



May 16, 2024

Commissioner Roger Goodell  
National Football League  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154

Mr. Clark Hunt, CEO  
Kansas City Chiefs  
One Arrowhead Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64129

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND UPS

Dear Commissioner Goodell and Chairman Hunt,

I am writing today on behalf of millions of Catholics across the United States in support of Harrison Butker of the Kansas City Chiefs. The growing hatred, intimidation, and now threats of violence against him for publicly defending our deeply-held beliefs represent the worst kind of anti-Catholic bigotry, and cannot be tolerated.

As you likely know, Butker delivered a courageous and inspiring commencement address at Benedictine College on Sunday, May 12. In that speech, for which he received a standing ovation, Butker called on Catholics to live up to the high ideals of our Faith, including the defense of the dignity of every human life, the foundational role of the family, and the gift of motherhood. These ideals are not controversial for millions of Americans and indeed remain sacred for millions of religious believers, including millions of your fans and customers.

A recent statement by the league distancing itself from Butker for his remarks calls into question your commitment to genuine diversity and inclusion. Indeed, the NFL proudly boasts that it “honors and celebrates the broad ranges of human difference among us, while also embracing the commonalities we share, and to provide each individual with the opportunity to achieve their full potential.” Does this inclusion include Catholics, pro-life Americans, mothers, and those who hold to traditional moral beliefs? We certainly hope you will continue to ignore the reckless calls for Mr. Butker to be canceled, or worse.

We understand not every American, or NFL fan for that matter, may share the same opinions or beliefs as Mr. Butker. We are hopeful, however, that you do not intend to send a message to Catholics, or to those that still uphold basic moral tenets of a civilized society, that they are outsiders and no longer welcome. To paraphrase a famous quote from NBA star Michael Jordan, “Catholics watch NFL games, too.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Burch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Burch" clearly distinguishable.

Brian Burch, President  
CatholicVote