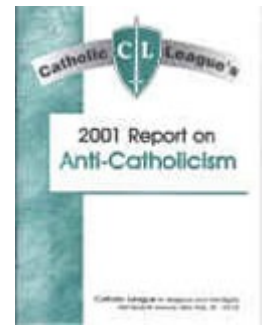


Executive Summary



Literally thousands of cases of anti-Catholicism come to the attention of the Catholic League every year. Our first job is to determine whether the alleged offense merits our scrutiny. If it does, then we must verify the authenticity of the offense to the best of our ability. If everything checks out, a strategy is outlined.

This section of our annual report provides a brief description of some of the worst offenses we encountered in 2001. As bad as they are, it could easily be argued that the more subtle and gratuitous expressions of anti-Catholicism (not listed here) are the most invidious. Cumulatively this may be so, but it remains true that those selected for this discussion are so egregious that they speak volumes all by themselves.

Perhaps the most vicious ad hominem attack on a deceased person we've ever seen appeared in the January 4-11, 2001 edition of Time Out New York. It libeled John Cardinal O'Connor, the much-loved Archbishop of New York who passed away in May 2001. In a discussion of the best and worst of 2000, the Gay & Lesbian section listed as its top entry the following:

Cardinal O'Connor kicks the bucket

The press eulogized him as a saint, when in fact, the pious creep was a stuck-in-the 1950s, antigay menace. Good riddance!

We extracted an apology from the magazine but the damage had

already been done.

On the June 30, 2001 televised version of the "Howard Stern Show," porn star Rebecca Lord stripped naked while condemning the Catholic Church for criticizing her profession. She was interrupted by Stern who exclaimed, "Catholic priests are having sex with young boys." He also said that those who work in the pornography industry are healthier than Catholic priests. In an angry voice, Stern added that Catholic priests show boys pornography so they can molest them. He was supported in his diatribe by his companion, Robin Quivers.

Our response was to ask every bishop in the U.S. to support a boycott of Miller Brewing Company, Stern's most prominent sponsor. Many bishops did, but no one pressed the issue more than Archbishop Rembert Weakland. The Milwaukee archbishop courageously confronted Miller officials in his own backyard.

The attacks on Christmas were worse in 2001 than in previous years, notwithstanding the alleged "bonding" that occurred following the events of 9-11. Here are just a few examples:

- In the Seattle area, King County Executive Ron Sims issued a memo mandating that county employees use "religion-neutral language" when referring to the holidays. He cited as an example, "Holiday Greetings." Following our protest, Sims withdrew his memo.
- In New York City, the principal at PS 22 ordered a Christian secular symbol, the Christmas tree, taken down and then asked teachers to bring Jewish and Muslim religious symbols to school. We won on this one, too, but not after we went public with our protest.
- Also in New York City, the attorney for the Schools Chancellor issued a memo saying it was permissible to display Jewish and Islamic religious symbols (the menorah and the crescent and star) in the schools but not a nativity scene. We lost on this one but are determined to fight it again in 2002.

- In Arizona, the attorney general defended a decision made by one of her lawyers that banned the display of Santa Claus in her office. In response, some Catholics displayed a holiday greeting featuring Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster. While we didn't get the decision reversed, we certainly gave the attorney general a black eye in the public, as most people rallied to our side.
- Minnesota was a hotbed of political correctness: red poinsettias were banned from display in the county courthouse in St. Paul, and kids were prohibited from wearing red and green scarves in a middle-school play in Rochester.

One of the most bizarre and disturbing issues we dealt with all year occurred at Sharon High School in Sharon, Massachusetts. At its annual Halloween costume party, two boys dressed as pregnant nuns and a third as the impregnating priest. They won first prize. Granting the award was the faculty. Following complaints from the Catholic students in the mostly Jewish school, school officials confessed they were taken aback by what happened. They said they were particularly on alert this year to make sure that no Muslim students would be offended by any of the costumes. To correct the situation, the ADL was given permission to sensitize students to bigotry by discussing the Holocaust. That's right, what you just read actually happened.

The business world may not be as bad as education, but it is not immune to Catholic bashing, either. For example, Abercrombie & Fitch's catalogs not only feature naked men and women, they occasionally indulge in Catholic bashing as well. To cite an instance, the catalog entitled, A&F XXX Adventure: Get Wet Set & Go on Spring Break, featured questions posed to Catholic students that mocked priests and nuns. Customers were advised to "crash a Catholic Mass on Palm Sunday" and steal palm fronds. Regarding a cult movie, "Cemetery Man," readers were told to join in the fun by "learning to make wry comments

after bashing a dead nun's head to a pulp." This is their idea of humor.

Another stab at humor that bombed involved a Lipton ad in an alternative weekly New York newspaper. It showed a picture of a man waiting in line for Holy Communion holding a bowl of Lipton's onion dip. The priest was shown holding up the Host to the first person on line who was about to receive. The man, of course, was prepared to dunk the Host in the dip. In the corner of the ad was a picture of the Lipton "Recipe Secrets" that featured the onion dip. The good news is that the ad was pulled as soon as we protested. It was accompanied by a sincere apology from the top brass, which was much appreciated.

One decision we failed to reverse was made by the officials at Showtime, the cable channel owned by Viacom. They made a movie adaptation of "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You" that aired May 27. The play was previously condemned by various Christian and Jewish groups for its overt anti-Catholicism. Producer Marshall Brickman justified the film's Catholic bashing by citing the Inquisition, the Crusades and the Holocaust. The fact that he was so openly bold about his comments demonstrates that there is no price to be paid in Hollywood for bashing Catholics.

The following three contributions from the artistic community offended many Catholics in 2001:

- The Brooklyn Museum of Art, known for its dung-laden portraits of Our Blessed Mother surrounded by pictures of female genitalia, struck again, this time with a statement by artist Renee Cox. She appeared in full-frontal nudity as Christ in the Last Supper. When asked why she did this she said the Catholic Church was to blame for slavery. She has previously portrayed Christ on the cross castrated; has appeared half-naked as the Virgin Mary; and has dressed as a nun with a naked woman kneeling before her in prayer.

- The Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, showed a photo collage by Alma Lopez that replaced the traditional image of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a woman in a rose petal bikini; a bare-breasted woman appeared below her as a cherub. Local Catholics, led by Archbishop Michael Sheehan, protested. As more people learned of the artwork, which was part of an exhibition that started February 25, the controversy picked up, especially in the spring. Parishioners from Our Lady of Guadalupe were the most vocal. The artist argued that she was being victimized because she was Mexican, yet failed to explain why most of her critics were also Mexican. Archbishop Sheehan was branded by Bill Tammus of the Kansas City Star as an example of an American Taliban.
- Florida Atlantic University, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), and the University of Northern Iowa hosted the Terrence McNally play, "Corpus Christi." The play depicts Christ having sex with the 12 apostles and has the Christ-figure exclaim, "F— your mother, F— your father, F— God." There is also a scene where one of the apostles asks the Christ-figure to perform fellatio on him.

Ted Turner has a record of offending Catholics. On Ash Wednesday, he did so again. After spotting some CNN workers in the Washington office with ashes on their foreheads, he commented, "What are you? A bunch of Jesus freaks? You ought to be working for Fox." We protested and Turner apologized—just as he has before—which means he never learns from his mistakes.

It is sometimes true that what appears to be an offending source is actually innocent of wrongdoing. eBay, the online auction website, is a perfect example. It's a huge operation and no one can reasonably screen every single item posted for sale. Consider the following items that were offered in 2001, all of which were quickly withdrawn by responsible eBay

officials:

- A “Virgin Mary Immaculate Conception Condom” that had a picture of the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus. The tag line read, “If you conceive, its [sic] a miracle.” On the back was a picture of Pope John Paul II. “It also includes inside the flap,” said the description of the condom, “instructios [sic] on how to put on the condom (drawings!) showing a certain someone on a cross with a woody and a glove...”
- A “Weird Tattooed Jesus Statue!” that depicted Jesus with three eyes, vampire teeth and a dagger tattoo on his chest. The base was covered with roses and green painted skulls.
- An Open Wound CD by The Grey Wolves titled, “Catholic Priests F— Children,” had a sketch of naked boys and girls on the cover and a picture of a Catholic priest.

How many of these incidents—and all the others that are included in our 2001 Annual Report on Anti-Catholicism—were the result of ignorance, and how many were a function of malice, is not easy to say. To be sure, as even these few examples indicate, many were done intentionally as a “payback.” Catholic misdeeds, real and imagined, are routinely invoked as justification for bigotry. Indeed, when offenders run out of words to explain their behavior, they often reply, “Remember Galileo.” I have found the best response is simply to say, “Sorry, never met the guy.”

As noted, some of the decisions we protested were reversed. Apologies were extended in other cases and offensive items were withdrawn from the marketplace. In no instance did we call for censorship. Unfortunately, our opposition to a lawsuit against the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne decision to host “Corpus Christi” was seen by many area Christians as “selling out.” What they failed to understand is that the right remedy matters: moral suasion may work; gag rules do not.

Some readers will disagree or quibble about the inclusion of certain entries. We listen carefully to those who respectfully disagree with us and take their views seriously. There is, of course, no bigotry meter we can use that objectively selects what constitutes anti-Catholicism. But it would be a mistake to say that what is included here represents everything that has come to our attention. It would be equally wrong to assume that we randomly chose what to enter. Having said that, we stand by our findings and submit them to you for examination.

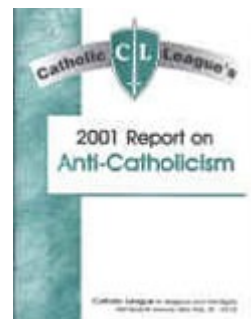
William A. Donohue

President

Activist Organizations

January 8

Massac County, IL – The American Civil Liberties Union attacked Massac County High School's plan to offer its students a class in Bible history. The ACLU stated that "this is faith, not academics." The school responded that the students will be taught from the perspective of history and it will not be a "Sunday school class." Illinois law allows schools to teach Bible courses.



February

Providence, RI – The American Civil Liberties Union objected to a bill in the Rhode Island Senate that would have children in the state recite the preamble to the state constitution at the opening of each school day. The ACLU objected that reciting the preamble, which mentions God, in the context of a classroom would be the same as saying a prayer. As such, reciting part of the Rhode Island constitution would be

unconstitutional according to ACLU standards.

February 3

Defiance, OH – A portrait of Jesus was removed from the Defiance County courthouse after a local Defiance College professor filed a lawsuit. The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio considers the case now settled but supported the lawsuit. The portrait had been hanging in the courthouse for at least 16 months. The lawsuit charged that the portrait's display was government promotion of Christianity.

March 8

Cleveland, OH – The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio filed a federal lawsuit saying that a poster of the Ten Commandments in a local county courthouse violated constitutional separation of church and state. The poster appears on the wall of a courtroom in the Richland County office building in Mansfield, OH. "The display of so plainly a religious image as the Ten Commandments in a public building is a textbook violation of the First Amendment," claimed Sara DeCaro, a Cleveland attorney representing the ACLU.

March 16

Cincinnati, OH – A federal court ruled that Ohio's motto, "With God, all things are possible," is constitutional. The ruling reverses an earlier court judgment. The motto, adopted in 1959, was compared to "In God We Trust" by attorneys for the state. The American Civil Liberties Union said the Ohio motto was much more specific and therefore unconstitutional.

March 19

New York, NY – On the FOX News Channel program "Hannity & Colmes," Quanell X, minister of information for the New Black Panther Party, defended the statement of the former party minister, Khalid Abdul Muhammed, that "the pope is a no-good cracker." Quanell X stated that "When he spoke of the pope being no good, he used...the cracker as a metaphor to symbolize his position over black people...he meant that the pope would

crack the whip from the Vatican that would allow people to continue racism and apartheid.”

March 22

Los Angeles, CA – The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to compel National Park Service officials to remove a large cross installed in the Mojave National Preserve in San Bernardino County. The cross was used as a site where Christian veterans gather to remember war dead in special services.

April 2

Pulaski County, McCreary County, KY – The Kentucky chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union sued to have displays of the Ten Commandments removed from courthouses in Pulaski and McCreary counties, respectively. Earlier, U.S. District Judge Jennifer Coffman ruled that the displays had the “overwhelming effect of endorsing religion.” The judge was rehearing the cases.

April 3

Nashville, TN – Atheists and civil rights groups went before the state legislature to oppose a bill sponsored by state representative Mark Windle that would add the legend “In God We Trust” to the Tennessee state flag. They also plan to oppose the posting of the Ten Commandments at public buildings.

April 17

Denver, CO – The American Civil Liberties Union sued the city of Grand Junction alleging a monument of the Ten Commandments outside city hall violates the separation of church and state. The city council previously voted to keep the monument and even added a sign disavowing any intent to establish a religion.

April 18

Cumberland, KY – A room in a local school that once served as a storage area and teachers' lounge was converted to its new use as a chapel. The project was immediately condemned by the Kentucky chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. ACLU state official David Friedman said, "Public schools cannot have chapels."

May

Lexington, VA – The Virginia Military Institute's long-standing practice of offering a blessing before meals came under attack as the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit. ACLU officials said cadets felt pressured to pray even though it is not a requirement to participate or even bow their heads. Saying grace before the evening meal has been a tradition at VMI for 50 years.

May 14

Chicago, IL – The American Civil Liberties Union, saying they were looking for a demonstration of tolerance and respect, called on Washington Community High School's principal to cancel plans to include an invocation and benediction at their graduation ceremony.

May 17

Lincoln, NE – The American Civil Liberties Union sued the city of Plattsmouth for refusing to take down a display of the Ten Commandments. The display has been in the same city park since 1965. Nebraska ACLU Executive Director Tim Butz said the display amounted to the city of Plattsmouth telling its citizens what religious tenets are preferred by the government.

May 29

Indianapolis, IN – The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a lower-court ruling that said the display of the Ten Commandments violated the Constitution's establishment of religion clause. The suit was originally brought by the American Civil Liberties Union.

May 30

Indianapolis, IN – The Indiana Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit accusing state officials of giving gambling proceeds to religious groups, including one that sponsors an elaborate Easter pageant. The Marion, Indiana Easter Pageant hosts a six-scene pantomimed musical pageant each year. The lawsuit says the Marion group received \$25,000 in 1999-2000.

June 3

The gay Catholic group “Rainbow Sash Movement” carried out a protest at churches across the country. Members of the group put on their sashes during the opening hymn and wore them to receive Holy Communion. If refused, members of the group would stand silently for the remainder of Communion.

July 12

La Crosse, WI – The Madison, WI based Freedom From Religion Foundation formally asked the city of La Crosse to remove a Ten Commandments monument from a local park. The group said the monument violates the separation of church and state. The same group challenged the legality of the monument back in the 1980s, when it brought suit against the city. In 1988, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling by the U.S. District Court in Madison that said the foundation was not injured by the marker’s presence, so it lacked legal standing in the case.

July 13

San Francisco, CA – The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance held a pageant in which male contestants dress up as glamorous women. One contestant paraded on stage as a pregnant Virgin Mary in a thong.

July 29

Washington, DC – The head of American Atheists, Ellen Johnson, is quoted in the Washington Post as saying one of her goals is to ensure there be no tax aid to parochial schools. In making her point she said Catholic clergy “have abused and molested

America's children for long enough."

August 10

Fort Wayne, IN – At the opening of the controversial play "Corpus Christi" at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, shouting matches broke out in front of the theatre. Demonstrators from various activist organizations shouted anti-Christian remarks to those protesting the play. The play depicts a gay Jesus-figure who has sex with his disciples.

August 15

Honolulu, HI – The Hawaii chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit against the city of Honolulu because the city refused to allow a painting of a nude woman on a cross to be displayed on public property. The painting by Daria Fand, "Last of the Believers" was banned from an exhibit last March at Honolulu Hale. The Catholic League asked that if the lawsuit by the ACLU is successful, a traditional Catholic crucifix be placed next to the Fand interpretation.

September 13

Madison, WI – In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, the Freedom From Religion Foundation released a statement that said in part:

"[President] Bush's proclamation of Friday, September 14 as a 'National Day of Prayer and Remembrance' shows the pitfalls of the 'God is on our side' mentality, and the dangers of religious patriotism....

"In fact, it appears that the terrorist disasters of September 11 may well have been the ultimate 'faith-based initiative.' These terrorists apparently expected to find a reward 'in heaven' and were bent on starting a 'holy war' with our nation...Religion is not the answer, it is probably the problem...Prayer had its chance on September 11, and it failed. Imagine the unanswered prayers of hundreds or thousands of the victims of these terrorists. Official prayer will not solve any problems. We believe it is appropriate for President Bush

to call for a Day of Remembrance, but leave prayer up to individuals.'"

September 14

Washington, DC – The American Civil Liberties Union filed a motion to block students in Virginia schools from participating in a "moment of silence" even as kids and adults alike were trying to come to grips with the loss of friends and loved ones in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. The ACLU argued the "moment" was a violation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution. U.S. Supreme Chief Court Justice William Rehnquist dismissed the ACLU motion.

September 27

Madison, WI – The Freedom From Religion Foundation called upon the Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction, as well as the Madison Metropolitan School District, to substitute the national anthem for the citing of the Pledge of Allegiance. Foundation President Anne Gaylor said the anthem was "the most secular and the least coercive alternative." A statutory amendment passed in the state budget mandated that either the pledge or the anthem be offered. The foundation objected to the pledge because it contained the words, "under God."

October

Palestine, TX – The Texas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union threatened to sue the school where Texas Governor Rick Perry previously bowed his head in prayer. Gov. Perry attended an assembly at Palestine Middle School where the student body said a prayer that ended in the phrase "in Jesus' name." Perry responded "Amen." David Kahane of the Texas ACLU said of Perry, "He has shown that he doesn't accept the importance of separating church and state."

October

Rocklin, CA – The American Civil Liberties Union demanded that Breen Elementary School remove a "God Bless America" sign from a marquee in front of the school. ACLU attorney Margaret

Crosby said, "By displaying a religious message, the Breen Elementary School is driving its young students along religious lines. School officials are hurting and isolating their schoolchildren of minority faiths when they should be supporting them and the values of pluralism and tolerance." The demand by the ACLU prompted some 250, many clad in red, white and blue, to turn out and support the message on the marquee.

October 10

Madison, WI – The Freedom From Religion Foundation wrote a letter of complaint to Wisconsin Governor Scott McCallum over remarks he made criticizing a vote of the Madison School Board. The board directed schools to play the national anthem rather than recite the pledge to comply with a new state law. McCallum said, "some people are looking for ways to diminish our belief in God and country." The foundation chastised McCallum for "equating 'belief in God' with 'belief in country.'"

October 17

West Chester, PA – The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit against Chester County, PA, over a Ten Commandments plaque that hangs in the county courthouse. The suit alleged, "Chester County creates the appearance to a reasonable observer that the government is taking a position on questions of religious beliefs rather than maintaining a position of neutrality toward religion." The plaque has been in place since December, 1920.

October 18

Washington, DC – Following the U.S. Congress' action to promote the slogan, "God Bless America" in the nation's schools, the Freedom From Religion Foundation condemned the resolution. The Foundation said the phrase "God Bless America" was a prayer that should not be promoted in public schools.

October 26

Washington, DC – The debate over expression in the nation's schools continued in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11. Americans United for the Separation of Church and State opposed the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance as well as "God Bless America" as either a song or a slogan in front of schools.

October 30

Mobile, AL – Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama filed a lawsuit against state officials. The two groups said a Ten Commandments monument in the rotunda of the Alabama State Judicial Building violated the U.S. and Alabama constitutions. Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore unveiled the four-foot-tall, granite display of the Ten Commandments weighing over 5,000 pounds.

October 31

Ringgold, GA – The American Civil Liberties Union threatened to file a lawsuit against the city of Ringgold after officials hung the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and an empty frame in city hall. City Councilman Mill McMilton said the empty frame was "for those who believe in nothing." The ACLU of Georgia wrote, "An empty frame does not ameliorate the city's religious message."

November 6

Brunswick County, NC – The Brunswick County School Board voted 3-2 against a proposal to display the Ten Commandments. The North Carolina General Assembly previously passed a law allowing school districts to create such displays in their schools. The officials of the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union have said they will sue any district that allows such a display.

November 7

Following election day, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State accused the bishops in New Jersey of

interfering in the electoral process. The bishops had urged Catholics to “use their voting privilege to reflect a choice of candidates who respect and sustain the dignity of all human life.” From that, Americans United alleged that the pro-life candidate in the governor’s race, Brett Schundler, received an “implicit endorsement.”

The group took specific aim at Archbishop John Myers of Newark. It said the new archbishop “is well known in the Catholic Church for his hardline approach to politics.” The group mentioned that while serving as bishop in Peoria, IL, Myers issued a pastoral letter saying it is “morally illicit” for Catholics to vote for pro-abortion candidates. Americans United for the Separation of Church and State has long been an advocate of abortion rights.

November 14

Los Angeles, CA – Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, issued a news release on a topic dealing with World War II. In it, he wrote, “Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden adamantly refused, pointing out that the Pope had overstepped his neutrality by declaring himself ready to protest damage to historic buildings in Rome while remaining silent regarding the crimes of aggression committed by the Fascists.” Catholic League president William Donohue challenged the statement asking Hier to provide the evidence that (a) Churchill and Eden actually charged the pope with “overstepp[ing] his neutrality” and (b) they also charged him for “remaining silent” regarding crimes of aggression committed by the Fascists.

In a December 19 letter to Donohue, Hier directed him to pp. 245-46 of John Cornwell’s thoroughly discredited book, *Hitler’s Pope*. But even Cornwell didn’t make the statements Hier credits him with. Donohue then asked Hier to delete these remarks as there is no basis in history for them. Hier refused to do so.

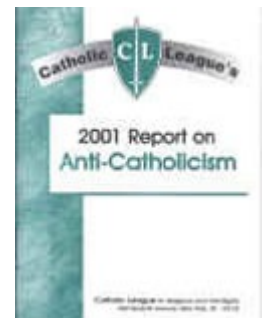
November 29

Washington, DC – Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC), announced that she was launching a global campaign to change the Catholic Church's teachings on sexuality. She wanted to end what she calls "the Catholic bishops' ban on condoms." The campaign advertisement read as follows: "Catholic people care. Do our bishops? Because the bishops ban condoms, innocent people die." Kissling went so far as to say, "The Vatican and the world's bishops bear significant responsibility for the death of thousands of people who have died from AIDS."

The Arts

January

Houston, TX – Beginning in mid-December 2000 and running through mid-January, the Redbud Gallery in Houston, TX had an art exhibit titled, "Sextablos: Works in Metal." "Sextablos" featured many pornographic images, including a work by Michael Thompson that shows a naked woman performing fellatio on Christ nailed to the cross. "Sextablos" is a play on the Spanish word "retablo," which are Mexican paintings of the saints on sheets of tin. A book of the display was also available from Bad Books Press.



January 20-21

Pittsburgh, PA – A production of Terrence McNally's "Corpus Christi" was staged by the Provoke Theatre Project in Pittsburgh. The play depicts a Christ-like figure that has sex with the Apostles. According to Thom McLaughlin, company founder, Provoke Theatre's goal is to produce contemporary, cutting-edge, thought-provoking theater. McNally's play was critically panned when it ran for a short time in New York

City.

February 16

Brooklyn, NY – At the Brooklyn Museum of Art, a display featuring contemporary black photographers includes the color photo “Yo Mama’s Last Supper” by Renee Cox. The photograph shows the artist appearing in full frontal nudity as Christ in the Last Supper. In the fall of 1999, the Brooklyn Museum of Art had displayed in its “Sensation” exhibit a dung-splattered Virgin Mary surrounded by pornographic images. Cox explained her work as aimed at the Catholic Church, blaming the Church for slavery. On several past occasions Cox has used Catholic imagery in an offensive manner. She portrayed a castrated Christ on the Cross and she appeared half naked as the Blessed Mother holding a Christ-like figure in her work, “The Pieta.” She also posed as a nun with a naked woman kneeling before her in prayer. Catholic League president William Donohue debated Cox at the First Amendment Center in New York, asking if she would object to an offensive portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. displayed in a public library during Black History Month. She took great umbrage at his mere suggestion. Joining the critique of Cox and the Brooklyn Museum were Edward Cardinal Egan of New York and New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

February 25

Santa Fe, NM – An exhibit opened at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe titled “Cyber Arte: Where Tradition Meets Technology.” One entry, a photo collage by Alma Lopez, was called “Our Lady.” It replaces the traditional image of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe with a woman in a rose petal bikini. A bare-breasted woman appeared below her in place of a cherub. The museum is a state facility supervised by a board of regents. Archbishop Michael Sheehan of Santa Fe and local parishioners called the art “blasphemous,” and the Catholic League joined in the protest. At an April 16 meeting attended by more than a thousand protestors, Father Terry Brennan of Holy Trinity parish in Arroyo Seco compared the museum’s treatment of Our Lady of Guadalupe to a sports team

callously using Indian mascots.

April 8

Great Barrington, MA – At the Mahawei Theater, a performance group called “Bread and Puppet” put on a play titled “Insurrection Mass with Funeral Marches for Rotten Ideas: A Non-Religious Service with Paper Mache Gods.” The puppet performance included secular scripture readings, a fiddle sermon and a parody of the Mass. The performance was sponsored by the Community Health Center of the Berkshires and the Rail Road Street Youth Project, both of which receive funding from the Great Barrington Board of Selectmen.

April 17

Chicago, IL – A play by Romulus Linney titled “Ambrosio” was performed at The Great Best Theater in Chicago. The play centers on a 16th-Century monk in Spain who has sex with both men and women. There is Catholic imagery throughout the play, including a male novice with whom the monk has sex and who looks like the Virgin Mary.

April 18

Stamford, CT – At the University of Connecticut a one-woman play was presented, “The Second Coming of Joan of Arc,” by Carolyn Gage. In answer to the question, “Whose God is it anyway?” the playwright responds that the saint is “the cross-dressing butch with the smart mouth.”

April

New York, NY – A mural featuring a totally naked Jesus on the cross was to open at New York’s JFK International Airport. Contacted by the Catholic League, airport officials had the art properly covered with a loincloth. The story was eventually covered in Newsday where it was reported that airport officials did not wish to get into a confrontation with the Catholic League.

May 3

Erie, PA – Terrence McNally's play "Corpus Christi," depicting a Christ-figure who has sexual relations with the Apostles, began at the Roadhouse Theater in Erie. In a review in the Erie Times-News, contributor Su Harrington, while acknowledging protests of the play by the Catholic League, wrote that "in a culture that left Matthew Shepard dead, crucified against a Wyoming fence for being gay, McNally's message deserves some thought." Thus did he justify McNally's anti-Catholicism.

May 17

New York, NY – Christie's auctioned one of two versions of "The Ninth Hour" by Maurizio Cattelan. The art depicts Pope John Paul II being crushed by a meteorite while clutching his crozier. While the art is open to interpretation, the artist has stated that it is a "little" anti-Catholic. Christie's, which played an integral role in the "Sensation" exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, hyped "The Ninth Hour" on the cover of its spring catalogue.

August

Fort Wayne, IN – Terrence McNally's play "Corpus Christi" was performed at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. The publicly funded university, while not paying for the production, hosted the play nonetheless. Eleven state lawmakers joined with local residents to file a lawsuit to try to stop the school from hosting the play. The Catholic League, rejecting what it saw as censorship, instead chose other means of protest—namely, the distribution of a statement to every theater-goer explaining the objections to the anti-Catholic play. The lawsuit was eventually dismissed and the statement of protest was distributed at every performance.

September 17

Cambridge, MA – The American Repertory Theater and the Provincetown Playhouse presented a monologue of a play by Dario Fo called "John Padan and the Discovery of the Americas." Markland Taylor of Variety described the work by

saying, "Dario Fo enjoys taking potshots at the status quo, and in this somewhat Swiftian monologue he takes great glee in rewriting history and giving the shaft to the Spanish Conquistadors and the Roman Catholic Church."

October

Maitland, FL – The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center in Maitland hosted an art exhibit by Fritz Hirschberger titled, "Indifference-The Sur-Rational." Hirschberger, a Holocaust survivor, uses art to blame the Catholic Church for the Holocaust.

One of his displays is called "The Last Supper at Evian or The Fish Stinks First From The Head." Its depiction of the Last Supper shows delegates who met at Evian, France and did nothing to protect the Jews. There is a portrayal of three clerics titled, "The Sun and the Moon Shine on All: The Mute, The Blind, The Deaf." Another piece is "The Concordat," a portrait of a Nazi and a cardinal, with a caption that essentially says the Catholic Church sold out the Jews by getting in bed with the Nazis. Other representations project the same theme.

October 5

Newport, OH – The Shawdowbox Cabaret opened its show at the Newport on the Levee Entertainment Center. A reviewer in the Cincinnati Post wrote, "There's not much topical comedy, either. The only satire present is 'Monty Python's Catholic Sketch,' which offers some wry musical comment on the church's objection to birth control. A large Roman Catholic family sings, 'Every Sperm is Sacred.'"

October 7

Westchester, NY – The play "Reefer Madness" opened at the Variety Arts Theatre. A reviewer in the Journal News wrote, "One character who has two big numbers here is Jesus Christ, who is portrayed as a cheesy Elvis type in silver lamé with a glistening smile. At one point he throws Communion wafers into the audience saying, 'Body of me.' This is unbelievably

offensive, which it presumably was intended to be.”

October 27

Morris, MN – Ventriloquist David Malmberg performed in Morris for the Stevens Community Medical Center. His act was replete with sexual innuendo followed by jokes about priests and nuns. Stevens Community Medical Center officials notified Malmberg that they would never hire him again nor would they ever recommend him to another organization.

November

Baltimore, MD – The Baltimore Museum of Art gift shop sold postcards that featured Andres Serrano’s “Piss Christ.” The sale was going on at the same time the museum removed a painting by Christopher Wool called, “Terrorist.” Museum officials said the Wool piece was removed “out of respect to visitors sensibilities.”

After a statement to the news media regarding the offensive postcards, the issue became a hot topic on Baltimore talk radio. Subsequently, a listener went to the museum and bought the remaining cards.

November 3

West Warwick, RI – Dave Kane performed his one-man play “Misgivings” at Evelyn’s Villa. A reviewer wrote, “Some have called Dave Kane’s one-man-playing-priest show, Catholic-bashing. And there’s no doubt that Kane has lots of issues to take up with the church, and sometimes he’s pretty angry.”

November 30

Somerville, MA – The Somerville Theater presented Faith Soloway’s, “Jesus Has Two Mommies.” It was also performed on December 21 and 22 at Boston’s Copley Theater.

Called a “multi-media schlock opera,” the performance features Ms. Soloway, who plays herself, and Christine Cannavo, who plays her pregnant Irish-Catholic girlfriend; the two women join in a “commitment ceremony.” Ms. Soloway meets Jesus who assuages her fears about her non-traditional relationship: he

admits to having two mommies, Mary and Josephine.

When Faith Soloway was asked why a Jewish lesbian was staging a play starring Jesus, she replied that Jesus “is the most absorbed, he’s like the icon of the Bible” and that around Christmastime he is “sort of the star.” She described her own work as “holding up my middle finger at some of our social constructions.”

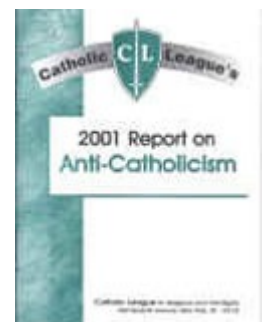
December 12

Boston, MA – Boston Center for the Arts hosted a series of short plays called “The Xmas Files.” Among the plays were “Interview with a Virgin” which imagines an interview between the Virgin Mary and her au pair. Toward the end of the series of plays, playwright Jan Davidson appears as the Mary character, hosting a funeral for her son. She receives a call on her cell phone—which she retrieves from under her habit—and she declares, “There’s been a development.”

Business / Workplace

January 13

San Diego, CA – The “Usual,” a nightclub in downtown San Diego held a “Catholic School Girl Contest.” Posters on windows of shops in downtown San Diego advertising the event offered a \$200 grand prize for the “hottest Catholic school girl.”



April

New Albany, OH – The Spring Break 2001 catalogue of Abercrombie & Fitch included an “Ask A&F” column with two questions posed by supposed Catholic high school students. The questions and answers mock nuns and priests under a theme of

homosexuality. On another page, readers are advised to adorn their spring break hotel rooms with palm fronds that can be taken “for free if you crash a Catholic mass on Palm Sunday.” Another page reviews cult movies and includes “Cemetery Man.” “One viewing is all it’ll take,” the piece instructs, “but learning to make wry comments after bashing a dead nun’s head to a pulp couldn’t hurt either.”

May

The Book-of-the-Month Club continued to hype John Cornwell’s Hitler’s Pope. In a catalogue the book was described as “the explosive story of the Pope who helped sweep the Nazis to power.” In short, our problem was more with the Book-of-the-Month Club for uncritically endorsing the most radical interpretation of Cornwell’s thesis.

May

Fairmont, MN – At an On Cue store, T-shirts for the rock group “Rage Against the Machine” were sold. The T-shirts pictured five men dressed in full traditional nuns’ habits armed with rifles.

May 17

Santa Rosa, CA – Fridge Fun, Inc. offered a line of bath soaps under the name “Sonoma Bath Company.” They included titles such as, “Immaculate Consoaption: A Virgin Bath” and “Mother Soaperior: Cleanliness is Next to Godliness.”

June 7

Bradenton, FL – Firskins Chrysler Plymouth, Jeep, Suzuki ran an advertisement in the Bradenton Herald announcing a Mother’s Day special. The ad featured a semi-hidden picture of Mother Teresa along with an invitation to find the clues in the ad and win a prize. Among the clues was the phrase, “Lowest prices from Bradenton to Calcutta.”

June 12

Los Angeles, CA – The AIDS Healthcare Foundation’s thrift

store ran an ad in print and on their website featuring a nun in a suggestive manner. The nun was shown with her hand covering a nude statue's private parts. She had a shocked expression on her face.

June 15

New York, NY – Lipton, makers of everyday, household food items, ran an ad in the alternative weekly New York Press for the company's "Lipton Recipe Secrets" onion dip. The ad showed a man waiting in line for Holy Communion holding a bowl of the dip. The ad quite obviously suggested the man was prepared to dunk the Host in the dip.

Following a number of complaints, the Catholic League contacted Unilever, Lipton's parent company. Company officials wasted little time in apologizing for the ad, admitted it was an error in judgment and pledged to never let it happen again.

June 29

Cannes, France – The agency that designed the offensive Lipton Onion Dip ad (showing a person in line for Communion holding a bowl of the onion dip, ready to dip the Host in it) submitted the ad for an award at the Cannes Film Festival. B.B.H. of New York entered the "Press and Poster" competition given for print ads. They won. At the request of B.B.H.'s client, Lipton/Unilever, the award was declined in order to head off any more controversy.

August

Medford, OR – The billboard advertising company Outdoor Media Dimensions decided to rent billboard space to Larry Weathers, a local barber. The message on the sign read, "The Pope is the Antichrist" and then directed readers to a website. When the Catholic League voiced its objections, company officials said while they did not agree with the message, they supported Weathers' free speech rights. The league then offered to rent a billboard of its own with the message, "Outdoor Media Dimensions sponsors anti-Catholicism." The company at first

hung up the telephone when they heard the proposal but finally relented and agreed to rent the space. The league felt it unnecessary after the company agreed not to rent any more space for anti-Catholic ads.

August

The September catalog put out by the Book-of-the-Month Club contained a description of James Carroll's *Constantine's Sword*. The book, which some critics denounced as simply the ruminations of an ex-priest, was described in the catalog as "confronting the Catholic Church's historical hatred of Jews from the gospels to the church's silence during the Holocaust." Once again, the Book-of-the-Month Club featured a book highly critical of the Church by promoting the most radical interpretation of its thesis.

August

An Internet bookseller called Book Closeouts featured a write-up for the book *Hitler's Pope* by John Cornwell. Despite being panned by critics as a work filled with errors of historical fact, Book Closeouts said Cornwell "shows that, even before the Holocaust, Pope Pius XII was instrumental in negotiating an accord that helped the Nazis rise to unhindered power—and sealed the fate of the Jews." After we protested, the company apologized and rewrote the blurb for the book.

August 23

Englewood, CO – Dean Evans & Associates, a company that markets organizing software, launched a mass mailing to advertise its products. Many recipients were Catholic parishes and other religious organizations. The mailing featured a man with a displeased frown dressed as the pope. Attached to the pope's mitre were a note and a pen. The note read, "Is managing your calendar by hand a nuisance?" The tag line on the mailing answered, "Does the pope wear a funny hat?" Following our complaint, the company issued a new mailing to every address that had received the offensive one, apologizing. The company also sent a letter of apology to the

Catholic League.

September 20

The Internet auction website eBay listed as an item for auction a "Virgin Mary Immaculate Conception Condom." On the condom was a picture of the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus; the tag line read, "If you conceive, its [sic] a miracle." On the back of the condom was a picture of Pope John Paul II. "It also includes inside the flap," said the description of the condom, "instructios [sic] on how to put on the condom (drawings!) showing a certain someone on a cross with a woody and a glove...." Following a complaint from the Catholic League, eBay removed the item almost immediately. Before the company's action, the item had reached a high bid of \$11.50.

October

A company called Iparty published a flyer showing its Halloween costumes available. Featured were costumes of a priest's cassock and gold cross and a nun's outfit with a very short skirt and high heels. No other religion was represented.

October

Great Falls, NY – The company Party Universe published a flyer advertising all its Halloween items including costumes. Among the costumes available was one of a priest—with a gold cross accessory sold separately—along with a nun costume. No other religions were represented as costumes.

November

Deer Park, NY – The greeting card company Magic Moments put out a birthday card that stated on the front, "Happy Birthday To A Woman Who Can Be Best Described As Another MOTHER THERESA [sic]. The inside message then read, "You've Spent Half a Century in the Missionary Position." There was a halo above the phrase.

December

St. Paul, MN – The Wireless Holiday 2001 catalog included a T-

shirt that showed a crowded nativity scene. The caption above it read, "It's a Girl." No mention of Christmas is made in the catalog, only "Holiday."

December

Melbourne, FL – Executives at the Melbourne Square Mall allowed menorahs to be placed around the mall but would not allow a nativity scene anywhere on the premises. When asked to defend the decision, a mall executive said a local rabbi convinced them the menorah was not a religious symbol.

December

Hoboken, NJ – the greeting card company NobleWorks offered two categories of greeting cards: "Nice" and "Extra" (which they call "naughty"). While there are no cards in the latter category for Ramadan, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, there are more than a dozen tailored to Christian holidays.

For example, the "Extra" selection has a Christmas card that comments on how someone exposed himself at a party. Another card has a picture of Our Blessed Mother holding baby Jesus with the inscription, "Losing those 15 pounds was sure to be a bitch." And there is another one with the picture of an angel that remarks how she will still enjoy the holidays even though she is having her period.

The "Extra" selection of birthday cards include the following: two cards that mock Christ on the cross; one that shows a priest by a urinal with a sign overhead that reads, "Holy Water"; and a nun shown buying a card not from the "Wedding" or "Birthday" section of a card store but from the one that reads, "Castration." There is also a Mother's Day card that shows Mary commenting to Christ, "Uh, excuse me, Mr. Savior of Mankind, but did you remember to put on clean underwear in case you get crucified?"

December

A review of the more than 350 Christmas cards available on the home page of Yahoo! revealed that only 25 of them have a

religious content. There are at least eight objectionable cards in the “Humorous” and “Naughty” categories. For example, these categories have cards that show naked buttocks, animals urinating, Santa on the toilet, etc. Most of the 48 Hanukkah cards show a picture of a menorah or a Star of David. Of the five “Humorous” cards, none was as offensive as any of the Christmas cards in this category. There was no “Naughty” category. American Greetings is the worst offender of the mainline greeting card producers.

December 17

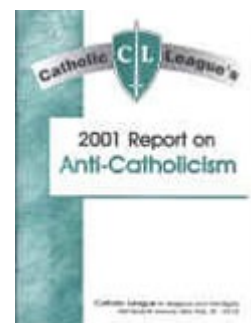
Lafayette, LA – The World Wrestling Federation (WWF) show, RAW, featured a big-screen presentation of the wrestling characters Booker T. and Stone Cold Austin that mocked the Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Booker was shown hiding from Austin in a confessional. A young buxom woman walks into the confessional and proceeds to confess to the sin of adultery. Booker, posing as a priest, insists on the details. In a following scene, Booker questions a man in the confessional if he had ever been to a red-light district or smoked marijuana. Another offensive scene involved the two wrestlers and several people posing as nuns.

Education

January 12

Milford, NY – Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed a friend-of-the-court brief to the Supreme Court over the right of public schools to deny access to religious groups to hold religious education classes on school property after school. The court case, *Good News Club v. Milford Central School*, arose after the school system



denied use of the school premises to the Good News Club for after-school activities that involve hymns and religious education. The school district permits groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4-H Club to meet. Milford's building use policy, however, forbids religious activities and claimed that the purpose of the Good News Club was conversion of elementary school students. The Good News Club argued that it has a right to the same access as others and was teaching the same sort of moral lessons, but from a religious point of view.

January 27

Long Island, NY – A Catholic student appeared at a New York public high school to take her SAT exam. A member of her school's Catholic League chapter, she was wearing a Catholic League T-shirt. The teacher monitoring the SAT exam told her to put her jacket back on to cover the T-shirt, saying the shirt was "racist" and "discriminated against other students."

February

San Diego, CA – A play written by a student at San Diego State University was performed in bilingual performances in San Diego and Tijuana. The play depicted the devil trying to overtake the forces of good by posing as priests and nuns.

February

Bethlehem, PA – An art exhibit at Lehigh University from November 2000 through February 25, 2001 was called "Four Outside Artists: The End is a New Beginning." The artists included Norbert Kox, the creator of the "To Hell and Back" display at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, WI. That exhibit featured the Virgin Mary as the "Great Harlot" and labeled Christ as the "Son of Perdition." At the Lehigh exhibit, Cox displayed a monster in the image of the Statue of Liberty wearing four bras. Under each are scapulars of Jesus and Mary. On the torch is a rosary with a snake and the book in the hand has a cross with a pig on it.

February 11

College Park, MD – The University of Maryland's Department of Theater staged Christopher Durang's "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" February 11-18. Representatives of many faiths have condemned the play for its vicious attacks on Catholic beliefs. The University Theatre brochure highlighted the anti-Catholic nature of the play: "In Sister Mary Ignatius, Durang shines a spotlight on the Catholic Church, revealing its blind faith teachings as an extremely dangerous influence on people's lives."

February 26

Orono, ME – According to a report in the National Catholic Register, a third-grader who wore a sweatshirt and a T-shirt with the name "Jesus Christ" was told to turn them inside out because they might disrupt the class. The principal argued that other students might find the sweatshirt to be profane.

March

Atlanta, GA – State Attorney General Thurbert E. Baker ruled that Georgia public schools can show "respect for their creator" and may display the U.S. national motto, "In God We Trust" on posters in school classrooms. Georgia law requires the State Board of Education to develop a "comprehensive character education program" in schools that includes, among 27 character traits, "respect for the creator." He gave the opinion that "respect for the creator" does not endorse any particular theory of creation, nor does it "disparage those who do not hold a belief in creation."

Kay Young of the ACLU of Georgia indicated the group would sue. Liberty wearing four bras. Under each are scapulars of Jesus and Mary. On the torch is a rosary with a snake and the book in the hand has a cross with a pig on it.

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March

Queens, NY – According to a report in The Tablet newspaper of the diocese of Brooklyn, NY, a public high school in Queens displayed anti-Catholic art in a student exhibition. The art allegedly depicts a white rendition of the Blessed Mother surrounded by angels with the word "Evil" written above it. Next to it is a rendition of a black woman with the word "Good" above it. The Tablet was denied permission from the Superintendent of the District to view and photograph the exhibit at the school.

March 20

Greenwich, CT – Greenwich High School, during “Diversity Week,” sponsored a talk by Garrett Stack, principal of Franklin School in Stratford, CT. Stack listed the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts as “anti-gay” and attacked the Church’s teaching on homosexuality. A female student in attendance was so upset by the attack on the Church that she left the auditorium in tears.

March 28-31

Boca Raton, FL – “Corpus Christi,” the Terrence McNally play that depicts a Christ figure having sex with the Apostles, was performed at Florida Atlantic University. The Catholic League protested the state-sponsored event and the Commissioner of Education for the state of Florida issued a strong condemnation of the play.

April 18

Stamford, CT – At the University of Connecticut a one-woman play, “The Second Coming of Joan of Arc,” was presented by Carolyn Gage. In answer to the question, “Whose God is it anyway?” the playwright responds that the saint is “the cross-dressing butch with the smart mouth.”

April

Ft. Wayne, IN – The Terrence McNally play “Corpus Christi” in which Jesus has sex with the Apostles was scheduled to be performed in the summer at Indiana University-Purdue University (IPFW). Though students themselves raised money for the play voluntarily, six Indiana state senators questioned the use of state-funded university facilities for the production of an anti-Christian play. IPFW Chancellor Michael Wartell defended production of the play as an exercise in academic freedom. In a letter to Chancellor Wartell, Catholic League president William Donohue noted that IPFW in its mission statement pledges its commitment to tolerance and multiculturalism. Donohue proposed that Chancellor Wartell meet with the students involved in the play to explain “how

hurtful this exercise in free expression is to Christians.”

September

Westchester County, NY – Three school districts in Westchester County published their yearly calendars in the local paper. The Bronxville calendar omitted mention of all religious holidays during the school year. The Eastchester calendar listed Rosh Hashanah (twice), Yom Kippur, Passover and Easter but Christmas was omitted. The Tuckahoe calendar listed Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur but omitted both Christmas and Easter. Tuckahoe Union Free School District Superintendent Michael Yarzula, in a response to a letter from the Catholic League asking about the omitted dates, was “extremely angry” about being questioned on the topic. He did say however, it was an oversight and the calendar would be revisited with an eye toward restoring the Christian holidays.

October

Columbia, SC – The University of South Carolina student newspaper, The Gamecock, included a story about an off-campus event held in Columbia called “The Fetish Ball.” The story described in detail the sexual performances by the participants including those dressed as Catholic schoolgirls, nuns and priests. In reporting the general motivation of the event’s organizers, the reporter wrote, “The performance was directed against conservatism and intolerance, represented by stereotypes of the Catholic Church.”

The story was placed on the front page of “The Mix” section with more column space than the preview of the upcoming USC football game. Accompanying the story were graphic pictures of the event.

October 20

Beaufort, SC – A haunted house sponsored by the University of South Carolina Beaufort and the Rape Crisis Center of the Lowcountry featured a priest and a nun as the frightening characters. Two University of South Carolina students portrayed an “evil Father Kelley” and a “twisted Sister Mary

Moore.” The South Carolina Student Government Association later apologized for the portrayal.

November 7

New Orleans, LA – The student newspaper at Tulane University, the Tulane Hullabaloo, featured an article—complete with pictures of sexual positions and the top places to have sex on campus. One of the demonstrations of a sexual position was called the “double ‘0’” and showed two students imitating a sexual act on the letters that spell out Loyola University, a nearby Catholic institution.

November 28

Sharon, MA – Sharon High School held a Halloween party at which two male students came dressed as pregnant nuns and another as the priest impregnator. They were awarded first prize by a faculty panel; the offending students received the most comical costume award. School officials at the predominately Jewish school later admitted the costumes and the prize were inappropriate. Amazingly, they said they were particularly diligent in making sure no one came dressed in a costume that could be construed as offensive to Muslims. School officials said such an incident would never happen again and invited the Anti-Defamation League to come to the school and provide sensitivity training and to discuss the Holocaust. The Catholic League was not invited.

No disciplinary action was taken against either the students or teachers involved in the incident. This despite the fact Section 26.07, part 2, of the Massachusetts Department of Education regulations says “harassment or discrimination” based on religion must be prevented and that “all public schools shall respond promptly to such discrimination or harassment when they have knowledge of its occurrence.”

We sent the school 250 copies of last year’s annual report so that the students could learn more about anti-Catholicism.

November 30

Naples, FL – Naples High School performed the play “Do Black

Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" The play is widely known as being filled with derogatory stereotypes and trivializations of Catholic sacraments. The school had no plans to put on other plays that similarly depicted other faiths.

December

Frederick County, MD – An administrator in the Frederick County school system told employees they were prohibited from handing out Christmas cards in the schools because cards with a Christian message "may not be a legally protected right on a public school campus."

December

Rochester, MN – Two 13-year-old middle school students were disciplined following a holiday skit. Their offense was wearing red and green scarves and ending the skit by saying, "We hope you all have a merry Christmas."

December

Plymouth, MA – Two ninth-graders in the public school system were told they were not allowed to make Christmas cards if the cards said, "Merry Christmas" or if they depicted a nativity scene.

December

Plymouth, IL – A second-grade teacher was warned by the principal not to read a book about Christmas to her students. The book was available in the school library.

December

Silverton, OR – The Silverton superintendent of schools issued rules that said students had to remove all "religious" holiday decorations from their lockers. Secular decorations were allowed to stay.

December

Covington, GA – Following a threat of legal action from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Covington County school

board deleted the word "Christmas" from its school calendar.

December

Sable Point, FL – A public elementary school principal threatened to fire a teacher for wearing a pin that had the inscription, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."

December

Oyster Bay, NY – A holiday concert at an elementary school featured students performing a number of songs. They were allowed to sing Jewish religious songs but not Christian songs. When a parent complained about the inequity, he was told the Jewish songs were balanced with songs about Christmas trees and Santa Claus.

December

Peoria, IL – Controversy erupted at Bradley University when a Christmas tree was put up in the student center. A Jewish student complained, leading to a number of letters to the student newspaper. Student Center director Pegi Meyer said this is the first complaint about the tree which had been put up there since the 1950s. There were neither nativity scenes nor crosses. The complaining student, Jackie Farber, said, "A Christmas tree ... is put up for the Christmas season, and Christmas is a holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. There are people in this country, and on this campus, who disagree with that."

December

Cambridge, MA – Menorahs were placed in student housing units at Harvard University without a word of protest. But there were no nativity scenes. Indeed, the display of Christmas trees became a contentious issue on campus. Some Jewish students complained that the Christmas tree was divisive. One compared it to "a Trojan horse," saying it opened the door to placing other offensive symbols on campus. He specifically mentioned the swastika.

December

Lebanon, PA – Rabbi Louis Zivic of Beth Israel Synagogue complained that the Holiday Concert at Cedar Crest High School was too Christian in emphasis. As a result, school officials decided to no longer ask visitors to stand while the chorus sings the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s “Messiah.” An official from the local chapter of the ADL, Gerrie Greene, agreed saying that it appears previous holiday concerts were “pervasively religious.” Greene noted that the concert “was almost entirely Christmas carols, most of which were sacred in nature.”

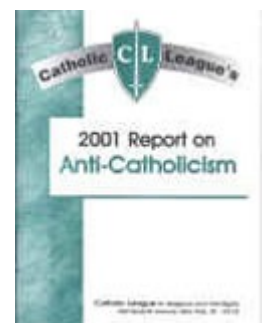
December 12

Cedar Falls, IA – The University of Northern Iowa hosted the Terrence McNally play, “Corpus Christi.” The play depicts a Christ figure having sex with the 12 apostles. The script is also replete with sexual and scatological comments, as well as behavior that is offensive. At one point in the play, the Christ figure proclaims to all the apostles that they are divine and then exclaims, “F– your mother, F– your father, F– God.” The character Philip turns to the Christ-figure and asks him to perform fellatio.

Government

January 24

Newburyport, MA – Newburyport Mayor Lisa Mead ordered that two bricks in a park walkway be removed. People were able to “buy” the bricks and inscribe them with a personal message as a fundraiser for a park . Of the 200 bricks purchased, the two were ordered removed after the mayor received complaints from certain offended residents. One



brick read "Jesus Loves You" and the other read "For All the Unborn Children." The mayor explained the display of the two bricks on town property violated federal law requiring separation of church and state. The brick purchasers sued to put the bricks back in the walkway.

January 29

Albany, NY – The New York State Assembly passed a bill that would require all employers to provide contraceptive insurance coverage for its employees. The Assembly explicitly rejected a religious conscience exemption clause which had been acceptable in the New York State Senate. The bill as passed by the Assembly would force Catholic organizations to provide such contraceptive coverage. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said that a conscience clause would be "taking religious freedom a little too far."

March

Albany, NY – Edward Cardinal Egan of New York visited Albany to lobby against the bill for contraceptive insurance coverage that rejected a religious conscience exemption. Without such an exemption, the bill would force religious organizations to relinquish their doctrinal prerogatives and institutional autonomy. Certain clergy from other religious groups, however, spoke out against an exemption saying that it is "a matter of justice for women" that the clause be stricken. These clergy represented the United Church of Christ, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reform Jewish communities.

March 16

Washington, DC – President George W. Bush held a St. Patrick's Day reception for Irish-American leaders and invited representatives from various parties in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Among those invited who attended was Ian Paisley, the Northern Ireland minister known mostly for his hatred of the Catholic Church. Paisley has called the Church the "mother of Harlots" and referred to the pope as the anti-Christ and the "great fornicator." The Catholic League

protested the invitation to Paisley for an event that celebrates a Catholic saint.

March 21

Tallahassee, FL – A bill that unanimously passed the Florida Senate Banking and Insurance Committee would force insurance companies to cover the cost of contraceptives. Florida insurance companies and employers who do not comply with the ruling will be subject to significant liability. The Florida Catholic Conference opposed the bill because it did not provide an exemption or conscience clause for those organizations that are opposed to birth control on religious grounds.

April

Rockland County, NY – Clients of the Blaisdell Alcoholic Treatment Unit at Rockland Psychiatric Center were denied the right to go to Mass, according to sources at the center. Protestant services were regularly held. Officials at the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services said there was a staffing and facilities problem that led to the Catholic clients not being given the chance to attend Mass.

April 11

New York, NY – In a letter to supporters, New York State Senator Eric T. Schneiderman linked Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, with those involved with criminal attacks on abortionists. Schneiderman called for a demonstration on April 25th outside the National Right to Life dinner at a New York hotel where Father Pavone was honored. In his letter he linked Father Pavone with a radical anti-abortion group, the Nuremberg Files, and said that Father Pavone “openly advocates criminal activity to harass abortion providers” without offering any evidence.

May

Howard County, MD – Mary Simmons of Howard County wanted to

home school her children. The program she chose—a nationally respected Catholic curriculum—was not on the state of Maryland’s approved list of home school programs. When Ms. Simmons and her husband refused to submit the program for approval (the alternative to choosing a program from the approved list), the state filed 72 counts of criminal truancy against her.

May

Rockland County, NY – New York State officials, having corrected the problem of not offering clients at the Blaisdell Alcoholic Treatment Unit at Rockland Psychiatric Center a chance to attend Mass, were now denying them the right to go to Confession according to sources at the center. Officials later said they would make the necessary arrangements for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

July 4

Sacramento, CA – A California state appeals court upheld a law that requires a Catholic charity to include contraception in an employee health plan covering prescription drugs. Catholic Charities of Sacramento filed a lawsuit saying the law should be set aside because it violates the group’s religious freedom. James F. Sweeney, the attorney for Catholic Charities, said the Roman Catholic Church was targeted. “People of faith should be deeply disturbed,” he said.

July 14

New York, NY & Washington, DC – A group of pro-abortion feminists, led by Frances Kissling of Catholics for a Free Choice and Eleanor Smeal of the Feminist Majority, held a rally at the Vatican mission in New York and the Vatican embassy in Washington, DC. The demonstrators claimed they were protesting what they said was the Vatican’s lack of accountability in addressing the alleged issue of sexual abuse of nuns by priests. The protest leaders have a long history of animosity toward the Church. Kissling is on record saying it was her lifelong goal to “overthrow” the Catholic Church.

Smeal is on record tying the Catholic bishops to the Ku Klux Klan as part of a "reactionary coalition."

July 17

Trenton, NJ – New Jersey U.S. Representative Rush Holt was quoted in the Trentonian newspaper discussing the national debate on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. Holt, who supports the funding, said, "I bet there isn't a bishop in the United States that wouldn't take advantage of it...And most people here in central New Jersey would think it's the ethical thing to do, to do this research."

After a complaint lodged by the Catholic League, Holt wrote a letter of apology to league president William Donohue saying he knew he chose his words poorly and regretted any offense anyone took at the remarks.

July 27

New York, NY – FCYU, a publication of the New York City Youth Commission, ran an article by Princess Carr that railed against the Catholic Church's teaching on contraception. A cartoon accompanying the article was a caricature with three nuns in the pose of the stereotypical "hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil." The Youth Commission is funded by taxpayers.

July 31

Washington, DC – During the debate over competing bills on human cloning, U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) made several statements from the House floor about Catholicism. McDermott likened the current debate on cloning to an ancient story about the pope and the Spanish king. He began his remarks with the following tale: "We are like the 16th century Spanish king who went to the Pope and asked him if it was all right for human beings to drink coffee. And so the Spanish king went to the Pope and said, 'Pope, is it all right?'" Then, in an obvious reference to Pope John Paul II's recent denunciation of embryonic stem cell research, McDermott commented, "Well, we had that just the other day, and the Pope said, this is not

right.” McDermott then brought up Galileo and pointedly said of his colleagues that “here we are making a decision like we were the house of cardinals on a religious issue...”

In a subsequent radio interview, McDermott stuck to his position, refused to offer the apology the Catholic League had sought and asserted that the Church often “goes up against science.”

August 21

New York, NY – The New York City Council held a public hearing on a bill affecting the rights of abortion protestors. Bill 645-A would establish a 10-foot buffer zone around anyone within 50 feet of a “reproductive health care facility.” The bill would make it illegal for any abortion opponent to offer education, services or counseling, or even hold signs saying “Choose Life” within the 10-foot zone. The Catholic League testified in opposition to the bill because it would have a disparate impact on the religious liberty rights of Catholics.

August 22

Raleigh, NC – A North Carolina state legislator caused a controversy when he forwarded an e-mail to his fellow lawmakers. State Representative Don Davis (R) passed on the e-mail that said white men and Christianity made America great and that Catholicism enslaved Europe. The passage on Catholicism also said Catholicism perverted the Bible. Davis first defended forwarding the e-mail saying, “I think there is a lot of truth in that.” He later apologized.

August 29

Wales, WI – The Kettle Moraine School Board, which previously barred a second grader from handing out religious-themed holiday cards, apologized to the girl and her family while enacting new guidelines for such material. The girl was originally ordered to stop handing out Christian Valentine’s Day and Halloween cards. Her family sued. The board subsequently issued guidelines saying hand-out material could not be “defamatory or contrary to the mission of the school.”

October

Albany, NY – Over the past few years, the Catholic League has received many complaints from New Yorkers regarding a video that all prospective jurors have to watch. The video contains a reenactment of a medieval “trial by ordeal” that reflects very badly on Catholicism.

Catholic League president William Donohue wrote a letter of complaint to Judge Judith Kaye, chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. He questioned the propriety of showing a video that is biased against the Church in a forum that is supposed to prepare jurors to be objective in their judgments. Judge Kaye agreed. The scene in question has been removed from the video.

October

Sacramento, CA – Catholic Charities of Sacramento appealed a lower state court ruling that said it must adhere to a state law requiring all California employers with prescription coverage to include Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives in their insurance policies. Catholic Charities considered it an infringement on its religious liberty rights guaranteed in both the California and U.S. Constitutions. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a friend-of-the-court brief against Catholic Charities, claiming, “religious rights do not trump employees’ health [and therefore] neither free exercise or establishment clause principles support Catholic Charities’ non-compliance with California’s important health policy.”

November

Chicago, IL – James Oberweis, a Republican candidate for a United States Senate seat from Illinois, made media appearances to launch his candidacy. On two occasions—once on a popular local radio show and another in a local newspaper article—Oberweis explained his position on abortion: “I think that right now we’re getting a very, very strong symbol in the Taliban of what can happen if we try to impose our religious

beliefs on others.”

The Catholic League pointed out that Oberweis was comparing any lawmaker who voted pro-life to terrorists. At first, Oberweis admitted that his comparison was “probably not the best analogy,” but that he has no intention of apologizing for his remarks. After the Catholic League threatened to take out advertisements highlighting his remarks, Oberweis called the Catholic League to apologize and pledged never to use the analogy again.

November 5

Lincoln, NE – The Nebraska Unicameral Legislature was debating cutbacks in scholarship programs when State Senator Ernie Chambers launched into an attack on the Catholic Church. Chambers’ complaint was aimed at the “Catholic hierarchy.” He accused four fellow lawmakers of an “unholy alliance” with the Church to protect the scholarship program. He said the Catholic Church was a “political entity” that was guilty of such past “crimes” as allowing segregated schools and the persecution of Galileo. Among his other comments in the debate: “You all know that the Catholic hierarchy and church walk through here like a monster in seven league boots, tromping on the senators, intimidating the senators, calling them to task, letting them know that their soul may be at stake if they don’t do exactly what they’re told to do, exactly as they’re told to do it.” Chambers also charged that “were it not for the Catholic muscle on this floor and in committee, which is exercised for the church rather than the state, a lot of things would not even come before us and they certainly would not receive the votes they get. I can tell how Catholics are going to vote on issues, and I’ve done it with lobbyists before.”

The Catholic League called on the legislature to censure Chambers.

November 14

King County, WA – County executive Ron Sims issued a memo

mandating that King County employees use “religion-neutral” language when referring to the holidays. He said it was okay to say “Happy Holidays” and “Holiday Greetings.” But all references to Christmas were regarded as taboo. Sims explained, “we at King County want to ensure that any upcoming holiday celebration at the workplace is held in a respectful, inclusive, and sensitive manner that does not favor one religion over the other.” (His emphasis.) He went on to say, “Particularly in public areas, this means that any holiday recognition or celebration should be religion-neutral.” Because of media pressure by the Catholic League, Sims was soon forced to reverse himself.

November 19

Westchester, NY – Lakeland school district superintendent Barnett Sturm wrote a “Community View” piece for the Journal News newspaper opposing school vouchers. Among his arguments were: “We frequently become isolated by communities [and] by churches....There are even gated communities and religions that teach intolerance....We allow for a diversity of thought. We do not fail a student because he or she holds a particular belief system. In private and parochial schools, we find students are taught that practicing the wrong religion prevents some children from going to heaven....We will find reinforcing of values from foreign lands, rather than an education for American citizenry.”

November 28

Phoenix, AZ – The Arizona attorney general’s office issued a memo to its employees about what was and what was not permissible as far as holiday decorations were concerned. Gale Garriott, chief counsel of the Agency Counsel Division, banned any items “that have a religious significance attached to them.” He specifically listed Santa Claus as an example. When workers complained, he issued another memo that left in place all the banned items save that he excised the words “religious significance.” In the general work area, “Unacceptable

decorations would include nativity scenes, crosses, Stars of David, Christmas trees, Santa Clauses, Santa Claus-related items, and other similar items that may be offensive to some of our employees or the public.”

Arizona Governor Jane Hull called Catholic League president William Donohue on December 18 thanking him for notifying her of the ban on Santa Claus in public areas of the attorney general’s office. But Attorney General Janet Napolitano justified the ban by saying that her office constitutes a “people’s lobby” that does not allow displays that might offend those of various “faiths and cultures.”

November 28

New York, NY – Chad Vignola, general counsel to New York City Schools Chancellor Harold Levy, released a memo to all superintendents and principals declaring all secular holiday symbols to be permissible in the schools. Vignola listed as examples of secular symbols “Christmas trees, Menorahs, and the Star and Crescent.” When the Catholic League pointed out to the chancellor that the memo contradicted rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court, Levy maintained “The Supreme Court has previously refused to permit erection of a nativity scene on public property.” The Catholic League put the chancellor on notice that it would pursue a lawsuit in the coming year.

November 30

New York, NY – Dr. Fran Levy, principal of PS 22 (The Thomas Jefferson Magnet School of Humanities in Flushing), issued a memo inviting teachers to bring to school religious symbols that represent the Muslim, Kwanzaa and Jewish religions. (Kwanzaa, however, is not a religion.) No mention of Christianity was made. A day earlier, Dr. Levy ordered a three-foot Christmas tree taken down because it was larger than a cut-out display of a menorah and the crescent and star.

December

Madison, WI – The administration of Wisconsin Governor Scott McCallum insisted on calling the traditional Christmas tree at

the state capitol the “Holiday Tree” so as not to offend those who don’t celebrate Christmas.

December

Portland, ME – The Portland Housing Authority clarified its policy on decorations for religious celebrations by saying, “There shall be no angels, crosses, Stars of David [or] any other icons of religion displayed on the walls, ceilings, floors, doors, etc. of any place within our buildings EXCEPT inside your own individual apartment. Inside your door is OK. The outside of your door that is exposed to the common hallway is not. . . . If an angel . . . were displayed in the community room, it could offend someone who might believe, for instance, that angels are symbols of evil.”

December

Ramsey County, MN – County Manager Paul Kirkwold banned the traditional display of red poinsettias in the county’s St. Paul courthouse because a few citizens had complained in previous years that the red-leafed plant had a religious connotation. St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman (who happens to be Jewish) condemned the ban and asked that poinsettias once again brighten the courthouse interior. An agreement was reached: two-dozen holiday plants were ordered, but only on the condition that they were white.

December

Kensington, MD – The town of Kensington officially banned Santa Claus at its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The ban was instituted after two residents complained at a town meeting that Santa made them feel uncomfortable. When the day came for the actual lighting ceremony, dozens of people dressed as Santa showed up, leading some residents to complain the multiple Santas traumatized their children.

December

Northdale, FL – Government officials banned icicle lights that some residents wanted put up on public property as part of the

Christmas season.

December

Vincennes, IN – Public housing officials banned all religious symbols from its complexes.

December 6

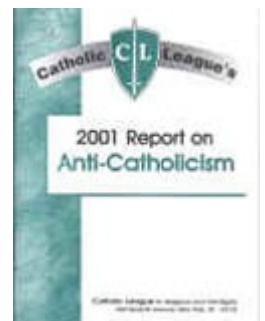
Geneva, NY – A monument honoring the heroes of September 11 was given to the American Legion in the neighboring town of Canandaigua. It was originally donated to the town of Geneva but not accepted. Part of the monument depicted the silhouette of a girl kneeling in Christian prayer. Some noted that it may have been unconstitutional for the city to erect it on public property.

December 10

West Palm Beach, FL – Following complaints from the Jewish War Veterans, menorahs that had been removed from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center were restored. Some of those who objected insisted that the menorahs be away from the Christmas tree. No nativity scene was placed anywhere in the medical center.

Media

Movies | Music | Newspapers | Periodicals | Radio | Television
| Internet



MOVIES

February 9

The movie "Saving Silverman" opened nationally. The movie included a character who "is training to be a nun." The would-be nun is "subjected to all manner of sexual embarrassment and displayed in various stages of PG-13 acceptable undress." Vulgar nun jokes were included. The New York Post reviewer blasted the movie for being "misogynous and homophobic," but did not mention the Catholic bashing.

March 15

Santa Barbara, CA – In a piece on Variety's website, the movie "Amy's Orgasm" was introduced. The movie won the Audience Award at a Santa Barbara preview. In the movie, Amy, who is Jewish, goes to a Catholic priest for confession. According to the review, "she finds a sympathetic priest, who is conflicted himself." The confession scenes occur throughout the movie, where "Amy" spills out "her innermost fantasies and thoughts."

May

The movie "The Body" is about the supposed finding of the bones of Jesus. As the Los Angeles Times commented, the film "makes an array of Catholics, Jews and Arabs look bad."

May

The movie "A Question of Faith," that the Chicago Sun-Times called "a pointless debacle," is about a monk who engages in sex with a vision of the Archangel Gabriel, and then becomes a pregnant woman.

May

The movie "One Night at McCool's" features a fidgeting, drooling, sexually repressed priest who loves to hear graphic sexual conversations. In one scene, the wafers are thrown out of a ciborium and the priest pours whiskey into it to take a drink. Jonathan Foreman of the New York Post, commenting on

the priest character, saw it as “yet another cheap Hollywood jibe at the expense of the Catholic Church.”

June 1

The BBC-produced movie “A Love Divided” opened in a limited number of theaters. It is based on an allegedly true story about a Protestant woman, married to a Catholic, who brings her children up Protestant in Ireland in the 1950s after pledging to bring them up Catholic. As the story goes, when a local priest objects, the woman flees to Northern Ireland. Irish bishops then join a boycott of all Protestant goods and services and a national uproar follows.

Our objection was to the one-sided negative portrait of Catholicism; it feeds an anti-Catholic stereotyp. Stephen Whitney of the Newark Star-Ledger said, “It rather strenuously portrays the Catholic Church and the Republic of Ireland as a haven for bigots and bullies.”

July 3

New York, NY – A film called “Mr. Christie” was featured at the Pioneer Theatre in the East Village. The plot involves a homosexual man visited by Jesus. There are various scenes involving the gay man, his boyfriend and Jesus, including a scene where the Jesus figure surprises the gay man in a bathtub and changes the water into wine.

September 21

The movie “Liam” opened in select theaters. It is the story of a Depression-era Liverpool family seen through the eyes of a seven-year-old boy. Several Catholic elements were negatively portrayed. For example, there was the dreary tale of Liam’s experience preparing for First Communion. The way the school was portrayed is also noteworthy. Liam learns just how filthy children’s souls are. He learns this from his teachers, as well as from the parish priest. The priest, a quintessential bully, bombards the kids with horrific sermons on Hell, effectively bestowing them with fear and guilt.

“Liam” was written by Jimmy McGovern; the distributor was

Lions Gate; and the producer was the BBC. McGovern previously wrote the anti-Catholic movie, "Priest"; Lions Gate previously released the anti-Catholic film, "Dogma"; and the BBC has produced more anti-Catholic flicks than any other company (it was also responsible for "Priest").

September 25

"Megiddo: The Omega Code 2" opened after a two-week delay due to the terrorist attack of September 11. The plot is about Armageddon with events based on the Book of Revelations. Brought to the brink of destruction by a dictator who fights a worldwide coalition led by the U.S., the film is set in New York City and ends with a man being buried alive under rubble and debris. The film suggests that the antichrist and his priest companion are Catholic. A black mass is performed, a priest asks the antichrist to save him, etc. Los Angeles Times movie critic Kevin Thomas observed "much of the film is set outside Rome, with familiar shots of the Eternal City...it's especially puzzling that not a word is heard from the Pope." The movie portrays a human-like Satan taking over the world. The movie is the work of Trinity Broadcasting Network's Matt Crouch (Trinity is owned by Paul and Jan Crouch, Matt's parents). Paul and Jan host the flagship show, "Praise the Lord," and reach a wide audience of mostly Protestant viewers. They are evangelicals.

October

The John Travolta movie, "Domestic Disturbance," contained a violent scene in a prostitute's room that showed a large crucifix on the wall and a statue of Our Blessed Mother. The imagery added nothing to the scene or the storyline and was completely gratuitous.

MUSIC

April

The rock group the Go-Go's announced they would release a new CD titled, "God Bless the Go-Go's." A website on the group is replete with Catholic imagery. All five women are dressed as the Virgin Mary on the home page. On another page, the same picture identifies each as "Purity," "Honesty," "Mercy," "Chastity" and "Modesty." A section entitled "Confessional" shows a priest with green hair and an earring, with the Go-Go's logo on his priestly garb. Visitors are advised to "type in your confession..." and clicking "Bless me father" triggers a penance. There is also a cynically worded rendition of the Hail Mary.

NEWSPAPERS

January 19

Buffalo, NY – The "Earth's Final Warning" advertisement from the Sweetwater Seventh Day Adventists appeared in the *Buffalo News*. When contacted by the Catholic League, the Buffalo News pledged not to run the advertisement again.

January 21

St. Paul, MN – The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in its "Bulletin Board" section ran a story about a non-Catholic attending Easter Mass. The reporter wrote that the priest celebrating the Mass had a thick accent and that when "he got to the Communion part of the Mass, it came to me. He sounded just like Dracula: 'eeeat of my flessssh, dreenk of my blaaad.'"

January 21

Cleveland, OH – In a story titled "A Gay in a Manger," the *Cleveland Scene* reported on the cancellation of Terrence McNally's "Corpus Christi" by a local theater. The play depicts a character representing Christ having sex with the Apostles. Cartoon artwork accompanying the story in the Cleveland Scene depicts an eye-shadowed Jesus with nipple rings.

January 24

Baltimore, MD – The *City Paper* ran a cartoon titled “Blowing One’s Cool in the Clutch.” The cartoon, by Tim Kreider, depicted the Crucifixion with Jesus yelling obscenities at the crowd.

February

Phoenix, AZ – The *Arizona Republic*—as well as the Paterson (NJ) Herald News and several other newspapers—ran an anti-voucher editorial cartoon by Steve Benson called “Repaying the Religious Right.” The cartoon featured a decrepit nun of “Our Sisters of Perpetual Pandering” in a Catholic school with a posted 10 Commandments reading, “I. Ignore the Constitution, then repeat nine times.”

February

Appleton, WI – The *Fox Cities Life*, a local community newspaper, carried a paid ad for “Gospel Light Ministries.” The ad was an anti-Catholic tract claiming that Catholics were not Christians as they “unknowingly practice a system that rejects Christ’s solution” in favor of traditions.

February 4

Canton, OH – The *Repository* of Canton, Ohio carried a column by Rick Senften about a Boston child whose parents removed her from the Church because she was allergic to the gluten inside the host. Senften wrote that Jesus did not specify wheat at the Last Supper and that if “bread and wine had not been available, a Pop Tart and a Coke would have sufficed for the Transubstantiation.” Senften went on to attack the Church’s teaching on the ordination of women. He wrote that the Church was now “essentially” saying that “You can’t be Catholic because you’re handicapped.”

February 22

Fort Wayne, IN – Stating that Christopher Durang’s “Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You” stars “an irrepressible nun,” *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* reporter Steve Penhollow

wrote on an upcoming local production of the viciously anti-Catholic play at the First Presbyterian Theater. He described Sister Mary Ignatius as “an elderly nun” who is “enslaved to church doctrine.” First Presbyterian Theater Executive Director Thom Hofrichter defended the play, which ran at the theater through March 4. He stated that calling the play “anti-Catholic is a very limited view.”

March

San Antonio, TX – Columnist Melissa Fletche-Stoeltjo in the *San Antonio Express-News* compared Christians in general, and the Catholic Church in particular, to the intolerant Taliban who blew-up statues of Buddha in Afghanistan.

March 7

St. Petersburg, FL – Columnist Bill Maxwell of the *St. Petersburg Times* condemned Edward Cardinal Egan of New York for taking exception to Renee Cox’s photograph, “Yo Mama’s Last Supper” on display at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Maxwell stated that the cardinal has “no ethical authority” to judge the artist and raised the issue of clerical child abuse. Maxwell had a follow-up column calling Cardinal Egan a hypocrite after a clergy abuse lawsuit was settled by all parties out of court in the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT which Cardinal Egan headed before his New York appointment. The abuse took place before Cardinal Egan was assigned to Bridgeport.

March 16

St. Petersburg, FL – The “Earth’s Final Warning” advertisement from the Eternal Gospel Church appeared in the March 16 edition of the *St. Petersburg Times*. The advertising director responded that the Catholic League’s complaint “would be a factor in our consideration if this advertisement were submitted again for publication.”

March 16

Grants Pass, OR – The *Daily Courier* newspaper ran the

notoriously anti-Catholic “Earth’s Final Warning” advertisement from the Eternal Gospel Church.

March 30

Fort Lauderdale, FL – In an article in the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, it was claimed that when the play “Corpus Christi” opened in New York, the Catholic League “threatened violence.” A retraction to the false charge appeared in the April 3 edition.

April 12

New York, NY – The *New York Times* ran a photo of Peter Vallone, Speaker of the City Council of New York, with the caption stating that “Council Speaker Peter F. Vallone goes to Mass every day, but he’s not so charitable to his political opponents these days.” After complaints, Times staffers were warned to be more sensitive to Catholics.

April 17

New York, NY – In a piece that appeared in the *Village Voice*, Tristan Taormino, a lesbian ex-Catholic, described how she discovered a store that sells sex toys made in the design of religious figures. She described a best-selling item called “Jackhammer Jesus,” displaying Jesus on the cross sitting atop a silicone-based penis.

April 17

New York, NY – The *New York Daily News* published a photo of a Holy Week procession in Spain. The caption explained that in the 15th century, penitents wore hoods to protect their identities. The photo, however, showed the penitents wearing white hoods with cone heads that Americans could easily mistake for hooded Klansmen.

April 17

Los Angeles, CA – A photo of a man dressed as a Catholic bishop appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* with the caption stating that “Archbishop Edmund Gilbert could face death by

hanging.” The story noted that a “prominent churchmen stands accused of murdering a 15-year-old schoolgirl.” It was not until six paragraphs into the story that it is noted that the accused “archbishop” is a Baptist.

April 20

Worcester, MA – Jim Dempsey in the *Telegram & Gazette* wrote a column in which he described what it would be like if priests were holding a national convention in Worcester. Dempsey wrote that the priests would be going to bars and engage in all kinds of mayhem. When they leave, “we’ll have the problem of swaggering, cigarette-puffing altar boys to deal with.” The next day, editor Harry Whitin apologized for the column as “mean-spirited, anti-Catholic and crude.” Dempsey resigned his position as a columnist to take on a position as a reporter.

April 23

Northern New Jersey – On Easter Sunday, *Suburban Trends* ran a front-page picture of a local homeowner’s display of the Last Supper which substituted pink plastic flamingos for the Apostles.

April 26

New Jersey – *Leader* weekly newspapers published in New Jersey ran an editorial on the “poor taste” of an “infamous salute” used in Catholic churches. Parishioners at a Mass at St. Mary’s in Rutherford were seen raising their right arms in a way that the newspaper compared to the Nazi salute. In a follow-up editorial the papers did not apologize, commenting instead that if “a non-Catholic popped into Mass during the blessing, he or she would likely be confused or offended.” To which the Catholic League replied, “had you not been so ignorant of Roman Catholicism you would never have been offended in the first place.”

May 1

Winston-Salem, NC – The *Winston-Salem Journal* ran the Eternal Gospel Church’s advertisement, “Earth’s Final Warning.” The

ad, among other things, depicts the Catholic Church as the "Whore of Babylon" and talks of a plan between the United States government and the pope to achievement world domination.

May 2

Fort Wayne, IN – In an editorial in defense of the decision of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) to host the play "Corpus Christi," the newspaper cited academic freedom and artistic expression. In reviewing recent editorials, however, the *Journal Gazette* had taken to task sports teams that maintain Indian nicknames. Moreover, in an editorial in response to a "B.C." cartoon that offended Jewish groups, the newspaper promised that it would never publish such offensive material again. The paper wrote that "anti-Semitic—or racist or anti-Christian or homophobic—comics can't be 'art' except in some antiseptic, ivory tower and thus irrelevant sense."

May 9

Houston, TX – In the *Houston Chronicle*, Washington-based columnist Cragg Hines commented on the papal trip to the Mideast by noting "in about 797 years a pope will go to Israel and apologize for John Paul II." Hines wrote that the pope might be "an unhelpful player in the Middle East or even an accomplice to Palestinian violence?" He then referred to Pope Pius XII as being "unconscionably unmoved" by Nazi persecution of the Jews. The column also appeared in the *Rock Island Argus* and the *Berkshire Eagle*.

May 9

Southampton, NY – A *Southampton Press* letter to the editor charged that "The Catholic Church is tearing America apart with the abortion issue, so they can take over."

May 12

Palm Springs, CA – A column in the *Palm Springs Desert Sun* by William Edelen, identified as a former minister at the First

Congregational Church in Tacoma, WA, presented a wide-ranging attack against the Catholic Church. He accuses the Church of killing "millions and millions of human beings" through the centuries and leaving a "legacy that has produced sexism, racism, the desecration of the natural environment and the intolerance of other world spiritual traditions."

May 12

Fort Worth, TX – The *Star-Telegram* ran a series of quotes in its pages under the title, "Words We Like." Included was a quote from Erica Jong: "Every country gets the circus it deserves. Spain gets the bullfights. Italy gets the Catholic Church. America gets Hollywood."

May 13

Fort Wayne, IN – In a column in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, critic Steve Penhollow commended Terrence McNally's play "Corpus Christi" as "good for Christianity." The play portrays a Christ figure who has sex with the Apostles. Penhollow dismissed complaints about the play, comparing them to protests against "Yo Mama's Last Supper," a photograph at the Brooklyn Museum of Art where a naked woman replaces Jesus in a portrayal of the Last Supper.

May 13

Santa Barbara, CA – The *Santa Barbara News-Press* printed a column by William Elden titled, "Apology for Christianity." Among Elden's claims: "The Christian church all but wiped out education, science, medicine, art and commerce (in the years 500 to 1000)."

May 14

Ft. Lauderdale, FL – In a letter to the editor of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, Pius XII is identified as "the main inspirer and prosecutor of the policy in Vietnam." The pope died before JFK sent troops to Vietnam.

May 20

Little Rock, AK – The *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* ran an editorial alleging silence on the part of Catholic popes. In particular, the piece criticized Pope John Paul II for not engaging in a debate with Syrian leaders when they made anti-Semitic statements while hosting the pope. It then compared the incident to the alleged “silence” of Pope Pius XII about the Holocaust during World War II. The editorial appeared in other newspapers as an opinion piece under the byline of Paul Greenberg. The charge is slanderous.

May 25

New Bern, NC – The *Sun Journal* ran a Paul Greenberg column titled, “How evil prospers: the silence of the popes.” Greenberg wrote that Pope John Paul II should have seized the moment and spoken out against Syrian leaders’ comments that were considered anti-Semitic. He then compared the incident to the alleged “silence” of Pope Pius XII about the Holocaust during Word War II. Such slander is not legitimate criticism.

May 30

Houston, TX – Cragg Hines of the *Houston Chronicle* wrote a column about Pope Pius XII’s alleged “silence” about the massacre of Jews during World War II. In rebuffing a letter from Bishop Joseph Fiorenza, Hines dismissed evidence that Pius was responsible for saving as many as 860,000 Jews during the war. Instead, he quoted Susan Zuccotti’s *Under His Very Windows: The Vatican and the Holocaust in Italy*, going so far as to say Pius failed not only the Jews, but members of his own faith as well. It was vintage Hines

June 3

Santa Barbara, CA – The *Santa Barbara News-Press*, under the banner “Memorable Quotes,” ran this comment comedian Bill Maher made on his television show: “Pope John Paul today confirmed his opposition to gay marriage. He said they were unnatural. Then he put on a pointy hat, his dress and returned to never having sex at all.”

June 6

New York, NY – The *New York Press* printed a comic strip called “Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles,” by Neil Swaab. The strip could not be reprinted in the Catholic League’s 2001 Annual Report on Anti-Catholicism because of its vulgarity. It featured a teddy bear-like character in a conversation with Jesus. The bear comes across a cat and ponders whether to kick it. He asks, “What would Jesus do?” Jesus answers, “I’d kick its face in...and just forgive myself afterward.” The bear kicks the cat as the Jesus character says, “Make that f— bleed!”

June 7

Nickolasville, KY – The *Jessamine Journal* featured guest columnist Dwight A. Moody, dean of the chapel of Georgetown College. His column was titled, “If I Could Pick the Pope.” Moody’s tone went beyond normal criticism and ventured into disrespect and contempt. One of his main complaints was how the pope dresses. He wrote, “There is still too much pomp and ceremony, too many ornaments and vestments, bells and whistles, that distinguish this spiritual leader from both the Savior he obeys and the people he leads.” Moody also had a problem with priestly celibacy saying, “If I could pick the pope, I would look for a man with one wife and at least five children. That would make him a good Catholic and able to understand his people.”

June 12

Terre Haute, IN – The *Tribune-Star* accepted and printed an advertisement by the Eternal Gospel Church that attacked the Catholic Church. The “Earth’s Final Warning” ad called the Church the “Whore of Babylon.” Among other charges, the ad also claimed the pope and the United States were hatching a secret plan to achieve world domination.

June 20

New York, NY – The *New York Press* published a comic strip called “Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles,” by Neil Swaab. The comic strip was too obscene to reprint in the Catholic League’s 2001

Annual Report on Anti-Catholicism. It featured a hypothetical conversation between a teddy bear-like character and Jesus. The bear asks Jesus, "How come I can only see you after I've been huffing aerosol for hours on end?" To which Jesus replies, "Because that s- f-- you up like nobody's business."

June 22

San Francisco, CA – Joan Ryan, columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, wrote a piece about Catholic bishops upholding the ban on tubal ligations and vasectomies at Catholic-run hospitals. She used the opportunity to take on the Church as an institution. She wrote, "...to follow Catholic doctrine in today's world demands a suspension of common sense that surely challenges even the most devout followers." Of the Catholic hierarchy she wrote, "One can't help but wonder if the Catholic Church has been taken over by sociological researchers conducting a massive experiment on faith."

June 24

Framingham, MA – Columnist Joan Ryan's piece on the Catholic Church and its teachings appeared in the *MetroWest Daily News*.

June 25

Geneva, IL – Columnist Joan Ryan's piece on the Catholic Church and its teachings appeared in the *Kane County Chronicle*.

June 25

Atchinson, KS – Columnist Joan Ryan's piece on the Catholic Church and its teachings appeared in the *Atchinson Daily Globe*.

June 25

Griffin, GA – Columnist Joan Ryan's piece on the Catholic Church and its teachings appeared in the *Griffin Daily News*.

June 29

Connellsville, PA – Columnist Joan Ryan's piece on the Catholic Church and its teachings appeared in the *Daily*

Courier.

June 29

Sun City, AZ – Columnist Joan Ryan's piece on the Catholic Church and its teachings appeared in the *Daily News-Sun*.

June 29

Memphis, TN – Accompanying a column on the national embryonic stem cell research by syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer, the *Commercial Appeal* printed a cartoon showing those opposed to the federal funding of the research as living in a cave and opposing scientific advances throughout history. It clearly stoked the fires of anti-Catholicism.

July 2

West Corvina, CA – Columnist Joan Ryan's piece on the Catholic Church and its teachings appeared in the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*.

July 7

Evansville, IN – *Evansville Courier-Press* columnist Ross Meny wrote an article about the Catholic Church's alleged involvement in electoral politics. It was replete with deliberate misrepresentations. He wrote, "To accomplish these [the Church's] goals, the hierarchy devised a plan. Its members wined and dined Republican legislators, convincing them that they spoke for most Catholics. Then they told the people in the pews that the Republican party best represented their social agenda. Unbelievably, it worked. The majority of Catholics voted for George Bush."

July 10

San Francisco, CA – Stephanie Salter wrote a piece in the *San Francisco Chronicle* critical of the Bush administration's position on abortion and embryonic stem cell research. But she could not stop at disagreement on the issue. She went on to say, "George W. Bush, along with the ever-regressing Catholic hierarchy and similar radical Christian bullies, insists that

the practice [harvesting stem cells from human embryos] destroys 'life' and is therefore the same as abortion, or their definition of murder."

July 11

New York, NY – The *New York Press* ran a comic strip called "Rehabilitating Mr. Wiggles" by Neil Swaab. The strip, which was too vulgar for the Catholic League to reproduce in its 2001 Annual Report featured a conversation between a teddy bear-like character and Jesus. The non-sensical conversation ended with the bear alluding to a homosexual experience only to tell Jesus, "Relax Jesus, I'm just f— with ya."

July 18

San Francisco, CA – The *San Francisco Chronicle* published an ad by the Sweetwater Seventh Day Adventist church called "Earth's Final Warning." Among other things, the ad calls the Catholic Church the "Whore of Babylon" and accuses the Vatican of conspiracy with the United States government for world domination. Brian Kokes, national advertising manager for the newspaper, said prior to publishing the ad, the Chronicle staff reviewed and approved it for both the morning and evening editions.

July 26

Philadelphia, PA – The *Northeast Times* printed an editorial on an internal controversy at St. Anselm's Elementary School. The mother of a former student wanted to award scholarships to 10 graduating students in memory of her son, a firstgrader who died from a seizure. But school policy dictated that the faculty determine who gets any scholarships. The two sides could not agree on the awarding of the scholarships. The Northeast Times editorial blamed the situation on the school officials. It said they "should have stepped aside" and lectured them about their own "house rules." No instance of the Northeast Times editorializing on the internal practices of other religions has been seen.

July 28

New York, NY – The New York Post, in its on-going fake gambling column on its sports page, contained the following extra note: “Father Tim Pasek’s Tips for Dating Priests (second in a series by the newly wedded former Queens pastor): Practice safe sex religiously, but never, ever, use a holey [sic] condom.”

August 18

Portland, OR – The *Oregonian* newspaper printed an advertisement for a website. The heading on the ad was, “Wanted: The Virgin Mary–Dead AND Alive.” The reader was then directed to a web address. The website advertised a free book advocating anti-Catholic rhetoric as it pertains to Catholic beliefs about the Virgin Mary.

September 1

San Jose, CA – The alternative newspaper *The Wave* published a satirical piece about unusual phobias. Among them was “Papaphobia,” or fear of the pope. It said the following: “People who fear the pope obviously have a good sense of history. Popes in the late-middle-ages declared war on other countries for the sake of acquiring land, Renaissance popes fathered children and insisted on their nephews succeeding them (hence the term, nepotism), and—recently documented in the book Hitler’s Pope—Pope Pius XII was aware and yet remained ambivalent to Hitler’s plans during World War II. Need we say more?”

September 2

Boise, ID – The *Idaho Statesman* printed the “Earth’s Final Warning” advertisement calling the Catholic Church the “Whore of Babylon” and accusing the Vatican and the United States government of conspiring to control the world. The ad was placed by the Eternal Gospel Church.

September 20

San Francisco, CA – On September 20, the *San Francisco*

Examiner published an article by one of its contributors, Kimberly Blaker, that accused the Catholic Church of organizing and supporting “clones” of Islamic terrorism. In addition, the Catholic League was branded a “violent” organization.

After criticizing Rev. Jerry Falwell for his remarks blaming the ACLU, gays and lesbians, et al. for secularizing America (thus contributing to the reasons why the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked), Blaker wrote, “The irony is that the Islamic terrorists responsible for the Sept. 11 fatalities are merely clones of America’s own Christian Right extremists, sheathed in a different religion.” Later in her column, she wrote, “The Catholic Church is one of the main organizers and supporters behind the Christian Right.” Blaker also hurled charges at the Catholic League, saying that “while less violent in nature” than some other groups, the league was still a threat to liberty.

Catholic League president William Donohue asked the *San Francisco Examiner* to provide him with the evidence, drawn from criminal records, that the Catholic League is a violent organization. Michael Stoll, an official at the newspaper, told Donohue that while his criticisms were “valid,” what Blaker wrote was nonetheless her opinion.

October 12

Bronx, NY – The *Parkchester News* contained an article about Islam by Daniel Gesselein. In one paragraph Gesselein wrote, “ ‘A Mosque is nothing more than four walls and a floor,’ Mohammad said. This is because unlike Catholicism, Islam does not believe in idol worship. There are no statues or paintings of any religious leaders including the Prophet Muhammad.”

Following a number of complaints, Gosselein wrote a correction saying the line should have read, “unlike Catholicism, Islam does not believe in the placement of statues or stained glass windows in their house of worship.”

October 14

Leesburg, FL – The Eternal Gospel Church, a splinter group of the Seventh Day Adventists, placed an ad in the pages of the *Daily Commercial* newspaper. The ad demonized the Catholic Church as the “Whore of Babylon” and as a conspirator for world domination. The Catholic League protested, as did local Catholics, and Jim Perry, the publisher, apologized.

October 21

Boston, MA – *Boston Globe* columnist Maureen Dezell wrote positively about playwright Christopher Durang, who is famous for “Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You.” Dezell wrote that when the play opened in Boston a number of years ago, it was criticized for “anti-Catholic bigotry.” She puts the phrase in quotes so readers know she doesn’t think the play is anti-Catholic. After mentioning that the Catholic League protested the play when it opened, Dezell calls the league “a headline-grabbing group that has no official connection with the Catholic Church and represents the views of a minority of the church’s members.”

At the time of the play, the Catholic League’s protest was joined by the Anti-Defamation League, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the American Jewish Committee. Dezell failed to mention this.

October 23

New York, NY – The *Village Voice* had a piece on the “Best of NYC”—the best of New York City. One of its items was the “Best Place to Spill Beer on the Pope.” It was the only religion-related item in the article.

October 28

New York, NY – Randy Cohen in the *New York Times* wrote a piece on the online bookstore, Amazon.com, that discussed how the company deals with issues of censorship. Cohen gratuitously mentioned that Amazon.com still carries Roman Catholic books even though the Church does not allow women priests. He failed to mention that Orthodox Judaism doesn’t allow women rabbis.

November 21

New York, NY – An article in the *New York Press* by Michelangelo Signorile equated Pope John Paul II with Osama bin Laden. The story started, “Flash! This just in: All the while that Afghanistan’s ruling Taliban has been protecting Osama bin Laden, Italy has been harboring another omnipotent religious zealot, one who equally condemns us Western sinners and incites violence with his incendiary rhetoric.” The pope, Signorile said, was guilty of “inspiring thugs across the globe who commit hate crimes against homosexuals, a form of terrorism if ever there were one.” The article was titled, “The Gay-Bashing Pope.”

December 9

Minneapolis, MN – The *Star Tribune* printed on its op-ed page a “Counterpoint” piece by Joe Selvaggio of Minneapolis about the practice of re-using condoms. Selvaggio blamed the Church’s opposition to condom use for the fact condoms were being re-used. He ended his piece by writing, “I pray [the pope] will soon have the courage to apologize to the millions of poor who have suffered and even died because of the church’s attitude toward condoms.”

December 12

Grande Island, NE – The *Grande Island Independent* newspaper ran the “Earth’s Final Warning” advertisement placed by the Eternal Gospel Church. The ad alleges a conspiracy between the Vatican and the United States government. Among the charges against the Church is that it is the “Whore of Babylon.”

PERIODICALS

January

The January issue of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* featured an article that alleged Germany and the Vatican were plotting to take over the world. The article was called “Holy Blitzkrieg.”

January

The January 2001 issue of *Esquire* presented a satirical “sermon” from the Vatican’s “Pontifical Academy of Life.” The “sermon” was presented as the Vatican’s response to the Clinton administration’s allowing of federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. The “sermon” has the Vatican refuting that “God is good” and concludes by stating that “God hates the Jews.”

January

In the January-February issue of *FHM*, billed as a “men’s magazine,” under the headline “Cure for boredom” is a report on a website where one can dress up Christ on the cross in everything from bunny slippers to a tuxedo. The magazine reports that “users can dress the miraculous wine-maker in a variety of hip and fashionable outfits,” and place a “Hang in there, Baby!” sign on the Cross. “It’s up to you to decide whether the Son of God is suiting up for the Packers, heading for a dip at the local Y or making a grand entrance at a 70s party.”

January 4

New York, NY – The January 4-11 issue of *Time Out New York*, a glossy magazine with a gay edge that covers New York social and cultural events, featured a “best and worst” of 2000. Under the Gay and Lesbian section, the top listing for “Best” was: “Cardinal John O’Connor kicks the bucket: The press eulogized him as a saint, when in fact, the pious creep was a stuck-in-the-1950s, antigay menace. Good riddance!” After protests from the Catholic League, *Time Out New York* issued an apology that the league rejected. A resolution condemning the comment unanimously passed in the New York City Council.

February 6

The online magazine *Salon.com* featured an excerpt from “The Erotica Project.” The excerpt was written by Lillian Ann Slugocki, co-author of the volume with Erin Cressida Wilson. The excerpt is a graphic description of Christ and Mary

Magdalene having oral sex.

March

Women.com, a feminist website, ran an ad in the March issue of *Redbook*. Among the listings in the ad was the comment that for every hundred women, “.5 carry an insurance policy against immaculate conception.”

June 25

The *Industry Standard* featured an opinion column by Steve Bodow that is listed under “Religion.” The entire column was a satirical “letter” to the pope. The pope is commended for forbidding “the taking of communion via Federal Express” and banning the cell-phone administration of the Last Rites. The writer takes exception to the recent announcement that Confession may never be over the Internet, because “It turns out that our faithful besmirch themselves a great deal more often, in more ways and with far greater enthusiasm than we had previously had any reason to believe.”

He writes of other concerns, such as the new computer system diverting the “venal [sic]” sins to mortal. He asks if the viewing of “unclean” websites is more or less offensive if you pay the fee. He points out that “repetitious penances” are useless because you can copy and paste the prayers. The pope is addressed as “Your Whiteness.” The statement is made, “In stark contrast to you, Your Grace, our technical team is in fact deeply fallible.” At the end the pope is asked to e-mail or “send me something on vellum.”

The magazine folded in August.

August

Edmund, OK – The August edition of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* contained two features dealing with the Catholic Church. One called “The Last Crusade” claimed there are plans underway for another crusade and “it will be the bloodiest of all.” The second, “Final Pieces Fall Into Place,” claims a conspiracy between Germany and the Vatican in the Balkans.

September

FHM, billed as a “men’s magazine,” included a section called “100 Mighty Sex Facts!” by Keith Beardon. Included in a list of homosexual or bisexual people are Pope Paul II and Pope Julius III. Another section lists the “man on top position” as the only sexual act acceptable to the Catholic Church. Another “fact” listed is that 15% of priests and nuns “break their vows of chastity.”

Contained in the same issue is an article about a man who dresses like Jesus to lure women into having sex with him.

September

Cornerstone Publishing issued a booklet called *Behold He Cometh* spouting the same anti-Catholic elements of the “Earth’s Final Warning” newspaper ads. The booklet charged the Catholic Church is the “Whore of Babylon” and misrepresents the Bible.

September

Wired published a story and pictures about a display of mock products by the Boston-based collective “Release1,” which was on display at Boston’s Revolving Museum. One of the items was called “Mass-snax: an EZ-open, single-serving pack of holy wine and communion wafers for drive-thru Christian culture.”

October

Esquire magazine published a series of comedic poems called “This Way Out” by Mike Reiss. One poem was titled “Papal Bull-N., A decree of Church Dogma.” It read:

I never read a papal bull,
Nor do I hope to read one.
But judging from their staple bull
I’d rather read than heed one.

December 3

New York, NY – A story and photo article in *New York* magazine about unusual dogs in New York City showed a full-page photo of a dog dressed in a nun’s habit, wearing a big cross around

his neck. There was no other religious imagery anywhere in the photo spread.

RADIO

February 11

San Diego, CA – On the “Lynn Harper Show” on KOGO-AM, the host started to bash Mother Teresa. Callers who tried to defend Mother Teresa were dismissed. One caller then joined the host in bashing Mother Teresa and Catholics, particularly Catholics in Mexico.

February 22

New York, NY – On the “Curtis and Kuby” radio show on WABC, the hosts used news of the papal consistory in Rome to say that the Catholic Church burns incense to chase away evil spirits. They advised listeners to forget about calling the rock artist Eminem a homophobe and misogynist because the real homophobes and misogynists were in Rome.

February 28

Washington, DC – “The Don and Mike Show” broadcast on WJFK-FM aired a segment called “Ass Wednesday.” Don Geronimo and Mike O’Meara, the hosts, had a contest to find the listener with the biggest buttocks. The contestants were then brought into the studio where they were “blessed” by using brown lipstick to paint a cross on their forehead while saying, “In the name of the Father...” The hosts then got into a discussion over O’Meara’s “Catholic guilt.”

March 1

Long Island, NY – On the “Chaz and AJ” morning show on WRCN-FM, the hosts mocked celibacy and took several general shots at priests. The general manager apologized after receiving complaints.

March 26

On the syndicated "Bob and Tom Show," a comment was made on a news story concerning the body of Pope John XXIII being found incorrupt during an exhumation. The hosts commented, "Was an altar boy found with him in the coffin?"

July

Boston, MA – WRKO talk show host Howie Carr discussed the topic of allowing priests to marry. He commented that if Catholic priests were allowed to marry it would cut down on the incidents of pedophilia. Carr fielded several callers who made allegations such as all the popes of the Middle Ages had sons. The callers went unchallenged.

August 1

Rockford, IL – WNTA-AM aired the "Good News Radio Program," hosted by Gary Petty and produced by the United Church of God. The show referred to the seat of Rome spreading an ancient religion of Babylon and the woman riding the beast. It then referenced the Catholic Church as a religious and political enemy stripping the liberties from those who do not follow it.

August 15

San Francisco, CA – KSFO talk show host Lee Rodgers read a "listener's joke" about the Virgin Mary. The joke, told on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, said Mary was impregnated by Joseph the same way African Bishop Emmanuel Milingo impregnated his wife. In declining to apologize following a written complaint from a Catholic listener, Rodgers went further, writing in an e-mail to the complainant, "I know the Catholic Church has a long record of trying to stifle dissenting opinion, but I had no idea modern Catholics were so determined to pursue even a silly little joke."

August 18

Cody, WY – KTAG-FM ran an advertisement for Maverick Country Stores featuring a bus load of nuns on the way to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine. The ad makes ridiculing reference about the nuns stopping at the country store and buying rulers, fish,

wafers and wine.

December 5

Leesburg, FL – Dr. Daniel Civic made several derogatory statements about the Catholic Church in his role as radio host on WLBE-AM. On his show “Voice of the Truth,” Civic said, among other things: the September 11 terrorist attacks were the fault of the Catholic Church; Catholic religious leaders deserve to be in prison and should be executed; Islam is part of the Catholic religion; and the Catholic Church started World Wars I and II to destroy the Jews, Protestants and Muslims.

TELEVISION

January 26

Oklahoma City, OK – Two men were executed in Oklahoma for a 1985 murder at a local grocery store. During a broadcast on KOCO-TV the day of the execution of one of the men, reporter Steve Voelker discussed the Catholic upbringing of the man. The fact that he was a nephew of a Catholic priest was raised often during news reports of the execution. When the second man was executed, no mention was made of his background.

February 8

Bill Maher, host of ABC’s “Politically Incorrect,” apologized for a January show in which he stated that dogs “are like retarded children.” Maher has never apologized for previous anti-Catholic remarks broadcast on the show. On the February 8 broadcast, Maher inserted Christ into a discussion of Alcoholics Anonymous, which then led to attacks on religion. Comedian Richard Belzer charged that Mother Teresa “took tons of money from very shady people.” She was then accused of never opening a clinic for dying children in Calcutta.

February 15

Ellen DeGeneres played a nun on NBC’s “Will and Grace.”

Degeneres' character stated that she was taken to the convent when she was three, thinking she was going to the zoo. "All I wanted to do was see the penguins. Ironical, isn't it?" she said, dressed in an old-fashioned habit. The show concluded with the nun declaring, "Big day for me. I'm not wearing a bra."

February 18

The CBS show "60 Minutes" did a segment on the DeBeers company's worldwide control of the diamond industry. James Twitchell of the University of Florida was asked if there was ever a time in history when one institution exercised this much control. He replied, "Holy Roman Catholic Church, which was selling a different kind of product—salvation, generically." The Catholic League questioned why the statement, a non-sequitur that had nothing to do with the issue at hand, was included in the "60 Minutes" segment.

February 26

FOX's "Ally McBeal" depicted a dream sequence where the main character is on a flight to visit her boyfriend. A nun sitting next to her questions her about her sex life with her boyfriend and begins to recommend various contraceptives such as condoms, diaphragms, etc.

May 17

The season finale of NBC's "The West Wing" featured the President character Josiah Bartlett engaging in a diatribe (half in English, half in Latin) against God after his assistant had been killed in a car crash. Among the things he said were, "To hell with your punishments. I was your servant on Earth. And I spread your word and I did your work. To hell with your punishments. To hell with you."

May 27

The Showtime movie channel aired a filmed production of "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," a vicious anti-Catholic play written by Christopher Durang. The play

features a malicious nun confronted by four of her past students, all of whom are dysfunctional in some way as a result of their Catholic upbringing. Catholic belief and devotions are bashed throughout the play and, at the climax, the nun kills two of her former students. The director of the performance, Marshall Brickman, justified the play's attack on Catholicism by stating that "any institution that backed the Inquisition, the crusades and the Roman position on the Holocaust deserves to be the butt of a couple of jokes." In a full-page ad that appeared in the May 14, 2001 edition of *Variety*, the Catholic League asked Sumner Redstone, chairman of Viacom, to condemn the production. Mr. Redstone refused to do so.

May 31

CNN newsperson Greta Van Susteren reported the recent marriage of renegade Catholic archbishop Emmanuel Milingo. She interviewed George Stallings, a former priest who was excommunicated in 1989 when he broke with the Catholic Church. No Catholic priest in good standing was interviewed to comment on the other side of the issue. In her opening remarks, Van Susteren said, "If there's one thing the Catholic Church doesn't like, it's a loose cannon." She then said in reference to Milingo's marriage, "there were no best wishes from the Vatican."

June 26

MTV's "Andy Dick Show" featured the star performing a rap song that had numerous references to Jesus. One line was (speaking as Jesus), "For me to get out of pain, all I need is to spend some time with Mary Magdalene. All you have to do is 69, to change the water into wine."

June 30

The "Howard Stern Show" on E! Entertainment television featured an appearance by porn star Rebecca Lord. When she said she had a comment to make about religion, Stern gave her the okay. Lord complained about the Catholic Church for being

critical of her line of work. At that point Stern jumped in saying, "Catholic priests are having sex with young boys."

Stern added that those who work in the pornography industry were healthier than Catholic priests. In an angry voice, he charged that priests show boys pornography so they can molest them. Then his companion Robin Quivers commented that the Catholic Church would like to stop Lord from practicing her profession.

The Catholic League asked the major sponsor of the show, Miller Brewing Company, to drop its sponsorship of the show. The company said it would stick by Stern because the decision to sponsor the show is based on what "our customers are telling us they want to see and hear."

July 10

The show "Witchblade" on TNT (Turner Network Television) featured a story involving time travel, Hitler and Pope Pius XII. The hero of the series goes back in time to World War II. In the course of her investigation, it is revealed that there was "an unholy bargain" between Pope Pius XII and Hitler. Under the alliance Hitler agrees to leave the Vatican alone as long as the pope remains silent about Nazi atrocities. As a symbol of the deal, Hitler is given the witchblade.

September 2

Hollywood, CA – Aaron Sorkin, executive producer and chief writer for the NBC series "The West Wing" told the New York Times he wanted to push the limits of dialogue on television even further than currently exists. Sorkin said he hopes to break the longstanding network taboo this coming television season. He wants a character to curse in a way that uses the Lord's name in vain.

September 3

The Jerry Lewis Telethon featured a segment with comedienne Cathy Ladman. Her routine included a story about going to a Catholic wedding and how it took so long to receive Communion. She said when she finally got to the priest, she stuck out her

tongue and yelled, "Give me some Jesus." She then went on to say she understands why Catholics see "apparitions" and were "delusional"—because "they were starved."

October 17

The NBC show "Law and Order: Criminal Intent" had a story line that revolved around a sexton murdered by a junkie. The junkie, who works at the parish, is then killed by another priest. The killer priest is also guilty of embezzling church funds. The priest tells the police that the junkie was his lover. Later in the show it is revealed the priest was lying: the junkie is actually the priest's son. It is now clear that the real motive for killing the junkie was to protect the young boy's mother—the woman the killer priest had an affair with 20 years earlier.

The Catholic League noted that the "Law and Order" series has a long track record of story lines that portray Catholics negatively.

November 4

The NBC miniseries "Uprising," about the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, depicted a priest on Easter Sunday closing the church's windows and proceeding with the service after detecting smoke from the ghetto's burning buildings and bodies. The show's author, Jon Avnet, was quoted as saying that his account is historically accurate. The Catholic League asked that Avnet supply the evidence that this priest did what he was accused of. Avnet never replied.

INTERNET

January 12

The website Usqueers.com started a new feature called "Good Riddance." It was based on the piece in 2000 by the alternative New York periodical *Time Out New York* in which the publication praised the passing of John Cardinal O'Connor.

Usqueers.com said *Time Out New York* didn't go far enough. Therefore, the Internet site planned to name people who die—and opposed their views when they lived—under the banner, “Good Riddance.”

February 6

The online magazine *Salon* featured an excerpt from “The Erotica Project,” written by Lillian Ann Slugocki, co-author of the volume with Erin Cressida Wilson. The excerpt is a graphic description of Christ and Mary Magdalene having oral sex.

March

A website called “Father Frankie’s Drive-Thru Confessional: The Roamin’ Cadillak Church” is hosted by Stairwell Studios. The website consists of three pages: an introduction, a page to “confess” your sins, and an “absolution” page.

May 8

On the *Drudge Report* website a picture of actor Robert Blake appeared dressed as a priest in a story about his alleged role in killing his wife. Blake is known primarily for his role as a detective on “Baretta.” After the Catholic League complained, the photo was removed.

June 5

“Wired.com” ran an article about computer viruses sent via e-mail, and how their titles are designed to get people to open the e-mails. In using a virus named after Jennifer Lopez as an example, author Michelle Delio quoted computer expert Marquis Grove as saying, “To someone who doesn’t care about Lopez this worm is roughly the same as saying, ‘CLICK HERE to see Mother Theresa [sic] butt naked.’ Frankly, I don’t think there is enough beer in India that would convince me to click that button. I simply have no interest and I could care less what Mother Theresa [sic] looks like in the buff. And oh my god [sic], now I have that image in my mind and I can’t shake it out...argh! The Horror...the horror.”

June 6

Cartoonist Neil Swaab featured on his website material from his book of cartoons, the title of which is too vulgar to reprint. One of the cartoons was of a Catholic school girl saying, "My daddy loves me...he loves every night...but I won't tell Mommy because it's our little secret...One day Daddy caught me making out with a boy and he called me a slut and sent me to Catholic school...now I know it's wrong to love anyone but God and Daddy. Hail Satan!" In the right-hand corner of the cartoon was a cross.

June 20

The website "thedude.org" under the heading "In God We Trust" posted a picture of Christ kneeling down with a child's head in his lap with his hand on the child's neck. The website has a special effect that makes the Christ figure pull the child's head into his midsection back and forth, simulating fellatio.

July 5

The website "suspectthoughts" ran an article by Ron Gibson titled "St. Agnes g- d- on the Virgin Mary." The article was a fictional story of sexual fantasy involving priests, saints and other Catholic images.

July 8

The website "jesusfoodnetwork.com" was dedicated to ridiculing believers in Jesus by offering different "recipes" for eating Jesus including Roast Suckling Jesus, Kentucky Fried Jesus, Braised Jesus and pasta and Jesus Pot pie. The website's main page including a quote from the Gospel of Matthew, "Take, eat, this is my body."

August 22

The Internet magazine *Bits n' Bites*, which bills itself as containing strange facts and trivia, featured a section about popes called "Famous Figures." Among the charges made in this feature: Pope Leo X denied the existence of Christ; Pope John XII raped female pilgrims to Rome; Pope John VII was actually

a woman. The publication gave absolutely no sources for the allegations.

November 1

A website called "iVillage: Where women find answers" contained an article about safe sex. Next to it was a picture of a nun holding forth a condom.

November 28

The Internet magazine *Salon* carried an interview with Hustler publisher Larry Flynt. In the interview, Flynt said, "For two millennia Catholicism has been to trying the wring the neck of every other organized religion in the world."

November 29

Annapolis, MD – Hackers attacked the website of St. Mary's Church. The face of Rev. Denis Sweeney was replaced by a blinking, devilish goat's head inside a pentagram, followed by a message about Satan. Police believe a group called "hacking for Satan" was responsible for this and other attacks against websites of religious groups.

December

The website "Papal Porn" shows images of nuns, priests and popes that turn into pornographic images when the cursor is placed over the pictures. The site advertises itself by saying, "This site contains pictures of naked Nuns and Priests and Catholic School Girls engaged in the Holy sacrament of Sex."

December 3

The Internet portal Yahoo! displayed a bias against Catholics that it refused to correct. When the word "Catholic" is typed in the search engine, the second of the Category Matches has a listing called "Christian History > Catholic Inquisition." By clicking on that category, the listings of "Torture" and "Witch Hunts" appear. No such negative topics associated with other religions were listed.

When "Catholicism" was typed in, the first listing under Web Site Matches was "The Case Against Catholicism." It consists mainly of the work of "Joseph McCabe's Rationalist Encyclopedia." The second listing is called "Gay and Lesbian Catholicism"; it was loaded with criticism of the Church's teachings on sexuality. Interestingly, the official Vatican website, "The Holy See," was listed fourth.

December 13

The Internet auction site eBay featured an item for auction called the "Weird Tattooed Jesus Statue." It depicted Jesus with three eyes, vampire teeth and a dagger on his chest. The base was covered with roses and green painted skulls. The item was pulled from the eBay site following a complaint from the Catholic League.

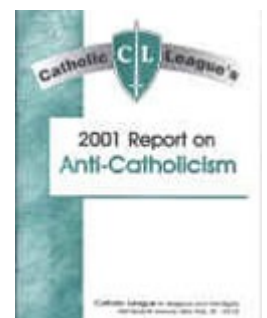
December 18

The Internet auction site eBay had up for auction a compact disc by the British band The Grey Wolves. The name of the CD was "Catholic Priests F— Children." There was a sketch of naked boys and girls on the cover and a picture of a Catholic priest. The item was pulled from the listings by eBay following a complaint by the Catholic League.

Miscellaneous

January 4

New York, NY – Jack Chick's anti-Catholic pamphlets were distributed in various New York City phone booths. The pamphlet is called "Last Rites" and described a practicing Catholic being condemned to Hell by Jesus because he believed in the "false teachings" of the Catholic Church.



January 21-22

Edison, NJ – Vandals desecrated a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Edison, NJ in the late evening or early morning. They smeared red paint on the statue as well as on the church's stone steps and wooden door.

January 30

Washington, DC – In the controversy over pardons granted by President Bill Clinton at the end of his term, overlooked was the one granted to Mel Reynolds, the former Illinois congressman jailed in 1994 for having sex with a minor and solicitation of child pornography. A primary exhibit against Reynolds was a tape of an explicit phone conversation he had with an underage girlfriend. The former congressman proclaims his good luck at the prospect of engaging in a sexual threesome with his own girlfriend and a 15-year-old Catholic schoolgirl.

February

In *Vanity Fair*, actress Lara Flynn Boyle, the star of ABC's "The Practice," complained about her Catholic upbringing. She stated that she "got a terrible education from the nuns and the Jesuits" because they "kept flunking me and saying I wasn't participating." Boyle also stated that she "used to lie in the confessional all the time" and considered herself a "bastard" because her father had his first marriage annulled.

February

In *Talk* magazine, actress Heather Graham of "Austin Powers" movie fame blamed the Catholic Church for stifling her sex life when she was growing up. "Why do I have to do what all these men are saying?" Graham was quoted, and added, "Why is a woman's sexuality supposed to be evil?"

February 13

Tucson, AZ – The historic San Xavier del Bac, a 203-year-old Catholic mission outside Tucson, was vandalized. Vandals smashed and spray-painted statues and walls. They also damaged

a small adobe building that had served as the mortuary chapel. The gravesites of two priests buried inside the chapel in the 18th and 19th centuries were splattered with paint, and rosaries and photos were strewn about.

February 15

McMinnville, OR – Vandals at St. James Church destroyed a century-old statue of the Madonna. The pastor of the church, Father Tom Farley, called the act sacrilegious and said the congregation “felt personally violated.”

February 18

Pittsfield, MA – At Notre Dame Church, teenage vandals who had also trashed a Jewish cemetery burned a picture of Christ, tossed pieces of Communion wafers around the church, and left derogatory notes about Catholicism. Most of the guilty were arrested and charged with a hate crime.

February 18

Tucson, AZ – Vandals again struck San Xavier del Bac when three statues were broken. Later in the evening a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe was found covered in motor oil and smoldering.

March

New York, NY – Vicious hate mail was sent to William Donohue over Catholic League protests of “Yo Mama’s Last Supper” at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. An obscene note included a self-made “postcard” with a drawing of a man performing oral sex on Christ nailed to the cross.

March

Lodi, CA – A booklet was sent to the Catholic League offices. Published by Manna Ministries, “Is the Virgin Mary Dead or Alive?” was written by a supposed former Catholic who attacked the Blessed Virgin Mary as a continuance of pagan Roman practices. The author identified the “Roman Catholic system” as “antichrist.”

March 6

Washington, DC – CNN founder Ted Turner stunned CNN employees in Washington on Ash Wednesday. Seeing ashes on the forehead of some workers, Turner said, “What are you? A bunch of Jesus freaks? You should be working for FOX.” When CNN corporate offices refused to confirm or deny that Turner made the statement, the Catholic League reminded media that in the past Turner had branded Christianity a religion for “losers,” labeled pro-life Christians as “Bozos,” made an ethnic joke at the expense of the pope at a pro-abortion meeting, and blasted Christianity as “very intolerant.” After the league statement was picked up by the media, Turner issued a statement of apology for his Ash Wednesday comments.

March 10

Topeka, KS – Vandals broke a life-sized marble statue of Christ located in Topeka’s Mount Calvary Cemetery.

March 10

New York, NY – Rabbi Mordechai Friedman spewed hate talk aimed at the pope, the Church and the Catholic League on public access television in New York. He has called the pope “a dumb Pollock” and a “stinking old cocker.” He has branded the Catholic League “Nazis.” Friedman also despises Jews with which he disagrees and said there is cause to “assassinate” the “evil” Senator Joseph Lieberman.

March 11

The Catholic League was attacked in hate mail for alleged hypocrisy. Noting that the League has questioned conduct during the Gay Pride March, an e-mail from “Virgin Kronch” said the league was “silent” about the Saint Patrick’s Day parade. It described the parade in honor of St. Patrick as “tens of thousands of people marching in the name of their Saint, who then get drunk and slosh all night, staggering, weaving, vomiting and urinating in public.” The note then complained about the banning of Irish gays and lesbians from the parade.

March 12

Pembroke Pines, FL – Arsonists tried to torch St. Edward's Church. They broke into the church and did approximately \$10,000 worth of damage before setting off the fire alarm.

March 27

New York, NY – A Catholic League member received a pamphlet from the Church of Cane Creek, Pleasantville, TN, that included a cartoon drawing of a nun and priest at the scourging of Christ as among the "religious in the crowd [who] spit into the blood that streamed down his face."

March 28

Hemet, CA – As reported in the Hemet News, two statues were vandalized at St. Joseph's Mission on the Sobada Indian Reservation. The two outdoor statues, one of Our Lady and one of St. Joseph, were beheaded. The heads were then stolen.

April

New York, NY – In response to the publication of an advertisement by the Catholic League in the April 16 edition of the New York Times defending Pope Pius XII, the Catholic League received the following hate mail (appearing just as it was submitted):

"The Nazis used 1500 years of Catholic and Protestant hatred, pogroms, Inquisitions, burnings, blood libels, to incite the smouldering hatred which culminated in the Holocaust...I as an American do not hate Catholics...But as for the church as an institution, I rank them up there with the worst purpurtrators of racial hatred and intolerance. Please save the ads to the Times trying to clean up the record of Pius when the other Popes throughout European history had as much blood on their hands as he did."

"It took me a lifetime to figure out that Catholics are good, their moral teachings are good, but that the hierarchy is evil. Many of your popes and cardinals died with the blood of

innocent people on their hands. It is an evil empire....Someday you will have to answer to your God for suppressing the evidence to further the cause of a worldly, wealthy, powerful organization that has no real ties to its people. An organization of powerful, geriatric men who answer to no one for anything they do."

"An op-ed page...from the noted papist, William A. Donohue. Ad was riddled with lies distortions and misinformation. For your information, Pius XII was Hitler's silent partner. He was in league with the Nazi's and his actions are a shameful disgrace, but should not be surprising considering the treatment of the Jews and other religions by the Vatican over the centuries. But, rest assured that Pius XII is frying in hell, as will John Paul II when he joins him in the near future. We won't get into the issue of Catholic priests molesting boys and apparently now raping nuns."

"Your group's love of human rights came only after your wings were clipped and claws removed. Now, with your temporal powers and responsibilities removed, you can engage in your high moral mindedness and lay your guilt trips on everyone."

April 6

Lancaster, PA – An advertisement in the Lancaster News from the Evangelical Baptist Mission of Louisburg, N.C. attacked Catholic practices and beliefs concerning infant baptism. The advertisement called Catholic practices "an example of the PERVERSION that religious leaders make of the Scriptures."

April 7

Sand Lake, NY – An ornate tabernacle containing the Holy Eucharist was stolen from St. Henry's Church shortly before Palm Sunday. The tabernacle was valued at \$10,000.

April 11

Taylor, MI – A plastic bomb exploded in a fourth-grade classroom at St. Paschel Elementary School. Two students

suffered minor injuries. The bomb, which a student brought into the classroom, was one of two found in the school's parking lot.

April 14

Bland County, VA – On Good Friday, a 4-foot, 400-pound concrete statue of Jesus was stolen from a private yard. The county sheriff, Melvin Cox, believed the theft was done “as a practical joke and it’s probably laying in a ditch somewhere.”

April 18

La Crescenta, CA – A life-sized crucifix at the altar of Saint James the Less Church was vandalized during Holy Week. In a break-in at the church, the statue of Jesus was stolen from the crucifix.

April 25

San Bernardino, CA – A teen was found guilty of stabbing her daughter to death moments after the infant’s birth. In a story in the San Bernardino Press-Enterprise, the teen’s attorney had argued for a lesser charge, saying the girl’s age “plus a strict Catholic upbringing” contributed as mitigating factors to the crime.

April

Canjilon, NM – Two juveniles were charged with causing more than \$5,000 in damage to San Juan Nepomucene Church. A coalition of piano dealers established a fund to provide one-time grants of up to \$500 to houses of worship damaged or defaced by hate crimes.

May

Fillmore, NY – A group called Most Holy Family Monastery released a booklet called “A Voice Crying in the Wilderness.” The text refers to Pope John Paul II as “Antipope” and claims he preaches the “gospel of the antichrist.”

June 5

Montgomery County, MD – Robert Lucas was found guilty of

second-degree murder in the death of Monsignor Thomas Wells. During the trial, the defense tried to assert that Lucas killed Monsignor Wells in a maelstrom of rage and humiliation after the priest assaulted him sexually. In closing arguments, Montgomery County State's Attorney Douglas F. Gasler said, "The defense played on the most rank stereotype, promoting the anti-Catholic, anti-clerical notion that all priests are homosexual predators. Never mind the fact that there was not one scintilla of credible proof offered to support such a theory."

June 7

San Rafael, CA – Opening for the musical act "The Righteous Brothers" was comedian Brian Copeland at the Marin Center. On the topic of Catholicism, he ridiculed the missalettes at Mass, saying "they" didn't want people reading the Bible for themselves. Copeland asserted Catholicism is a cafeteria-style religion where you pick and choose what you want to believe, and "forget all that birth control stuff."

June 8

Ronkonkoma, NY – Two 14-year-old boys were charged with a hate crime for allegedly vandalizing a Catholic Church in their neighborhood. On May 10, they scribbled anti-religious slogans on a trailer on the grounds of St. Joseph's Church, according to police. On May 16 they allegedly returned, throwing candleholders from the church into the woods. They also damaged the church sprinkler system and yelled "Satan Rules" at a church worker, according to police.

June 19

The Catholic League received the following message on the feedback section of its website (it appears exactly as written): "I think your objection to the [Lipton] onion dip is totally ridiculous! Your belief that the eucharist is really the body of Christ is even funnier. Just proves that you don't believe that what Jesus did for us all on the cross was good enough once and for all. Of course the Catholic Church is more

pagan than it is Christian-apostate to the core (I've seen pictures of the Poop kissing statues of the virgin mary). What a load of idol worship that is!! If you really care to find out what God really thinks of your religion, see Revelation 17!! For me, I'll choose a relationship with the Creator of the Universe over your power-mongering manmade system any day."

June 21

Boca Raton, FL – Writing in the Boca Raton/Delray Beach News, Mr. Richard Busemeyer demanded the sterilization of Catholic male clergy. He wrote, "It seems only fair this all male body of clergy, who are so very dedicated in their determination over the bodies of women, should show their dedication by requiring all priests, bishops and cardinals, etc., to become sterilized in keeping with their required vows of chastity. After all, with that vow of chastity, they have no need for sexual capability and would also be less likely to molest small boys."

July 18

San Diego, CA – St. Charles Catholic Church in Egger Highlands was the object of both arson and vandalism. Witnesses said four people in ski masks drove away from the scene after splashing flammable liquid on the side of the Church. A statue of the Virgin Mary was also damaged. Total damage was estimated at \$10,000.

July 19

Fort Reading, NJ – Cornerstone Publishing of Rice, WA bulk mailed the booklet titled Earth's Final Warning to Catholic households in the Fort Reading area. The booklet made the usual "Earth's Final Warning" claims: that the Catholic Church was the "Whore of Babylon" and part of a conspiracy to take over the world.

July 20

Temperance, MI – Vandals inflicted thousands of dollars in

damage to the cemetery at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church. Individual grave sites and religious artwork owned by the parish were vandalized. Damage included a large tombstone, worth about \$8,000, that was broken in half; two missing Stations of the Cross valued at \$10,000; and a \$5,000 fiberglass statue of Jesus.

July 24

Philadelphia, PA – Aldo J. Muniz was sentenced to 21 months in prison for threatening to kill Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua and members of a Roman Catholic social services agency. Muniz pleaded guilty to charges of making telephone threats to kill workers at the social agency Casa del Carmen, to blow up St. Henry's Church in Philadelphia and to kill the city's archbishop.

July 25

Canton, MI – Jamal Saba erected a 5-foot statue of the Virgin Mary on the front lawn of his new \$500,000 house. The statue was part of a \$10,000 landscaping job that included a trellis. A neighbor, David Brooks, complained to the homeowners' association about the religious nature of the statue. Subsequently, the head of the association's architectural committee claimed the statue was too big and did not have the committee's approval. Press reports indicated many of the residents in the association had fixtures of one type or another on their lawns—fountains, ceramic animals, etc.—and none had the approval of the homeowners' association. Mr. Saba took his case to court.

July 25

Duluth, MN – Mr. William Lamppa, in a letter to the editor in the Duluth News Tribune, used the debate over stem cell research to launch into a diatribe against the Catholic Church. Among his accusations were: "...from the 4th through the 20th centuries, the Church of Rome shed more blood than any other institution...[the Church] jailed, tortured and burned at the stake an estimated 20 million innocent men, women and

children.” He then returned to the stem cell debate by saying, “[stem cell research] pales in resemblance to what the Church of Rome did in the past to living human beings on such a monumental scale.”

July 27

Brandywine Hundred, DE – Fire destroyed a church rectory and seriously injured the pastor. The state fire marshal said the blaze was deliberately set. Church pastor Father James T. Kirk was asleep in the rectory when the blaze was set at about 3 am. He escaped the flames by crawling through a door that led to a courtyard. The fire caused \$125,000 in damage.

July 30

Columbia, SC – Midnight Call Ministries sent out a mailing offering a new book called When Catholics Die, Eternal Life or Eternal Damnation? by Richard Noll. The accompanying letter said the book does not “condemn, bash or speak in a careless manner about the Catholic Church...[But rather] through the distribution of this book, God will deliver souls from the bondage of man-centered theology.”

August 11

Lancaster, SC – An inter-denominational quilting group was working at their craft at St. Catherine’s Catholic Church when they decided to order pizza. The pizza was delivered along with comic book-like tracts with titles such as, “Are Roman Catholics Christians?” Others linked the Church to pagan rituals and said Satan created the Catholic Mass. Laura Laleugher, who is Catholic, took the pizza back to Fox’s Pizza Den. She received an apology and a refund from the owners. Jesse Gay, the employee who included the booklets with the pizza, said he meant no harm and that handing out the anti-Catholic tracts was his personal mission. His employers forbade Gay from passing out any more pamphlets.

August 14

Virginia Beach, VA – A statue of the Virgin Mary was

vandalized outside Star of the Sea Church. It was knocked over and the head was severed—it was found a foot away. The statue, valued at \$6,000, weighed 500 pounds and would have required two people and a moving dolly to move it. Parish manager Jean Choplinsky said, “Whoever did this had to be really angry, with a lot of adrenaline running.”

September 11

Within hours of the terrorist attack on New York City and the Pentagon, an anonymous writer to the Catholic League’s website left this feedback (appearing just as it was submitted):

“People like you and your fat priests, bishops and popes are as responsible as the terrorists who bombed the WTC. You and your bull-- god has done nothing for the human race except create, hatred, polarization, pain, suffering guilt and the right to kill other human beings for your stupid fanasty called jesus and mary. Who the f-- cares about god except for all you a--- who make a living making other people miserable. I’m sure the pope and all the great cardinals will feel oh so bad. Ttotal b---. What don’t you put your energy into things that support life instead of your bull-- after life crap. ALL REGIGATION SHOULD BE OUTLAWED FOR THE GOOD AND FUTURE OF MANKIND.”

September 12

Charlottesville, WV – A booklet called Born Free! Liberty; how long? was distributed outside a Sam’s Club/Wal-Mart store. The booklet is a diatribe against the Catholic Church including, “A religion of externals is attractive to the unrenewed heart. The pomp of the catholic [sic] worship has a seductive, bewitching power, by which many are deceived: and they come to look upon the Roman Church as the very gate of heaven.” When a customer complained, officials at the stores asked the people handing out the booklet to stop.

September 17

The following message was written in the feedback section of the Catholic League website (appearing just as it was

submitted):

"Stop spreading your propaganda. You are no better than the Nazis. Must I remind you of the church's platform of 'Non involvement' in the holocaust. You idiots were probably happy to see your biggest competitor (the jews) reduced in numbers. Children can be raised with good morals without filling their heads with lies. I am a perfectly moral citizen, raised without the influence of your archaic institution. In this day and age science has the potential to explain the complexities of the Universe properly. The Holy bible is a half-a-- attempt to explain existence. THE EASY ANSWER to put it bluntly. You people make me sick. P.S. Since God doesn't exist, that would make Jesus either a liar or a raving lunatic. Son of god my a--!! Also that would make Mary 'the village whore' not a virgin. I bet she cooked up that story to keep Joseph from beating her a--when he discovered how loose she really was."

October 1

Haverill, MA – Vandals smashed statues at Sacred Heart and St. James parishes. Police treated the incidents as hate crimes. A statue of Jesus on the front lawn at Sacred Heart Parish was found with its hands knocked off and face smashed. At St. James Parish the head of a St. Patrick statue was knocked off its body. Damaged was estimated at more than \$10,000.

A day later, a 39-year-old man was arrested and charged with the crime. Police say he had a history of mental problems.

October 27

Idaho Springs, CO – Vandals broke windows and painted swastikas and other obscenities on the walls of the Church of St. John. The church, located off popular biking and hiking trails, lets hitchhikers and backpackers spend the night in sleeping bags in the pews. Church officials said the open door policy will continue.

November

The Catholic League launched an advertising campaign aimed at adding new members to the organization. The television ad

appeared on the cable news and debate shows “Hardball with Chris Matthews” on MSNBC, and “The O’Reilly Factor” and “Hannity and Colmes” on the FOX News Channel. The 1-800 number service the league retained reported that its operators (who field calls for many different organizations) had never heard such obscene hate calls as the ones they took from those who objected to the league ad. The league received obscene hate calls in its New York office as well.

November

Fresno, CA – A book called National Sunday Law: A Shocking Glimpse Behind the Scenes by A. Jan Marcussen was mass mailed in the Fresno area. The book is filled with anti-Catholic rhetoric including allegations that the pope is the anti-Christ, is responsible for the deaths of millions of Christians and is part of a conspiracy to take over the world.

November

Storm Lake, IA – The pamphlet titled Earth’s Final Warning was mass mailed in the Storm Lake area by Cornerstone Publishing. Among other things, it alleges the Catholic Church is the “Whore of Babylon” and that the papacy is involved in a conspiracy with the United States to establish a “new world order.”

November

New York, NY – Leslie Wright, the team coordinator of the New York group that represents the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) at the United Nations, helped the notoriously anti-Catholic group Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC) recruit new workers. Wright passed along job descriptions and openings to a list of e-mail addresses while working for WAGGGS; Girl Scouts USA is a member of WAGGGS. Girl Scouts officials defended Ms. Wright saying she was merely passing along an e-mail message concerning the opening at CFFC. The two said the Girl Scouts were “an inclusive group.” When asked by the Catholic League whether they were aware that CFFC is an expressly anti-Catholic group, they said

they “were not religion experts.”

November 4

Barrington, RI – The annual Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum fund-raiser featured a costume contest. The Alan Nathan family of Barrington came dressed as a friar, a nun, the devil and a pregnant nun. The event was featured prominently in the Providence Sunday Journal “Society” section.

November 24

West Valley City, UT – A spate of vandalism and burglaries at area churches and other holy sites included two Catholic churches, St. Peter’s and St. Paul’s Catholic churches in West Valley City. Vandals made off with \$400 after they shattered windows, broke locks and candles and scattered vestments about the sacristy. A Book of the Gospels kept near the altar was singed by flames.

December

Bloomington, WI – St. Mary’s Catholic school was the target of four break-ins over a short period of time. Each time a computer was used to view adult websites. Police believe a group of boys aged 14 to 17 were responsible.

December

Los Angeles, CA – Police arrested a 35-year-old man charging him with a string of vandalism against several Catholic churches in Los Angeles. Police said Emad Ibrahim Saad, a member of the King Fahd mosque, acted alone. The vandalism included attacks on statues of the Virgin Mary. Fahd allegedly left Islamic literature at the churches including flyers that read, “Allah is the only one true God.”

December

New York, NY – Complaints came in to New York gossip columnist Liz Smith regarding the “Christmas Spectacular” at Radio City Music Hall. The complaints were regarding the religious nature

of a nativity scene at the end of the show.

December

Plano, TX – The publication Proclaiming the Gospel by evangelist Mike Gendron is filled with slurs against the Catholic Church. Among the charges: “Roman Catholicism has also offered spiritual inducements to those who put Christians to death. There are one billion Roman Catholics who have been blinded by Satan. Many are on the wide road that leads to destruction and are unaware of the horrors that await them.”