

BIAS MARKS PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Catholic League president Bill Donohue accuses the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of bias:

The sexual abuse of minors is unfortunately a social problem, especially in homes where live-in boyfriends and step-fathers reside. It is also a serious problem in the public schools. Nowhere is it less of a problem today than in the Catholic Church. To wit: in the last five years we have data for, the number of credible accusations made against over 40,000 priests averaged 8.6; the figure for 2009 was six. Can any institution sport a record that is proportionately more impressive?

This is important because a February 17 editorial in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on the subject of the sexual abuse of minors never mentions any of this. Instead, it singles out the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Here's the backdrop. After failing to nail a single priest in a 2005 grand jury investigation—which never focused on any other institution but the Catholic Church—a second was convened. It came up way short of what those who lobbied for it wanted. Then the *Inquirer* editorial appears, calling on the Archdiocese to make public its files on accused priests; it also calls on lawmakers to make it easier for past alleged victims to sue.

The editorial's dishonesty is remarkable. It does not call for any other institution to make public its files on accused employees; nor does it call for lawmakers to make it easier for alleged victims of public school teachers to sue. In a despicable act of bias, it singles out the Archdiocese and gives every other institution a pass. An op-ed I submitted on this subject to the newspaper was rejected, and that is why we sent it to the more than 200 pastors in the Philadelphia

Archdiocese [[click here](#) to read it].

There needs to be a Catholic revolt. The selective pursuit of priests, and the wholesale denial of their due process rights—that's what calls for a selective suspension of the statute of limitations are—needs a vigorous and responsible response. All we want is a level playing field.

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FASCIST ATTACK ON PRO-LIFE BILLBOARD

A billboard in New York City that showed a picture of a young black girl with the message, "The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb," has been taken down by the billboard company.

The organization responsible for the billboard, Life Always, which is run by an African American, sought to draw attention during Black History Month to the genocidal impact abortion is having in the black community. In New York City, 60 percent of black babies are killed in the womb; nationwide, more than a third of black babies are aborted.

Catholic League president Bill Donohue spoke to this issue today:

What happened in New York City was an exercise in urban fascism: calls for censoring the free speech of a private company were issued by agents of the state (e.g., New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio called for the billboard

to be removed); waiters and waitresses who work in a restaurant in the building where the billboard was posted were harassed; and concerns that violence might ensue—as admitted by an official for the ad company—forced the decision to take down the billboard.

Just a few months ago, the Catholic League protested a vile video that was part of an art exhibition at the Smithsonian that showed large ants running all over Jesus on the Cross. Because the Smithsonian receives 70 percent of its funding from the public, and Christians comprise 80 percent of the population, we asked Congress to reconsider the propriety of underwriting this institution. We never called for censoring the video, we never sponsored harassment of Smithsonian employees (there was none anyway), and we never threatened violence. Yet we were the subject of endless condemnation by the liberal-left.

Now, when real calls for censorship take place, along with real acts of harassment, and real concerns over violence, no one is castigated by our critics. I think we know who the real fascists are.

ABORTION = BLACK GENOCIDE

A pro-life group, Life Always, has displayed a huge billboard in the SoHo section of New York City that shows a picture of a young black girl with the inscription, “The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb.” It has created a firestorm in New York City.

The organization responsible for the billboard has the strong backing of prominent African Americans; they chose to display their message during Black History Month. Rev. Stephen Broden,

an African American who heads Life Always, says he wants to protest abortion as black genocide.

Catholic League president Bill Donohue commented on the critics of the billboard today:

Life Always says it wants to raise public awareness of Planned Parenthood's war on black people. Good for them. Margaret Sanger, who founded the organization, made no secret of her racist agenda to wipe out the "weeds" in the African American community. To this day, a disproportionate number of Planned Parenthood's abortion clinics are located in minority neighborhoods, their largest cheerleaders being affluent white liberals who perversely boast of championing the cause of the black poor.

Nationally, blacks, who make up 13 percent of the population, account for over one-third of all the abortions. In New York City, where over four out of ten children are killed before birth, the rate of abortion among black women is 60 percent. But killing six in ten black babies isn't enough to satisfy some affluent white liberals—they want more.

New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn does not find black genocide offensive—she finds the billboard offensive. Worse is Bill de Blasio, who in the name of being New York's Public Advocate, is advocating that the billboard be taken down. He says, "The billboard simply doesn't belong in our city. The ad violates the values of New Yorkers." The values he is so proud of include the devaluing of innocent human life, making New York City the abortion capital of the nation.

ANDREW CUOMO'S LIFESTYLE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue addresses recent news stories on New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's lifestyle:

I have been asked by many media outlets to comment on the propriety of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo receiving Holy Communion. The question arises because everyone knows that he is living in an adulterous relationship with his female companion. The reason we don't take a position on this issue is quite simple: it is not our job.

We are a civil rights organization that protects the rights of individual Catholics and the institutional Church from discrimination and defamation. We are not a moral detective agency for the Catholic Church. It is up to the bishops to decide what the appropriate course of action is regarding a Catholic public figure who is widely believed to be openly flouting the teachings of the Catholic Church.

When it comes to policy matters and cultural issues, as opposed to personal matters, that is a different story. Thus, we continue to criticize the notorious 1984 address that New York Governor Mario Cuomo, the father of Andrew, made at the University of Notre Dame: he is most responsible for disseminating the invidious notion that Catholics can be personally opposed to, but publicly supportive of, abortion rights.

Also objectionable is the seedy voyeurism of the media. No reporter would ever stand outside a synagogue or a mosque asking passersby whether they agree with Jewish or Islamic strictures on any internal matter. Catholicism is deserving of the same respect.

Nor do we appreciate the incredibly ignorant remarks made yesterday on "The View." Since all of the panelists have either left Catholicism (Joy Behar, Whoopi Goldberg and Elisabeth Hasselbeck), or were never a member (Sherri Shepherd), it should not matter what Catholicism teaches about anything. How about a little respect for diversity?

Andrew Cuomo and the bishops are the only parties that really matter on this issue. Everyone else belongs on the sidelines.

ANTI-CATHOLIC BIAS IN SPORTS NEWS STORY

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on an AP story from yesterday about the 2012 European Soccer Championship:

Some homosexual Polish soccer fans are demanding that a separate seating section be created at the 2012 European Soccer Championship in Poland; they claim that gays and lesbians might otherwise be subjected to harassment and violence. Their plea would be of no interest to the Catholic League save for a comment made by the AP reporter who wrote the story from Warsaw.

The following is a direct quote from the news story: "Homophobia also remains deeply embedded in Poland because of the legacy of communism which treated homosexuality as a taboo and the teachings of the church in the predominantly Roman Catholic country."

Let's follow the logic. Every world religion is either opposed to homosexuality or takes no position on it; not one finds it acceptable. So if being opposed to homosexuality makes one phobic, then almost the entire world (throughout all of history) suffers the same malady. Not only that, we are to believe that the problem in this case is not delirious homosexuals taking up the cause of segregation, it's the Catholic Church's teachings on sexual ethics.

How about adultery and incest—is opposition to them also phobic? That such ideological nonsense can appear in a sports article in a prominent media outlet shows just how far standards have fallen in journalism. It also shows how gay-crazy and anti-Catholic many in the media have become.

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OBAMA REFUSES TO DEFEND MARRIAGE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on the decision of the Obama administration not to defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act:

President Obama does not want to defend marriage anymore. He never really did, and here's the proof: 15 years ago this month, while running for the Illinois state Senate, Barack Obama said, "I favor legalizing same-sex marriage, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages."

But when Obama decided to run for the U.S. Senate in 2004, he knew that his support for homosexuals crashing the institution of marriage was too extreme, so he decided to endorse civil unions. He said at the time, "I think that marriage, in the minds of a lot of voters, has a religious connotation."

In 2008, when Obama was a presidential candidate, he invoked God-talk again to justify his newly crafted defense of marriage: "I believe that marriage is the union between a man and a woman. Now, for me as a Christian...it is also a sacred union. God's in the mix." But he knew this wasn't true when he said it, and here's the proof: at the same time Obama was rhetorically espousing a pro-marriage position, he was working to undermine marriage by opposing Proposition 8 in California. That was the 2008 measure that reserved marriage as a union between the only two people who can naturally form a family, namely, a man and a woman.

Now Obama is officially on record as president opposing the defense of marriage. Thus does he pit himself against the 1996 law that was signed by President Bill Clinton, and opposed by

only 15 percent in the House and 14 percent in the Senate. He also stands in opposition to the over 30 state initiatives affirming marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Now that Obama is totally out of the closet, it will spur a genuine effort to adopt a constitutional amendment affirming the integrity of marriage.

ACLU DEFENSE OF MUSLIMS IS POLITICAL

The ACLU of Southern California and the Los Angeles chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations is suing the FBI for violating the rights of Muslims by sending an informant to spy on them in a California mosque. The FBI was investigating possible terrorist threats, but the lawsuit claims it was guilty of “indiscriminate surveillance.”

Catholic League president Bill Donohue spoke to this issue today:

The ACLU is motivated by politics, not principle. That’s easy to prove. In the late 1970s, after Rep. Henry Hyde authored a bill to restrict federal financing of abortions, the ACLU dispatched an agent to spy on him. The agent followed him into a Catholic Church on Sundays and took notes of what was happening. “Pregnant women and children” bore “gifts for life,” the agent said. The parishioners even went to Holy Communion, as did Hyde, and were caught praying! [For evidence, see my book, *The Politics of the American Civil Liberties Union*, Transaction Press, 1985.]

All of this was done to show that it was Hyde’s Catholicism

that accounted for his pro-life stand. Hyde's response was right on the money: "I suppose the Nazis did that—observed Jews going to the synagogues in Hitler's Germany—but I had hoped that we would have gotten past that kind of fascist tactic."

So it is a little too late for the ACLU to feign outrage over FBI agents spying on Muslims in a mosque: it cares not a whit about religious rights, unless they serve a political purpose. That's why the ACLU is so fond of defending the religious rights of prisoners, but is noticeably silent when it comes to the due process rights of Catholic priests accused of crimes that allegedly happened decades ago.

The FBI has a job to do in tracking down suspected terrorists, and if that warrants surveillance in a house of worship—including a Catholic church—so be it.

SILENCING CONSERVATIVE VOICES

Catholic League president Bill Donohue looks at attempts to silence conservative voices:

We recently learned that 74 Democrats have asked U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to recuse himself if the health care bill comes before the high court. The reason? His wife supports the Tea Party and it is against the health care law. On Monday, disciplinary hearings will start against former Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline. The reason? He should have recused himself from investigating George Tiller, the infamous late-term abortionist, because he holds pro-life views and was allegedly "obsessed" with Tiller.

If this is the standard for recusal, then the following need to recuse themselves from all cases involving abortion: U.S.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Ninth Circuit Judge Stephen Reinhardt and New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

Ginsburg's obsession with abortion is uncontested: she co-founded the Women's Rights Project at the ACLU.

Reinhardt is married to Ramona Ripston, who retired last year as the executive director of the Southern California ACLU; she has been obsessed with abortion rights for decades.

Schneiderman's father is the former treasurer of NARAL, the most radical pro-abortion organization in the nation; this connection has already led the AG to recuse himself in a case involving Kelli Conlin, the former NARAL New York president. Conlin is accused of ripping off NARAL for meals, a summer rental in the Hamptons, clothes, and more than \$100,000 on car services. Schneiderman should now pledge to recuse himself from all future cases involving abortion.

What's good for the goose, should be good for the gander.

LIBERAL RELIGIONS IN FREE FALL

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on the findings of the *2011 Yearbook of American & Canadian Churches*:

Beginning with the work of Dean Kelly in the 1970s, it has been empirically obvious that those religions which have experienced the greatest proportionate decline in membership are generally the most progressive or liberal in their teachings; conversely, conservative-oriented religions have fared comparatively well. The latest data from the *Yearbook*

proves this to be true again.

Of the major religions, the ones that witnessed an uptick in membership are: the Catholic Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Assemblies of God, the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Those that witnessed a decline of more than two percent are: the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ. Those that declined by more than one percent are: the United Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the American Baptist Churches U.S.A.

With the exception of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and to some extent the American Baptist Churches, all the other churches with declining membership hold liberal views on abortion and gay rights. Moreover, the smallest decline among the Baptist churches was registered by the most conservative among them, the Southern Baptist Convention (down .42). By sharp contrast, all the religions that experienced a growth in membership are pro-life and pro-marriage (normatively understood).

In other words, those religions whose teachings on abortion and marriage approximate the views of the *New York Times* and NPR are in free fall. Looks like God is truly looking out for those religions that don't treat Scripture as if it were a post-modern text to be deconstructed by left-wing ideologues.

THE SHAMELESS NEW YORK TIMES

Catholic League president Bill Donohue responds to today's *New York Times* editorial, "More Shame":

The editorial says, "The Roman Catholic Church in this country

has promised accountability and justice for children sexually abused by priests. We fear it has a long way to go.” Wrong: no religious or secular institution in the U.S. today has a better record than the Catholic Church. To wit: from 2005 to 2009 (the last year data are available), the average number of credible *accusations* made against a priest for the sexual abuse of a minor is 8.6; in 2009, the number was six (out of more than 40,000).

The *Times* cites the latest grand jury report against the Philadelphia Archdiocese as evidence of wrongdoing, noting that three priests and a teacher are accused of abuse extending back to the 1990s, and that there are many more abusers in active ministry.

The first grand jury report was issued in 2005 and not a single priest was indicted. The Philadelphia prosecutors blamed an “inadequate” state law for coming up empty. The “inadequate” law was an elementary civil liberty called the statute of limitations. So they redoubled their efforts, got the law changed and reinstituted another grand jury. The grand jury has now smeared the previous Philadelphia Archbishop, Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, with baseless charges, being forced to admit that “we cannot conclude a successful prosecution can be brought against the cardinal.” Moreover, when the law was changed, it gave special protection to public employees, something which is music to the ear of the *Times*: it has never once editorialized how outrageous it is to discriminate against Catholic and Orthodox Jewish teachers by having one set of penalties for them, and another for public school teachers.

Finally, the *Times* needs to put up or shut up: if it has evidence that today’s Philadelphia Archbishop, Cardinal Justin Rigali, is wrong to say that “there are *no* archdiocesan priests in ministry today who have an admitted or established allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against them,” then it should say so. (My *italic*.)

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