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It's the bishops against the poor

by Mary Ann McGivern

NCR Today

I was at a fundraiser the other night for my state representative, a Democrat. He's a criminal defense lawyer, listens to my concerns about prison reform, gives me sound advice about the ways of the Missouri legislature, and follows through on his promises.

I was introduced as a Catholic sister to one of the state party leaders. He asked me right away about the Vatican investigation of nuns. I gave a vague comment about not worrying too much, that we nuns were all continuing our work. He, the Democrat, said it appeared to him the bishops were tough Republicans and that Missouri is likely in the next few years to grant nonpublic school scholarships, which would take even more money from the education of poor children and children with disabilities.

The two bills promoting scholarships did not move along in the Missouri bill process. But *The New York Times* ran a lengthy analysis of this movement last Monday.

And of course Cardinal Timothy Dolan is threatening that the Catholic church will stop serving the poor if insurance companies are required to provide contraceptives to their customers.

I am far more worried about my church joining the war against the poor than their war against the nuns. After all, we have each other and we have work to do.

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