

Men-Sharpen-Men
January 9, 2015
Rest In Peace Mario Cuomo

Former New York Governor Mario Cuomo passed away recently. He was remembered locally for his September 13, 1984 speech at the University of Notre Dame on *"Religious Belief and Public Morality: A Catholic Governor's Perspective"*. This speech will serve as the outline for Friday's discussion. A copy of Governor Cuomo's 1984 speech as well as the South Bend Tribune article announcing his passing are attached.

Discussion/Questions:

1. In 1984 Governor Cuomo believed that Catholic politicians could personally oppose abortion as he did, yet could support the right of a woman to have an abortion. Do you believe that a politician can separate his personal views for the betterment of those governed? In your viewpoint, is this the correct way to govern? Can/should ordinary Christians do the same? Is there a different standard between an elected official and the general populace? Does this standard apply to clergy? Does it apply to businesses and institutions?
2. "The arguments start when religious values are used to support positions which would impose on other people restrictions they find unacceptable". Are religious values always the starting point? What are the positions that test this belief today?
3. What points in the speech would you like to discuss in further detail?