

## **E. J. Dionne on split between Benedict, conservative U.S. bishops**

Thomas C. Fox | Jul. 10, 2009 NCR Today

The pope, Dionne suggests, is far to the political left of Obama. He goes on to say:

The conservative minority among the bishops as well as political activists on the Catholic right have insisted on judging the president only on the basis of his support for legal abortion and stem cell research.

But the Vatican clearly views Obama through a broader prism. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the papal nuncio in Washington, has privately warned American bishops that harsh attacks on Obama threaten to make the church look partisan.

[Read his full column here:](#) [1]

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