229): ***"As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions."***  
What kind of choices do parents in your area have locally for schools that "correspond to their own convictions"? In what ways can we act to help protect the rights of parents in our community?



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### FOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS DISCUSSIONS

#### For Understanding

Watch Andrea Picciotti-Bayer's "Anti-Catholic Amendments" to learn the answers!

1. What is a Blaine Amendment? Why are Blaine Amendments anti-Catholic?
2. What is the situation in Maine that led to a need for vouchers for non-public schools?
  - 2a. Which specific types of schools does the State of Maine's current law prohibit families from using state vouchers for?
3. Read the First Amendment: what does it say about the relationship between Congress and religion?
  - 3a. How is the "separation of church and state argument being *misused* in Maine and in the 37 states with anti-Catholic Blaine Amendments?
  - 3b. Summarize a correct interpretation of the "separation of church and state" in the Constitution.

#### To Go Deeper

Assign these questions to students for pre-research for follow-up assignments to the video.

1. Does your state still have Blaine Amendments? Look them up on your state's government website.
2. What process does the Constitution establish for changing laws such as the Blaine Amendments?
3. Reflect as a class on the closing quote from the *Catechism* (no. 2229): ***"As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions."***
4. What kind of choices do your parents have locally for schools that correspond to the Catholic faith's teaching? How important has your parents' choice of school been for you in your faith life?