

## A Sermon on Forced Tithing

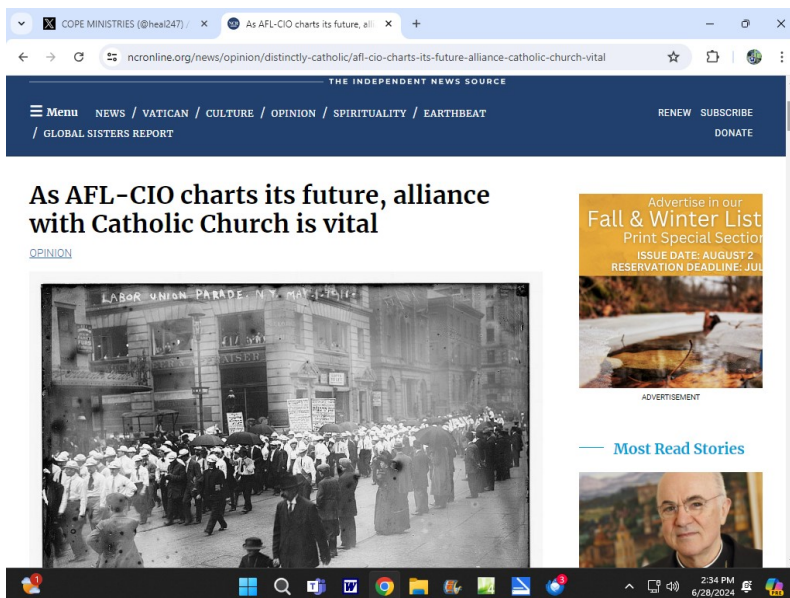
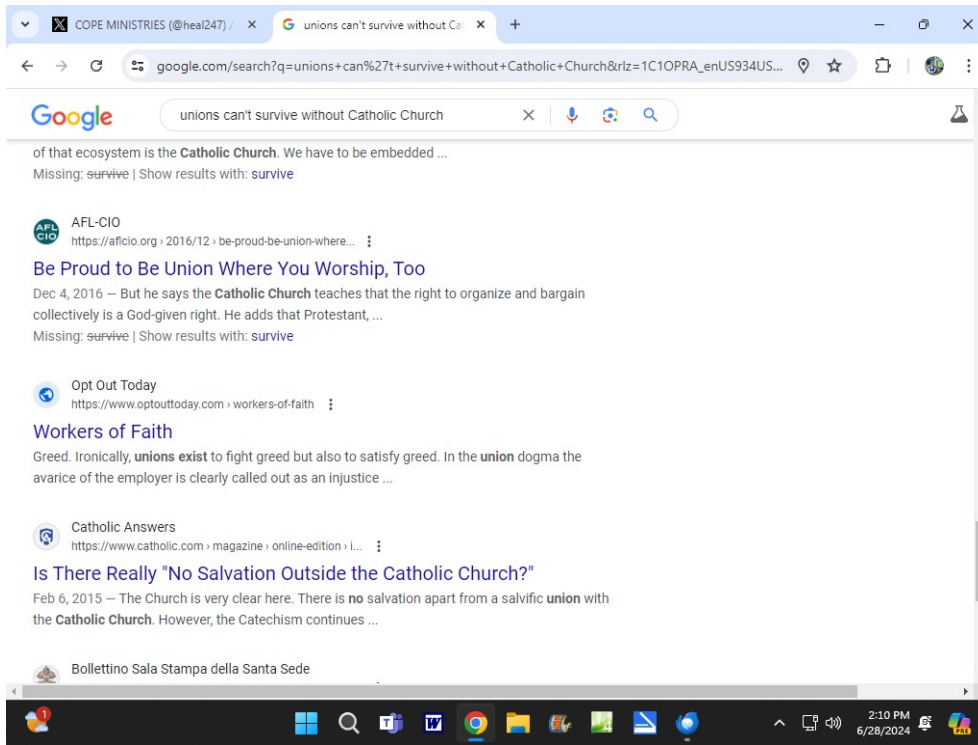
Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for July 21st, 2024 (and beyond)

Right now, you do not have to file federal income taxes if you earn less than \$13,850/year. If earning between \$11K and \$45K, federal income tax is 12%. The Catholic Church in 1381 was forcing people on an income of the modern equivalent of \$20.25/year at time (\$0.60/year) to tithe 30% to the Catholic Church in addition to any government taxes that were separate. Wat Tyler was down to \$13.50 before England took any taxes out of it in modern equivalents. That's for the year. A union employee at Boeing currently earns about \$30/hour full-time on average as she gets paid time and a half or double-time depending on overtime. She has worked there for 47 years and is a union worker member of IAM. The contract negotiations have led to worse and worse working conditions from the time she was hired in many respects. And, the only power the union has is illusory. You have a business, your employees want to unionize after joining a nonprofit that makes them pay flat and/or a percentage of their annual wages as dues that increase with any wage increases where if the cost of living raise is 3% they then take 1-3% of the adjusted wage as dues, but they will listen to what the employees want and talk to you about it when negotiating collectively representing your employees while their very existence and sustainability depends on you paying your employees so they can collect dues. How is that not human trafficking? How is that not human trafficking where it is a "closed shop" and everyone must join the union though can earmark their dues for a specific charity like United Way though cannot refuse to pay dues out of their paychecks? So, that's what Priest John Ball, Wat Tyler, and Priest John Wycliffe were opposed to in addition to opposing circumcision.

That union worker makes on average \$80K/year. Please look at the salaries of union leaders and remember unions are nonprofits:

Name	Organization	Salary
Terence O'Sullivan, General President	Laborers National Headquarters	\$663,981
Patrick Flynn, Secretary-Treasurer (Out of office now – local is under trusteeship)	Teamsters Local 710, Mokena, IL	\$503,435
Newton B Jones, President	International Brotherhood of Boilermakers	\$491,866

Source: <https://www.wesselssherman.com/salaries-of-union-leaders/> So, where all of those listed make more per year than the workers they represent and that's where union dues is going, I think the union may be more likely to side with employers since without them they have no income. But, there is OSHA and Labor and other oversight agencies and personal lawsuits and all that if laws are violated and people are exploited so justice can be served. Unionized companies can avoid all that for the most part or a while by having all or most issues settled in-house between the union representative and management.



So, forced tithing rears its ugly head again under the guise of organized labor. I applied for a job at SeaMar and during the interview I was told that I had to join the union. I told her I would prefer to opt out. She told me union membership is automatic. I was notified I was no longer being considered after I said I'd prefer to opt out. So, to get a job at times, one is being forced to tithe to the Catholic Church or one of their many storefronts, which violates my freedom of religion and the principles on which the free market is built. To which they say "But, Angela, no one is forcing you to work here and we didn't hire you." To which I say "#WhatCheneySaid".

SPECIAL NOTE: Boeing has a company matching policy on donations to qualified charities. I'm curious whether or not they match union dues given IAM is a nonprofit. Even if they don't match, they might deduct the dues as a gift anyways while their employees lose on both sides. Unions are 501(c)(5)s. Within the tax code, unions are designated as nonprofit organizations under section 501(c)(5). The membership dues are tax-deductible in full unless a substantial part of the 501(c)(5) organization's activities consists of political activity. I do not know if SeaMar has the same policies nor potential for potential tax-evasion or other RICO violations, but imagine they do. Our US tax money is being siphoned off by the Catholic Church through organized labor. That's an affront to all things that make America great.

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.