



Office of Religious Congregations
for Integral Ecology

Bureau des congrégations religieuses
pour une écologie intégrale

ORCIE response to Catholic Register opinion piece, “Naïve nuns play squarely into Hamas’ hands”

July 18, 2025

On behalf of the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology, an organization representing over 20 Canadian religious congregations, we are writing to share our deep disappointment in the Catholic Register for publishing the piece by author Anna Farrow posted on July 12, 2025, [“Naïve nuns play squarely into Hamas’ hands.”](#)

The [letter](#) that the piece references, which many of our members signed, was directed to Prime Minister Carney as a statement of gratitude for the Prime Minister’s multilateral efforts to ensure humanitarian aid reaches the people of Gaza, and a call for more action to ensure that there is an end to the Israeli military offensive in Gaza and the illegal expansion of settlements in the West Bank.

This plea for compassion and for justice is consistent with the [calls of the late Pope Francis](#) up to the end of his life, as he also witnessed with horror the continued destruction of lives and infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the violent attack of the October 7th, 2024 massacre led by Hamas. He stated,

“I am saddened by the resumption of heavy Israeli bombing on the Gaza Strip, causing many deaths and injuries. I call for an immediate halt to the weapons; and for the courage to resume dialogue, so that all hostages may be released and a final ceasefire reached”.

It is in this spirit that we offer our complete support for the letter sent by religious congregations to Prime Minister Carney. The opinion piece that you have chosen to publish is deeply insulting to the religious congregations and to all of those globally who are calling for a ceasefire and for an end to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, including [Pope Leo XIV](#), [UN Secretary General António Guterres](#), and many others.

Instead of supporting peace and acknowledging the well documented destruction of Gaza and humanitarian crisis underway, the opinion piece offers a narrow framing of this crisis using selective and biased sources. (See the following as some of the many sources documenting the crisis: [International Rescue Committee](#), [Caritas Jerusalem](#).)



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Just yesterday, [Pope Leo XVI has renewed calls for a ceasefire](#), as the only Catholic Church in Gaza was bombed by Israeli Defense Forces attack while trying to shelter people looking for protection.

We ask, are Catholics not called to speak out against this ongoing violence and crisis? Are we not called to solidarity with those in need? There is nothing naïve about what the sisters have called for from our federal government. We will continue, along with them, to support an end to this violence and to support efforts for peace that include peace for all Israelis and Palestinians.

We hope to see the Catholic Register recognize the important role that religious congregations and faith-based organizations have played and are continuing to play in pursuing peace and justice in Israel and Palestine.

In peace and grace,

Darlene O'Leary, PhD
ORCIE Executive Committee

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