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Amid furor, priest gets support

Most of flock backs sermon calling for pope to resign

The Rev. James J. Scahill greeted people after Sunday's Mass. (Michele McDonald for The New York Times)

By Lisa Wangsness and Matt Rocheleau
Globe Staff | Globe Correspondent / April 13, 2010

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95GH@CB; A 958CK i' H\YF Yj ">Ua Yg>"GWA]`XYgV]VYg\}a gY ZUg' fU\Yf UfYw gjj Y dYfgcb "d< Y]bg]g\Y]gbc fVY"

6i h\Y dUf]g\ df]YghZca '9Ugh@cb[a YUXck 'k Ug ZYX]b['a YX]UW`gZca ' Ufci bX h\Y Wdi bhfminYghfXUmUci h\]gfYei YghZca 'h\Y di `d]hcb 'Gi bXUmh Uh DcdY'6YbYX]V\J =gh'd'Xck b'cj Yf\]g\UbX']b['cZWf[mgYi i U'Uvi gY"

-b'Ub]bhYfj]Yk zGWA]`gci bXYX'Yi \Ui ghY'Vi hZ]fa 'Ug\Y'fYUggYfHYX\]gV]hiei Y cZ'h Y dcdY. f' H\Y f] [\h'h]b[]g'hc VY'f'i h\Z 'z'UbX]Z\Y]g'bchi d'hc XYU]b['k]h' h\]gzh Yb\Y'g\ci 'X\Uj Y'h\Y]bhY[f]Imhc fYg] [b" d

GWA]` \Ug VYyb 'Ub'ci hgd_c_Yb V]h]WcZ'h Y'W'i fW d\UbX']b['cZgYi i U'Uvi gY' WgYg'g]bW'g\cfhmUZhf\Y'Uff]j YX'UhGH'A]WUY' d]W'i fW]b '&\$&z'h Y'mYUf 'h\Y' WYf[mUvi gY'g'WbXU'Yi d'cXYX]b'A UggUW'i gY'f'g"

< Y]bZ f]UHYX'h\Y'cW' W'i fW \]YfUFWmVmk]h\c'X]b['dUma Ybhg'hc h\Y' Gdf]b[ZY'X'8]cWgY'i bh']hX]X'Uk Umk]h' UZ' bX'hc Ugg]ghX]ga]ggY'X' df]Yg'g"

< Y'a UXY'bUh]cbU' bYk gVmdfYgg]b['Zcf'Uz' 'Yf]bj Ygh] [Uh]cb'cZ'h Y%' +&_']]b[' cZU'Gdf]b[ZY'X'Vcmk \cgY'dUFYbhg'Uff]Vi hY'h Y]f'gcb d]XYU'h 'hc Ub'Uvi gjj Y' df]Yg'g"

5bX\Y\Y dYX'hc fYj YU' h\Y gYi i U'a]gVt'bx'i Vh'cZ'Z'ca Yf'Gdf]b[ZY'X'6]g\cd' H\ca Ug@' '8i dfYz'k \c Uvfi dhmfYg] [bYX'UZhf\Y'k UgVt'bz'cbh'X'k]h' UWV]g]h]cbg'h Uh\Y\UX'Uvi gY'X'W']XfYb Ug'U'dUf]g\ df]Yg'g"

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!A cghcZk \Uhi: UH Yf'GWA]'' VWUf[YX'k Ug'f'f' Yz'UbX'k \Uh\Y'Ug_YX'Zcfz]b'U
ZU]f'mig\Ufd'f'cbY'cZ]c]WZk Ug'cZ'Yb'k \Uha' Ubmd'Ycd'Y'k ci 'X'fY[UFX'Ug'
b'VWggUf'm'ZD]X'8'Uj]X'C'f'f]Yb'zdfc'Z'ggcf'Ya' Yf]h' g'cZ\]g'f'f'm'U'h'Y'7'c''Y[Y'cZ
h'Y'< c'm'7'f'cgg]b'K' cf'W'gh'f'

M'gh'f'X'U'h'z'k' U_]b['Z'ca '\]g'cZ]W'f'c'h'Y'W'i' f'W'k \Y'f'Y'U''c'W'f' h'Y'j]g]cb'V'f'Y'k'
k'Ug'k'U]h]b['z'GWA]''g]U]X'h'Y'f'Y'U'W]cb'f'c'\]g'\ca]'m\Ug'V'Y'Y'b'c]Y'f'k'\Y'a]b['m'
g' ddc'f'h]j'Y''

f'f'g]a' d'm'gd'Y'U_]b['h'Y'f'f'i' h'z'f'f'Y'g]U]X''f'Gca' Y'h]a' Y'g'h'Y'f'f'i' h' 'W'U'b'V'Y'\U'f'g\''f'

<Y'g]U]X'\Y'\cd'Y'X'h'Y'f'Y'k' ci 'X'V'Y'f'U['f'Ugg]f'c'ch'g]b'g] f'f'Y'W]cb'c'Z'W'f']b['Z'c'f'
U'W'f'i' b'h'U]j]'m'f'f'

Cd]b]cb'X]X'g'Y'a' f'c'V'Y'f'i' bb]b['g'f'cb['m]b'\]g'Z]U] cf'U'h'F'ca]f'c' / 'G'cb'g'
8'Y']W'h'g'g]f'b'c'b' B'cf'h' 'A' U]b'G'h'f'Y'h'z'b'ch'Z]U]f'Z'ca' 'G'h' 'A']W'U'Y'f'g'

@Z'f'cb['7'U'h'c']W]g'U' U'f'n'5'bb' 'C'f' U['U'b'z'* \$z'UbX'\Y'f'\i' g'V'U'b'X'z'7'U'f' ; U'a' z'+%
g]U]X'GWA]''g]g'Y'fa' cb'g'\U] Y'_Y'd'h'h'Y'a' 'U'h'h'Y'X]b['A' U'gg'Y'U'W'k' Y'Y'_z]b'gd]h'Y'c'Z
h'Y'f'X]g'a' U'm'c]j' Y'f'h'Y'W'i' f'W''Y'U'X'Y'f'g\]d'f'g'\U'b'X']b['c'Z'h'Y'g'f'i' U' 'U'Vi' g'Y'g'W'U'X'U''

f'f'c'V'f'a' Y'c'i' h'k]h' h'Y'V'f'i' f'U[Y': UH'Y'f'GWA]''X]X'k'Ug]b'V'f'Y'X]V'Y'z'f'g]U]X'; U'a' ''
f' B'ch'cb'Y'g]b['Y'V]g\cd'z'U'f'W'V]g\cd'z'c'f' W'f'X]b'U' \U'g'W'f'Y'X'Z'c'f'U'f'Y'g] [b'U'h]cb'c'f'
U'W'f'i' b'h'U]j]'m'c'Z'h'Y'd'cd'Y''f'

: c'f'8'cb' 'A']'Y'h'z'\c'k' Y] Y'f'z'k' \c'c'Z'Y'b' 'U'h'h'Y'X'g' 'A' U'gg'U'h'G'h' 'A']W'U'Y'f'g'V'i' h'k'Ug'b'ch'
h'Y'f'Y'G'i' b'X'U'h'z]h'k' Y'b'h'U'V]h'f'cc'Z]U]f''f'k' \Y'b' 'm'c'i' ['c'f'c'W'i' f'W'z'h'U'h]b'ch'k' \U'h'
m'c'i' 'k' U'b'h'c' X'Y'U' 'k']h'z'f'f'Y'g]U]X''

: f]Y'b'X'g'U'b'X'd'U]f]g\]cb'Y'f'g'U'm'GWA]''z'*' z'b'Y] Y'f'g'c'i' [\h'h'Y'f'c'Y'c'Z'Y'U'X'U'X]c'W'h'Y'
Z'c'f'j]W]a' g'c'Z'g'f'i' U' 'U'Vi' g'Y''6'i' h'h'Y'a' c'f'Y'\Y'\U'g'g'd'c'_Y'b'c'i' h'Z'c'f' h'Y'a' z'h'Y'a' c'f'Y'
h'Y'm\U] Y'g'c'i' [\h\]g'V'f'i' b'g'f' 'i' 'U'b'X'h'Y'a' c'f'Y'\Y'\U'g'Z'f'h'V'f'a' d'Y''Y'X'f'c'g'd'Y'U'_
V]h]W'f' 'm'c'Z'h'Y'\]Y'f'U'f'W'm'

f'9] Y'f'nc'b'Y'_b'ck' g'\c'k' \c'f'f]Z]W]h]g'V'Y'Y'b'Z'c'f'\]a' z'Ub'X']h]g'U]Y'b'U'f'c''d\ng]W'f'm'
cb'\]a' f'c'\Y'U'f'h'Y'f]g'c'f]Y'g'z'g]U]X'f'i' h' '7'cb'bc'f'z'U'+n'Y'U'f'c'X'd'U]f]g\]cb'Y'f''

6'i' h'GWA]''g]d'U]f]g\ \U'g'Z'c'i' f]g'Y'X''7'cb'bc'f'g]U]X'd'Y'cd'Y'Z'c'W'f'c'h'Y'W'i' f'W'Z'ca'
g'f'f'c'i' b'X]b['V'f'a' a' i' b]h]Y'g'f'c'\Y'U'f'GWA]''d'f'Y'U'W'z'U'b'X'\Y'f'Y'W]j' Y'X'g'h'U'b'X]b['
c]U'h]cb'g'Z'c'f'\]g'g'Y'fa' cb'c'b'G'i' b'X'U'h'

6]g\cd'H]a' c'h'm'5''A' V'8'cb'b'Y''c'Z'G'd'f]b[Z]Y'X'X'Y'W]b'Y'X'U'b]b'h'f'j]Y'k' f'Y'e'i' Y'g'h'V'i' h'
]g]g' Y'X'U'g'h'U'Y'a' Y'b'h'X'Y'W'U]f]b['h'U'h]h'k'Ug'U'f'g]U]X'f'c'b'm'f'h'U'h'GWA]''a' U'X'Y'\]g'
f'Y'a' U'f'_g'c'b'8'j]b'Y'a' Y'f'V'h'G'i' b'X'U'h'z'U'X'U'm'k' \Y'b' h'Y'W'i' f'W'f'Y'U'Z]f'a' g'
f'Z'c'f[]j' Y'b'Y'g'z'f'Y'V'f'b'V]U]h]cb'z'U'b'X'a' Y'f'V'h'f'c'k' U'f'X'Z'c''c'k' Y'f'g'c'Z'>Y'g' g''

f'h'Y'< c'm: UH'Y'f'z'c'i' f'V]g\cd'g'U'b'X'h'Y'7\i' f'W''Y'U'X'Y'f'g\]d'h'f'c'i' [\c'i' h'h'Y'k'c'f'X'
_b'ck' \c'k' X]Z]W'h'h]h]g'Z'c'f'h'c'g'Y'k' \c'\U] Y'g] Z'Z'f'Y'X'U'Vi' g'Y'U'h'h'Y'\U'b'X'g'c'Z'h'Y'
W'Y'f['m'k' \c'g'f'c'i' X'\U] Y'V'Y'Y'b'g] [b'g'c'Z; c'X'g]c] Y'f'U'h'Y'f'h'U'b]b'Z]W'f'c'g'c'Z'd]U]b'z'f'
A' V'8'cb'U'X'g]U]X''

H\c'g'Y'k' \c'_b'ck' 'GWA]''k' Y''g'U'h'h'Y'm'i' b'X'Y'f'g'h'U'b'X'\]g'X'c'i' V'h'g'U'V'c'i' h'W'i' f'W'
'Y'U'X'Y'f'g'

f'h'Y'g'Y'U'f'Y'b'f'g'h'V'U'f'U'W'f'f'Z'U'k' g'U[U]b'g'h'id'Y'cd'Y'z'h'Y'g'Y'k' Y'f'Y'V]j'a' Y'g'U[U]b'g'h'
W]X'f'Y'b'z'f'g]U]X'h'Y'f'Y'j''>cg'Y'd' 'A' ''G'c'f'U'b'bc'z'd'U'g'f'c'Z'G'h' '7'Y'W]j'U'g]b'
K]'V'f'U'U'a' ''

G'c'f'U'b'bc'z'U'f'cc'a' a' U'h'Y'c'Z'G'W'A]''g]k' \Y'b' h'Y'h'c'k' Y'f'Y'g'Y'a']b'U]f]U'bg]b' h'Y'Y' % +\$g'
g]U]X'GWA]''k' U'g'U'b]c'i' g'U'V'c'i' h'\]g'g'Y'fa' cb'U'b'X'k' \Y'b']h'k' U'g'c]j' Y'f'z'U'g'h'Y'h'c'c'
k' Y'f'Y'\U]]b['X]b'b'Y'f'U'h'U'f'Y'g'U'f'U'b'h'h'U'h]b['\f'z'\Y''cc_Y'X'k' Y'U'f'm'V'i' h'f'Y']Y] Y'X''

f'm'c'i' f'Y['c'h'f'c'h'U'_Y'U'g'h'U'b'X'z'U'b'X'm'c'i' f'Y['c'h'f'c'h'f'c'h'V'h'h'Y'f] [\h'g'c'Z'd'Y'cd'Y'k' \c'
U'f'Y'k']h'c'i' h'U]c]]W'z'f'f'G'c'f'U'b'bc'g]U]X''

Correction: This story has been revised because of a reporting error that cited

David O'Brien's former title at the College of the Holy Cross. He is currently professor emeritus of history and Loyola Professor of Roman Catholic Studies at the College of the Holy Cross.

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