

# NOTRE DAME'S PROBLEM IS NOT UNIQUE

The University of Notre Dame is not only one of America's best institutions of higher education, it is also seen, for the most part, as an authentically Catholic institution.

That is why it was so disconcerting to read that a professor, Susan Ostermann, was named director of the Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies. She is not someone who happens to be "pro-choice"—she is a pro-abortion zealot.

Any person who falsely claims that the pro-life movement has "its roots in white supremacy and racism," and condemns crisis pregnancy centers as "anti-abortion propaganda sites," belongs working at Planned Parenthood, not Notre Dame. Planned Parenthood, of course, was founded by a bona fide white supremacist, Margaret Sanger.

Ostermann didn't get the job by mistake. She got it with the approval of the president, Fr. Robert Dowd, provost John McGreevy and the dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs, Mary Gallagher. Dowd claims he was "blindsided" by the appointment. That's strange. Did he not know that his predecessor, Fr. John Jenkins, publicly rebuked Ostermann for championing the pro-abortion cause? Surely McGreevy and Gallagher must have known.

The good news is that the blowback was ferocious and ultimately forced Ostermann to go back to the classroom. Led by the brilliant historian, Fr. Bill Miscamble, and the courageous Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Kevin Rhoades, the case was made to reject her appointment. Some twenty bishops, including Archbishop Paul Coakley, president of the bishops' conference, joined the fight, as did many students and alumni; those who have been given awards at Notre Dame also registered

their objections. So it ended well. But problems remain, and Notre Dame is not unique among Catholic schools.

I taught at a nominally Catholic college for 16 years, and witnessed firsthand how uncommitted many administrators and faculty are to the teachings of the Catholic Church. In fact, some were openly hostile to Catholicism, and this included the nun who ran the school. But La Roche College in Pittsburgh (now a university) is not atypical.

Georgetown University, a premier Catholic institution, has two pro-abortion student clubs on campus. Moreover, student government officials have sought to punish students who accept the Church's teachings on marriage. It also employs a professor who justifies rape and slavery, provided the rapists and slavemasters are Muslim.

Thankfully, Notre Dame is not like Georgetown. But its central problem is still extant. There are two main reasons why a pro-abortion extremist came close to being promoted: one is ideological and the other is a matter of identity.

While it is oversimplified to say there are social justice Catholics and pro-life Catholics, there is more than a measure of truth to it. Catholic teachings on the poor, the needy, the rejected, and immigrants are seen as being in the liberal camp; those that stress abortion, euthanasia, marriage, the family and sexuality are seen as being in the conservative camp. Both are expressions of Catholicism.

It has become abundantly clear that social justice Catholics are soft on abortion. That's being kind. Quite frankly, many of them—indeed most—do not regard abortion as “intrinsically evil,” which is the way the Church defines it. They see it as unfortunate. The Church also says racism is “intrinsically evil.” On that they agree. In short, racism upsets them infinitely more than abortion.

Are there Catholics in the conservative camp who are soft on

racism? No doubt there are, but in my experience there are far fewer of them than there are liberal Catholics who are soft on abortion.

The other problem is not ideological; it is matter of identity. Unfortunately, many Catholic professors and administrators are uneasy being identified as Catholic in higher education circles. To be exact, they have a deep-seated need to win the affirmation of secular elites. At bottom, they are not comfortable in their Catholic skin.

They know the way secular elites look at Catholics of a more traditional stripe, and they are scared to death of being thrown in with them. In other words, their reluctance to defend conservative moral teachings—even when they don't disagree with them—is done to win the blessings of secular elites, in and out of education. That's how insecure they are about their Catholic identity.

Christian Smith, a Notre Dame sociologist, recently wrote an article in *First Things* explaining why he left the school. He says the Catholic identity problem is due to three things, one of which is a strong desire to secure “mainstream acceptance by ‘peer institutions’: Duke, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Washington University in St. Louis, Emory, Rice, Stanford, NYU, and the like.” He says “Notre Dame desperately wants to belong to this club.” Regrettably, this leads many to low ball their Catholicism.

Notre Dame will be challenged again, and it will come from within. But as long as it has enough faculty, students and alumni who are vigilant—and there is no question about that—it will never lose its reputation as a truly great Catholic institution of higher learning.

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# NYC HOUSES OF WORSHIP NEED PROTECTION

Houses of worship need enhanced protection these days from anti-religious bigots. In recent times, virtually every major religion has had some of their houses of worship vandalized or invaded. Moreover, congregants have been subjected to taunts and threats. At stake is the First Amendment right to freely practice our religion.

While this is a nation-wide problem, it is a pressing concern to New Yorkers. Jews, in particular, have been targeted more than any religious group. What happened last November was despicable. Two hundred protesters showed up outside Manhattan's Park East Synagogue holding vile anti-Jewish signs. They also yelled vicious comments at Jews going to synagogue, taunting them ferociously. This was totally unprovoked and totally indefensible.

Fortunately, the New York City Council elected a Speaker in January who is standing up against these bullies. Julie Menin is leading the fight against attacks on all houses of worship. Bill Donohue wrote to her expressing our support for her efforts, requesting we play an active role. She is being sent recent news releases we have written on this subject.

Included in this batch are statements Donohue has made about Mayor Zohran Mamdani. As you can see, his religious messaging is very troubling, and his penchant for hiring religious bigots is just as ominous. This does not bode well for the future, which is why the Catholic League supports Speaker Menin's call for legislation that would provide greater protection for houses of worship.

The First Amendment means nothing unless it is enforced. That means that those who seek to undermine religious liberty must

be defeated. The Catholic League is delighted to join the fight.

February 27, 2026

Hon. Julie Menin  
New York City Council Speaker  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Menin:

The leadership you have shown in combating anti-religious bigotry is commendable. As president of the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization, headquartered in New York City, I have not only fought anti-Catholicism, I have fought anti-Semitism, joining forces with Jewish allies on many occasions for over three decades.

Accordingly, I would like you to add the Catholic League to the list of organizations that support your efforts to protect houses of worship from being bullied, harassed and otherwise threatened. Freedom of speech is precious, but when it is invoked to inhibit another First Amendment right, namely the free exercise of religion, it is indefensible.

In particular, the attack on the Park East Synagogue last November was despicable, and I said so in print, on radio and on TV. Yet some New York City notables, such as Zohran Mamdani (before and after he won the mayoral race), have made light of it.

It would help if you could put us in touch with those on your staff with whom we can work. Thank you for your defense of religious liberty.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.

President

P.S. See enclosures

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# **CHURCH INVASIONS ARE NOTHING NEW**

The invasion of Cities Church in St. Paul, Minnesota rightly triggered a visceral response on the part of people across religious communities. These Nazi-like tactics have also taken place in Catholic churches and Jewish synagogues. If there is one Catholic church that is singled out for protest, it is St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Here is a list of some of the famous invasions. We are not counting incidences committed by mentally disturbed people.

## **“Stop the Church” AIDS/abortion protest (December 10, 1989):**

- During a Sunday Mass celebrated by Cardinal John O'Connor, members of the militant homosexual activist group ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), and the Women's Health Action and Mobilization (WHAM!), infiltrated the cathedral as part of the “Stop the Church” demonstration. They disrupted the service by shouting slogans against the Church's opposition to abortion and sex education policies in public schools. They laid down in aisles, chained themselves to pews, and desecrated a consecrated Eucharist. Cardinal O'Connor was forced to abandon his sermon. Dozens of protestors were inside the church, and over 4,500 protesters demonstrated outside; over 100 were arrested.

## **Radio stunt (Aug. 15, 2002):**

- “Shock jocks” Opie and Anthony encouraged listeners to have sex in risky places, and two of them had sex during the day in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, on a holy day of obligation, in front of men, women and children. It was a staged event, arranged by the radio hosts: they had comedian Paul Mercurio inside the Cathedral so he could give a graphic description of the stunt on his cell phone. The Catholic League contacted the FCC and Viacom, the media giant that owned the host station. In due course, the radio show was cancelled and the “shock jocks” were fired.

#### **Animal-rights activists (March 27, 2016):**

- Six animal rights activists from the group Collectively Free interrupted the noon Easter Sunday Mass during a moment of silence. They stood up and chanted “Easter is a time for love! No more shedding animal blood!” to protest animal exploitation and the consumption of Easter ham. One of the protesters was arrested.

#### **George Floyd Protests (May 30, 2020):**

- During the Black Lives Matter protests, protesters spray-painted the F-word, “BLM,” “NYPD” along with the phrase “no justice, no peace” on the facade of the Cathedral. One of the stairs was also spray-painted with George Floyd’s name. Two people were charged the following month for the crime.

#### **New Year’s Protest (January 1, 2021):**

- On New Year’s Day 2021, police officers responding to a protest on Fifth Avenue found the acronym “ACAB” tagged on the cathedral. Video from the scene shows protesters blocking two NYPD cruisers and banging on the hood of one, and shouting expletives at officers. No arrests were made.

### **Transgender Funeral (February 15, 2024):**

- Cecilia Gentili was a man who falsely claimed to be a woman. He was also an illegal alien, a drug addict, a prostitute, a trans activist, and an atheist. At Gentili's funeral service at St. Patrick's Cathedral, transgender activists dressed as hookers, disrupted the Mass by dancing in the aisles, sang "Ave Cecilia" when "Ave Maria" was sung, and shouted, "St. Cecilia, Mother of All Whores." Cardinal Dolan ordered a Mass of Reparation be held as a response to this vile incident.

### **Gaza ceasefire protest (March 30, 2024):**

- Three pro-Palestinian protesters affiliated with Extinction Rebellion interrupted the Easter Vigil Mass by standing front and center, unfurling a banner reading, "SILENCE = DEATH." They shouted "Free Palestine" and demanded a ceasefire in Gaza. They were dragged out by security, and all three were arrested.

There have also been incredibly obscene incidents like the 1994 parade up Fifth Avenue marking the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall riot. Men and women went naked in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral, masturbated in the street, engaged in Satanic dances and extended their middle finger at the Cathedral.

Catholics who are angry about some issue do not act this way. But militant secularists have no respect for boundaries, do not believe in dialogue and are not averse to using violence to further their goals. They are a menace to society, and too many members of the ruling class refuse to condemn them.

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# PLAYING THE RELIGION CARD

*It is true that we can never truly know what is in another person's heart, but when a politician makes his religion a central aspect of his public persona, yet pursues policies that inherently contradict his faith, it raises serious questions. The following Democrats are clearly guilty of playing the religion card when it suits them.*

## **Being Religious**

### **Former President Joe Biden**

"My religion defines who I am." He added, "I've been a practicing Catholic my whole life. And it has particularly informed my social doctrine."

### **Rep. Nancy Pelosi**

"I'm a Catholic, a devout, practicing Catholic. I take great comfort in my faith, come from a very Catholic family, largely pro-life."

### **NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani**

"I am Muslim, and I refuse to apologize for this." He added, "I will not change who I am...I will not change the faith that I am proud to belong to."

### **Rep. Ilhan Omar**

"I think my faith as a Muslim is very important."

## **Catholic Church on Abortion**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states: "Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable."

## **Biden**

He started out having mixed feelings about abortion, but in time he adopted the far-left position. As president, his administration used every available resource to promote abortion, even exploring novel ways to circumvent state laws restricting the barbaric practice.

## **Pelosi**

She opposes laws that ban the killing of babies who are 80 percent born (partial birth abortion), and she has even won Planned Parenthood's highest award. Her extreme position on abortion, along with other major departures from Catholic teachings, earned her a ban on receiving the Eucharist from San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

## **Islam on Abortion**

In general, the Islamic view favors the sanctity of human life over abortion. Most Muslim scholars apply the Quran's passages against the taking of innocent human life to the issue. This is true across many different schools of Muslim thought, and both Sunni and Shia Muslims generally disapprove of abortion.

## **Mamdani**

He opposes any restrictions on abortion. That is why his voting record consistently receives a 100 percent score from Planned Parenthood.

## **Omar**

She has been a co-sponsor of the Women's Health Protection Act in the last three sessions of Congress. This legislation seeks to remove most restrictions on abortion and removes religious exemptions.

## **Catholic Church on LGBT Issues**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states that “homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered,” and are contrary to the natural law. Further, the Catholic Church rejects transgenderism, which Pope Francis called “demonic.”

## **Biden**

In 2016, as vice president, he officiated a “gay wedding.” As president, he championed transgender procedures for minors and rescinded conscience protections to force Catholic doctors to perform these procedures.

## **Pelosi**

She has supported legislation that would redefine marriage and has even gone so far as to say that same-sex marriage is “consistent” with Catholic teaching. Additionally, she champions transgenderism, including gender “reassignment surgeries” for minors.

## **Islam on LGBT Issues**

In Islam, same-sex relationships are considered taboo. In 34 Muslim-majority countries, homosexual activity is illegal, and none of the 47 Muslim-majority countries recognize “gay marriages.”

## **Mamdani**

He is a huge advocate of the radical LGBT cause. He supports transgender rights across the board and disagrees with the Islamic belief that there are only two sexes. He regularly attends gay events, including parades. He wants the LGBT curriculum to be mandatory in all New York schools, making no allowance for private or parochial schools. Mamdani has also pledged that he will spend \$65 million in taxpayer money for sex-reassignment surgery.

## **Omar**

She supports men competing in women's sports and is proud to march in the Twin Cities Pride Parades. She favors ending conversion therapy, calling it "a form of torture." In 2023, as Muslim parents joined with their Christian and Jewish neighbors in Montgomery County, Maryland, to protest the school district's decision to compel their children to participate in lessons which promoted LGBT themes. She co-sponsored a resolution condemning their response.

*Biden, Pelosi, Mamdani and Omar like to wear their religion on their sleeves while working to undermine core religious teachings on marriage, the family and sexuality. The media should hold them accountable but too often they give them a pass.*

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## **MET MUSEUM OF ART BOWS TO MUSLIMS**

The Catholic League supports the accommodation of religion, whether it be in public or private venues. But we find it bizarre, if not troubling, when venues not known to accommodate religious expression decide to do so by singling out one religion. This is what the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City has done. The religion it is singling out is Islam.

On the first floor, in Room 961 of the Robert Lehman Collection, in between paintings of the Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, there is a standup sign that reads as follows:

For the month  
of Ramadan  
we invite you

to use this space  
for prayer and  
reflection

All are welcome

We have a hard time imagining the Met welcoming Catholics. But if they did, we have a suggestion. Why not erect the following sign? For the 40 days of Lent, we invite you to use this space for prayer and reflection

All are welcome

What makes the Muslim-only policy even more inexplicable is how out-of-character it is. While the Met has long featured religious iconography, it also has a reputation of promoting raunch.

In October 2023, the Great Hall of the Met displayed gay bondage and sado-masochistic imagery. It used obscenities, and slogans such as, "May you fill yourself with lust," to describe what the *New York Post* said were "images of seemingly naked males with their genitals blurred out and men standing over other men who appear to be wearing dog collars."

One woman who spotted this "artistic creation" said, "I saw a wasteland 'Mad Max' scenario with people dressed in S&M gear and others who looked as if they were fornicating with the earth." She said a portrayal of women was so sick that "It looked Satanic and demonic to me."

Leaving aside the Met's fondness for gay sexual expression, why does it feel obliged to welcome Muslims during Ramadan but not Catholics during Lent? Is this its idea of multiculturalism? We have long known that this ideology has

less to do with paying tribute to religious and ethnic groups outside our Judeo-Christian heritage than it does in devaluing it.

The Met's elite must feel very good about themselves. Their goal, no doubt, is to showcase their commitment to inclusion and diversity. But bowing to Muslims, by excluding Catholics, shows how morally bankrupt their commitment really is.

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## **MUSLIM WOMAN QUILTS TRUMP'S RELIGION PANEL**

Sameerah Munshi quit President Trump's Religious Liberty Commission on March 13. She cited "two deeply troubling developments: the official removal of Carrie Prejean Boller for her deeply held beliefs about Palestine and the federal government's illegal war against Iran, undertaken without clear constitutional or congressional authorization."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, (CAIR), rushed to defend both women, saying they were the ones who "actually stand up for religious liberty." They commended Munshi for her courage and said it was "unconscionable" that the White House would remove Prejean for her remarks on "Israel's genocide in Gaza."

On February 11, the Catholic League called for the Religious Liberty Commission to oust Prejean Boller; minutes later it did. We did so for reasons that both Munshi and CAIR refuse to acknowledge.

In Bill Donohue's news release about Prejean Boller, he noted that she is "a former Miss California and a convert to

Catholicism. She does not run a Catholic organization, has no Catholic credentials as an author or instructor, and indeed represents no one but herself. For her to say, without qualification, that ‘Catholics do not embrace Zionism’ is presumptuous and arrogant.”

It just wasn’t just this remark that got Prejean Boller into hot water. She blamed Jews for killing Christ, again without qualification, and was known to show up at meetings wearing a Palestinian flag pin. In other words, she is an activist, not someone sincerely committed to religious liberty.

Munshi’s comment about the “illegal” war against Iran makes her sound sophomoric. There have been five wars declared by Congress in American history: War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. There is nothing illegal about U.S. operations in Iran.

We are delighted that both of these women are no longer on the panel. How they got by those doing the vetting remains a problem. For example, Munshi flashed “Free Palestine” on her social media platforms, and did so after October 7, 2023. That is when 1200 innocent Jewish men, women and children were slaughtered by Hamas. That should have been a red flag, but apparently it wasn’t.

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## **MODERN MAN’S MONSTROUS FALL**

Kyle Nazareth

George J. Marlin, *Modern Monsters: Political Ideologues and Their War Against the Catholic Church* (St. Augustine’s Press)

The Council of Trent, which refuted and condemned the errors

of the Reformation, defined original sin as “the death of the soul.” George J. Marlin’s *Modern Monsters: Political Ideologues and Their War Against the Catholic Church* is the story of that death’s modern resurrection. His thesis is that ideology is a fake religion: a rigid, abstract formula that promises worldly perfection by placing humanity in control of its destiny and nature. While faith looks beyond the finite world to a higher reality, ideology turns inward, making man the measure of all things, and politics the tool of salvation.

Across thirteen chapters, Marlin traces how this project was carried out by a succession of thinkers – from Martin Luther and Niccolo Machiavelli through the utilitarians to G.W.F Hegel and the totalitarians – each adding a new layer to the ideological tower of terror. Each chapter systematically surveys an ideology’s core beliefs, its consequences for society, its incompatibility with Church teachings, and its targeting of the Church as the principal obstacle to its vision. The result is a comprehensive philosophical history of the West over the past five centuries, told from the Catholic perspective.

Marlin documents how each thinker explicitly rejected Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas. Read together, a deeper pattern emerges. The modern monsters’ war on the Church is, at its root, a war on her intellectual heritage: Aristo-Thomism. This great synthesis of Aristotelian philosophy and Thomistic theology harmonized faith and reason into a unified vision of truth.

To introduce a few of Marlin’s modern monsters:

Martin Luther: “Patient zero” in the rebellion against the Catholic Church. Luther’s Reformation challenged Church authority and the supernatural law by championing salvation through faith alone, personal interpretation of Scripture, and individual spiritual sovereignty. This privatized religion, justified the divine right of kings, catalyzed the decline of

Christendom, and gave rise to the secular liberal state and religious pluralism.

Luther was a nominalist, meaning he denied the existence of objective, universal truths. Consequently, he rejected the three pillars of natural law: man's free will and moral agency, nature's rational and observable order, and nature's inherent purpose. To Luther, reason was pagan, logic had no place in theology, and the mind was a "whore." He despised Aristotle, whom he called "the destroyer of godly doctrine," and wanted his philosophy destroyed; he called St. Thomas' theology "dung" and branded him a heretic. Luther fired the opening shot in the war against the union of faith and reason.

Marlin shows that Luther was not merely a religious reformer but the architect of a new movement, creating the template for every subsequent ideologue. He quotes political theorist Dante Germino: "Luther prefigures the age of ideologies."

Niccolò Machiavelli: Marlin casts Machiavelli as the first fully modern political ideologue. A Renaissance thinker, Machiavelli believed not in God, but in power and chance. He completely liberated politics from Christian morality, denied the objectivity of truth, and replaced virtue with pragmatism: no "should," no "good," or "bad," only what works.

Where Luther attacked the Aristo-Thomist tradition from within theology, Machiavelli attacked it from without. Marlin writes that Machiavelli's explicit goal was "the liberation of man from the moral order taught by St. Thomas Aquinas." Luther severed the Church's spiritual authority from public life; Machiavelli went further, completely subordinating spiritual power to worldly power, creating the secular state, and making political glory the new highest good.

René Descartes: Descartes is the first of many Enlightenment thinkers that Marlin profiles. The father of modern philosophy, Descartes was a rationalist, meaning he held that

knowledge comes from reason alone, making the individual mind, not God, the new foundation for knowledge. His “Cartesian revolution” shifted Western philosophy away from asking *what* something is (Aristo-Thomist metaphysics) to asking *how* we know (epistemology).

As a pivotal figure in the Scientific Revolution and the inventor of analytic geometry, Descartes sought to explain all of reality through mathematical formulas and the scientific method. Mathematical reason replaced theology as the supreme science. Marlin observes that Cartesianism is the moment the human mind formally declared its independence from God, and philosophy appointed itself the replacement.

John Locke, David Hume, Jeremy Bentham, and John Stuart Mill: Locke was the father of liberalism and British empiricism, meaning he rooted knowledge in sense experience rather than Aristo-Thomist metaphysics. He also grounded individual rights in his own conception of God and natural law. Locke limited the state to protecting life, liberty, and property rather than guiding citizens toward the common good. Hume radicalized Locke’s empiricism and demoted morality into mere feelings. Bentham and Mill reduced morality to a pleasure-pain calculus. Mill’s non-harm principle, justifying coercion only to prevent harm to others, sidelined the common good in favor of individual preference. Their liberalism inflated mankind into its own supreme being, delegitimizing the Church’s moral authority. Prioritizing individual preference over the common good paved the way for statism.

G.W.F. Hegel: Hegel is notoriously convoluted and nonsensical, so Marlin accurately characterizes him as a modernist heretic. Like his predecessors, Hegel rejected Aristo-Thomist metaphysics, but took the rebellion even further. He collapsed God into creation and put reality in a constant state of flux, a worldview closer to pantheism and Eastern mysticism than to Christianity.

Hegel's philosophy didn't merely reject the Church and natural law; it replaced them entirely. Hegel deified the state, calling it God on earth marching through history. The state became the source of rights, morality, and the final arbiter of truth. Hegel attributed these ideas to Protestantism. Marlin shows that the logical conclusions of this absolutization of the state are the communist and fascist experiments of the twentieth century.

Overall, Marlin's project is ambitious, tracing over five centuries of ideological rebellion. He sticks the landing remarkably well, making dense philosophy accessible and turning what could be a dry chronology into a vivid indictment of modernity's monsters. Marlin's strength lies in his willingness to let major Catholic thinkers and ideologues speak in their own words. This gives the work a cumulative authority that a single voice could not achieve. His own prose shines brightly, artfully weaving insightful observations and historical anecdotes into a unified narrative greater than the sum of its parts.

Marlin's narrative makes clear that these modern ideologies are not discrete historical episodes, but successive waves of a single continuous movement. The collective evidence points toward a larger conclusion that the book never quite states outright: since the late Middle Ages, European history's revolt against the Catholic Church has been prosecuted specifically through the systematic dismantling of her intellectual heritage; the integration of faith and reason achieved by St. Thomas upon Aristotle's foundation.

The Reformation and Enlightenment are two sides of the same coin, different in their premises, yet united in their rebellion. Both struck at the same target: natural law, the ground where faith and reason meet. The Reformation toppled natural law's pillars from within Christianity – Luther's idea of original sin denied man's free will and moral agency, scripture alone and faith alone denied that human reason could

understand nature, and his nominalism denied that creation had an inherent purpose. The Enlightenment did the same from outside Christianity by rejecting objective morality, advancing skepticism about knowledge beyond reason or the senses, and adopting the idea that reality is only material. Both framed faith and reason as mutually exclusive. These two halves of modernism converged in subjectivism and relativism, making man a law unto himself. From this emerged the totalitarian dictatorships of the twentieth century and today's radical leftist politics.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Regensburg Address, gave this crisis a name: "dehellenization," the gradual severance of Christianity from Greek thought. But to understand what was severed, we must understand what was built.

From Christianity's very beginning, God formed a union between Greek reason and biblical faith, Athens and Jerusalem, that mutually enriched each other. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, European Christians recovered the Greek philosopher Aristotle's key works from the Muslim world. Catholics recognize Aristotle was a "righteous pagan," whose natural reason reached out to God and readied the world to receive the Gospels. In his honor, a stained glass window in New York City's St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church depicts Aristotle with a laurel wreath that doubles as a green halo.

St. Thomas recognized Aristotle's genius, referring to him simply as "the Philosopher." He drew on much of Aristotle's philosophy to support his theology, "baptizing" Aristotle in the Catholic understanding. In doing so, St. Thomas achieved the perfect synthesis between faith and reason. He showed that natural reason can lead to faith's preambles: that God exists, there are laws of nature, and there is goodness, justice, and the common good. But only divine revelation can unveil faith's mysteries: the Trinity, Resurrection, and real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Though distinct in kind, these truths are one in origin, for God is the author of all truth.

The Church has affirmed St. Thomas' synthesis at the highest levels. At the Council of Trent, his *Summa Theologica* was placed on the high altar, second only to Sacred Scripture. In *Aeterni Patris*, Pope Leo XIII declared that reason, borne to its height by St. Thomas, can scarcely rise higher. In *Fides et Ratio*, St. John Paul II wrote that in St. Thomas' thinking, "the demands of reason and the power of faith found the most elevated synthesis ever attained by human thought." The Catechism of the Catholic Church echoes St. Thomas: "There can never be any real discrepancy between faith and reason, since the same God who reveals mysteries and infuses faith has bestowed the light of reason on the human mind. God cannot deny himself, nor can truth ever contradict truth."

This is the Church's intellectual heritage that every modern monster set out to destroy, which Marlin so painstakingly documents. So far, they are winning. Faith and reason are divorced, both fragmented and impoverished. Faith is seen as sentimental, irrational, and impotent. Reason, though capable of extraordinary technological feats, falters on the deepest questions: the meaning of life, death, man, and God. Humanity may have left the Garden of Eden, but we carried the apple with us, taking repeated bites ever since.

*Modern Monsters* is a comprehensive guide that Catholics must read to understand how we arrived at this cultural and spiritual moment. To reconcile what the monsters have divorced and restore the union of faith and reason, Catholics must once again study and teach the timeless and sound doctrine of St. Thomas in their personal lives, families, parishes, and universities so that they may defend the Deposit of Faith from another five centuries of chimerical attacks.

*Kyle Nazareth is Director of Research at the Catholic League.*

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# CONSERVATIVES ADOPT TRANS LANGUAGE

The AP Style Guide sets the tone for both print and electronic media, even conservative outlets are impacted. Consider what the AP Style Guide has to say on the matter of transgender ideology. It commands writers to only use preferred pronouns and makes allowance for the use of the singular “they.” The guide promotes the unscientific notions “sex assigned at birth” and “nonbinary/gender fluid” people. Indeed, the AP Style Guide appears to be ripped right out of the manifesto of the most militant trans activist.

While Fox News and the *New York Post* have reputations of representing right of center perspectives, in recent years both outlets have quietly embraced the woke left’s distortion of the English language and rejection of the laws of biology in the name of transgenderism. Both have used, and continue to use, the approved language of transgenderism in their reporting, making them virtually indistinguishable from their competitors in the mainstream media.

For instance, on January 13, 2026, both Fox News and the New York Post featured stories about the Supreme Court examining the ability of the states to protect girls’ sports from boys. Both outlets refer to the male athletes involved in the legal challenge with feminine pronouns.

In other instances, both outlets take pains to avoid pronouns altogether and continually refer to the individuals by their last names. While this at least solves the pronoun problem, the articles are inevitably framed around “transgender women” but never once is it acknowledged that this is a man who

falsely claims to be a woman. This appears to be both outlets' preferred strategy when dealing with high profile figures such as Congressman Sarah McBride (DE-D), the only member of Congress that openly claims a transgender status. Although on August 2, 2025, *New York Post* used female pronouns to refer to McBride.

With that said, there have been some efforts to reflect biological realities and respect the rules of grammar. However, the only time either Fox News or the *New York Post* observes these is when reporting on individuals who claim a transgender status that have committed serious crimes. Though this appears to be a more recent development.

For instance, in 2022 both outlets covered the case of Demetrius "Demi" Minor, who killed his foster father stabbing him 27 times. Minor claimed to be a woman and was incarcerated in New Jersey's only female prison. During his time in the women's prison, Minor had sex with two female inmates who became pregnant.

Of course, if you read the article posted on Fox's website on July 17, 2022, you may not have realized this was about a man in a women's prison. The headline reads, "NJ transgender woman transferred from women's only prison after impregnating 2 inmates, report says." The sanity, not to mention the rules of the English language, rapidly deteriorates from there. When describing how Minor was moved to a new facility, the article reads that he "is the only woman" confined there.

The *New York Post* was not any better in its coverage. In an article that ran on August 5, 2022, this line appeared: "she had impregnated two other inmates." This is a complete bastardization of English.

But, beginning in 2023, following the horrific attack on the Covenant Christian School in Nashville, in which a woman who falsely claimed to be a man killed six people including three

young children, both outlets have used the correct pronouns for people who claim a transgender status involved in violent crimes. In the cases of Audrey Hale (Covenant Christian School, March 27, 2023), Robert “Robin” Westman (Annunciation Catholic School, August 27, 2025), Jesse Van Rootselaar (Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, February 10, 2026), and Robert “Roberta Esposito” Dorgan (Pawtucket, RI, February 16, 2026) both outlets accurately reflected biological reality in their coverage.

It would appear that the only time Fox News and the *New York Post* deviate from the transgender convictions of their counterparts in the mainstream media is when the subject has committed a truly gruesome act and no one in their right mind will rush to ensure you are using his preferred pronouns. This is hardly a principled stand in defense of reason and common sense.

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## **POST OFFICE MISHAP?**

A few months ago Bill Donohue wrote a letter to Kash Patel, the director of the FBI, about anti-Christian acts of violence. He copied Sen. Josh Hawley, Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Jim Jordan. The letter was returned to our office, with a stamp that said it was refused. Really?

We have been in contact with the FBI a lot over the past few years. Under the Biden administration, the FBI was spying on Catholics, and we demanded answers. We have also been in contact with the FBI over reports of anti-Christian bigotry. We never had a problem mailing our correspondence, reports, etc. Until now.

Curiously, the letter that was returned was seriously damaged,

but it was not of the ordinary sort, e.g., a tear on the top or bottom that may have occurred as a mishap when going through a machine. No, this was a large hole in the middle of the envelope, right where the name and address was printed. In other words, it was a cut-out, suggesting it was tampered with.

We also sent the letter electronically to the FBI, so they received it. But the problem remains. Our envelope lists our logo, name and address, so it's obvious who sent it. We suspect foul play but we can't prove it. Thought you'd like to know.

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## **MEDIA BIAS MARKS STORY OF TRANS KILLERS**

Major media outlets, with rare exception, are engaged in a massive cover-up of the identity of transgender shooters in Canada and Rhode Island. They don't want the public to conclude the obvious: those who falsely claim to be of the opposite sex are mentally impaired and a disproportionate number are increasingly violent. What happened in both venues is disturbing enough without lying about the identity of the killers.

On February 10, 2026 Jesse Van Rootselaar, an 18-year-old man who falsely claimed to be a woman, entered the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School in Tumbler Ridge, Canada and opened fire on students and teachers. The shooter killed seven people, including six students, injuring dozens more before committing suicide.

On February 16, Robert Dorgan, a 56-year-old man who falsely

claimed to be a woman, opened fire at a high school hockey game in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He shot and killed one of his sons, as well as the mother of his children, and critically shot his other two sons and a family friend. He then fatally shot himself. It was later revealed that he went through gender reassignment surgery and was described as having a narcissistic-personality disorder.

If it were not for sexual identity politics, every media outlet would (a) identify the killers are transgender and (b) identify them as male. Not only did the media, overall, merit an "F" on these measures, many were inconsistent how they depicted the two incidents.

## TV

ABC mentioned the Canadian shooter was transgender and referred to him as "she." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter's name change and did not use any pronouns to describe him.

CBS said the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It also mentioned that the Rhode Island shooter was transgender but referred to him as "he."

NBC reported the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "they." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter name change and referred to him as a man.

PBS said the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter's name change, and referred to him as "he."

CNN reported the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "he."

MSNOW did not mention the Canadian shooter was transgender, and did not use any pronouns to describe the Rhode Island

shooter.

Fox News mentioned the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to the Rhode Island shooter as "he."

### *Newspapers*

*New York Times* mentioned the Canadian shooter was transgender, and did not use a pronoun to refer to the Rhode Island shooter.

*Washington Post* did not mention the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter was transgender, and did not use pronouns to refer to him.

*Los Angeles Times* did not mention Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It said the Rhode Island shooter was transgender, and did not use pronouns to refer to him.

*USA Today* mentioned the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "he."

*Chicago Tribune* did not mention the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter was transgender, and did not use pronouns to refer to him.

Associated Press did not mention the Canadian shooter was transgender, and referred to him as "she." It mentioned the Rhode Island shooter was transgender, and did not use pronouns to refer to him.

*Here are some observations to ponder.*

NBC is so illiterate, and ideologically bankrupt, that they falsely referred to a man as "they"? To top it off, NBC actually apologized for calling a Swedish skier who is a

biological woman but falsely claims to be a man as “she.” But she is a “she”!

Notice the way the same media outlets that falsely referred to the Canadian shooter as “she,” invariably referred to the Rhode Island shooter—correctly—as “he.”

Which begs the question: Are the Canadian people so far gone that the media dare not accurately tell them that a man who identifies as a female is in fact a male?

Just as bad, have the media no uniform standards, inventing different ways to describe the same phenomenon?

Are they that corrupt?