

CI 09.08.19.

"CALL THEM BY THEIR TRUE NAMES." Rebecca Solnit

The New York Times has declared Kenneth Cuccinelli "a devout Catholic," *The Public Face of Homeland Security Also Ruffles Its Feathers. A Lot*, by Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Maggie Haberman, NEW YORK TIMES, Friday, September 6, 2019, p. A12 (be forewarned: the New York Times often charges for any [online access](#) to its reports).

This is insulting. We will have to discuss what being "a devout Catholic" means. That long discussion is for later, not for now.

A devout Catholic does not announce new rules designed to designate disabled people a "public charge" and label them unfit for this country, but Mr. Cuccinelli did.

A devout Catholic does not sponge away the message of the Statute of Liberty to ask only for people who can stand on their own two feet, but Mr. Cuccinelli did that too. Some people cannot stand on their own two feet, but they are still people. And in the United States, they can still live free.

And a devout Catholic does not send sick children to their deaths, many of whom were actually invited into this country on medically necessary deferred relief.

It is not my place to judge Kenneth Cuccinelli as a person and I am asking you not to judge him either. I am not saying that he is a bad person. I am saying that he should *not* be called "a devout Catholic." His actions are not devout and they are not Catholic. Many will *say* "Lord, Lord," but you shall know them by how they *act* and not by what they say about how devout they are.

To paraphrase the Irish-American poet John Boyle O'Reilly, Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II may have a right to rule if we let him. But he has no right to call his reign Catholic.

Or to call it the United States of America.

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