

Editor of Vatican newspaper says 'Obama is not pro-abortion'



Rome, Italy, May 20, 2009 / 06:24 pm (CNA).- The Editor-in-chief of the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano explained today to Paulo Rodari, a Vatican analyst for the daily "Il Riformista," that President Barack Obama's speech to graduates of Notre Dame was very respectful and that he "is not a pro-abortion president."

In the interview with Rodari, Editor-in-chief Gian Maria Vian discussed his thoughts on President Obama at the University of Notre Dame. "Obama has not upset the world," he said. "His speech at Notre Dame has been respectful toward every position. He tried to engage the debate stepping out from every ideological position and outside every 'confrontational mentality.' To this extent his speech is to be appreciated."

Vian continued, "Let me be clear, L'Osservatore stands where the American bishops are: we consider abortion a disaster. We must promote, always and at every level a 'culture of life'."

"What I want to stress is that yesterday, on this precise and very delicate issue, the President said that the approval of the new law on abortion is not a priority of his administration. The fact that he said that is very reassuring to me. It also underlines my own clear belief: Obama is not a pro-abortion president," he told Rodari.

Continuing the interview, Rodari stressed that L'Osservatore Romanoran two different stories on the same issue, one positive about Obama's speech at Notre Dame, the other extremely critical about his embryonic stem cell research position which quoted the concerns of the USCCB.

Vian answered: "This is our policy, the way we inform. If a national bishops' conference says something, we report it." However, she continued, it is "appropriate to present other perspectives" to the readers so they can accurately judge "international information."

According to Rodari, "the words of Vian are important. Because they speak about a confrontation between Obama and the Catholic Church which for now seems to be limited mainly among part of the American episcopate. A confrontation that the Holy See neither approves nor disapproves. Simply observes."

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