

B16: Provocateur

Michael Sean Winters | Mar. 26, 2012 Distinctly Catholic

[My colleague John Allen reports](#) [1] on an exchange the Holy Father had with reporters in which Benedict denounced the facile distinction often drawn by politicians between their private beliefs and morality and their public responsibilities. But, while this charge has rightly been delivered against pro-choice Catholic politicians, Benedict directed the charge at those who fail to embrace the Church's social teachings on issues like poverty.

In short, Benedict XVI recognizes there is a variety of cafeteria Catholicism on the right as well as the left, something I have been arguing since I started arguing about such matter years ago. I can't imagine what people like George Weigel and Fr. Robert Sirico will make of the Pope's comments.

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[1] <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/pope-gives-new-twist-pro-life-rhetoric>