

FORDHAM HOSTS QUEER EVENT

On Sept. 16, Fordham University will hold a conference on "Sexual Diversity in the Catholic Church." It is the first of a four-part series; Union Theological Seminary, Yale Divinity School and Fairfield University will also host conferences on related issues. The next one, "Pro-Queer Life," is at Union Theological on Oct. 1.

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments as follows:

It is fitting that the Catholic Church is the only religion being targeted by the dissidents. After all, the mainline Protestant denominations have succumbed to the dominant culture, so there is nothing to protest anymore. Among the speakers at the four events are Sr. Jeannine Gramick, Paul Lakeland, Dan Savage and Jamie Manson.

Gramick is known for her defense of child rapist Paul Shanley. Lakeland is known for his defense of an attempt by state lawmakers in Connecticut to strip bishops and pastors of their financial authority. Savage is known for his advice on anal sex, advising his readers not to worry about leaking from the rectum. "I'll betcha the pope's a** is leaking all over the throne of St. Peter right now," he wrote in 2009. Manson is known as a lesbian activist who said last month that "a number of U.S. bishops spent their summer continuing to undermine the health and welfare" of women and children. She also touts the Fordham conference by saying, "Some panelists are heterosexual." It is not certain how many are "queer," the preferred word of the panelists to describe homosexuals.

Lakeland, who teaches Catholic Studies at Jesuit-run Fairfield University, is the series organizer. "In the Catholic tradition, in the Catholic church, there is the church, and there isn't really anything else," he says. Brilliant. It could also be said, "At the New York Times, there is the

editorial board, and there isn't really anything else."

If a professor at Fordham or Fairfield wanted to host a conference on "Racial Diversity," bringing in noted racists to offer an alternative perspective to the Church's teachings, he would be kicked out.

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ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT ALREADY DRAWING FLAK

Below is a statement by Catholic League president Bill Donohue:

The new Archbishop of Philadelphia, Charles Chaput, hasn't been in office one week and already he is drawing flak from dissidents.

On September 8, the day of Archbishop Chaput's installation, Robert Hoatson was protesting the event outside the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran a picture of him on its website, and identified him in the newspaper as a priest. What they did not say is that he is a suspended priest from New Jersey who filed a lawsuit against the Catholic Church asking to be removed from the clergy. Predictably, Chaput's homily that day was attacked by victims' groups and dissidents for not being sufficiently contrite about the fate of alleged victims in the archdiocese.

As soon as Chaput's appointment was announced in July, the phony victims' group, SNAP, held a press conference condemning him. Maureen Turlish, a nun who leads the Church-bashing

group, Voice of the Faithful, lectured him on how to proceed. Still another group of malcontents, Catholics4Change, demanded that they “become part of Church leadership.” But wouldn’t that make them part of the dreaded “institutional Church” they so deplore?

These people also lie. Turlish, for instance, is fond of saying that the two Philadelphia grand jury reports on the archdiocese document “facts.” Similarly, an editorial this week in the dissident weekly, the National Catholic Reporter, condemned the last three Philly archbishops for being “complicit in hiding crimes and criminals.” Specifically, it said the archdiocese “is a place where children, mostly boys, have been raped and molested, in some cases repeatedly.” It did not use the word “allegedly,” accepting as “fact” accusations that have never been challenged in court!

What’s really driving the early animus against Chaput is his persona: he is bright, courageous and orthodox. That’s why Catholic professors like Nicholas Cafardi and David J. O’Brien are busy telling him not to address wider moral issues, especially in the upcoming presidential season. Fat chance. Guess they don’t know his steeliness.

IRELAND LIES ABOUT THE HOLY SEE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments as follows:

On July 20, Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny accused the Holy See of meddling in Irish affairs, citing the recently

published Cloyne Report (an Irish government document on priestly sexual abuse in the Diocese of Cloyne) as evidence; he also said that attempts by the Holy See to “frustrate” the Irish inquiry occurred “as little as three years ago.”

All of this is a lie: there was no interference; the Cloyne Report never made such an accusation; and nothing has happened in the last three years to warrant these charges.

To be sure, there were points of contention between what the Irish government requested and what the Holy See thought judicious. At most, this constitutes uncooperativeness; it is a lie to say it merits the accusation of “interference.” Also, anyone who can read knows that the Cloyne Report never even suggested that the Holy See sought to meddle in Irish affairs. Lastly, when Kenny was asked to provide evidence of attempts by the Holy See to “frustrate” the inquiry in the past three years, the best he could do was to assert that his remark was based on “anger and frustration.” So that gives him the right to lie about the Holy See?

The fact of the matter is that the Irish government lagged behind efforts by the Catholic Church to remedy sexual abuse. In 2008, the Church’s Elliott Report took the Diocese of Cloyne to task for not following the 1996 guidelines on this issue that were issued by the Irish Bishops. Indeed, while the Irish government was still debating what to do about mandatory reporting of these crimes, the Catholic Church already had its guidelines in place. Had Bishop John Magee followed them in Cloyne (and had he followed canon law), things would have been different.

The Irish make much of a 1997 letter by the Apostolic Nuncio in Ireland seeming to weaken the 1996 guidelines, but the Holy See has effectively rebutted that interpretation. Besides, only one clear case of abuse in Cloyne was recorded after the letter appeared. In short, the Irish need to hit the reset button before they get themselves in any deeper.

For an excellent extended treatment of this issue, click [here](#).

CATHOLIC BASHERS TARGET THE POPE

SNAP, the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests, assisted by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), has petitioned the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute Pope Benedict XVI for allegedly covering up “crimes against humanity of rape and other sexual violence committed around the world.” CCR attorney Pam Spees claims that “Crimes against tens of thousands of victims, most of them children, are being covered up by officials at the highest level of the Vatican.”

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments as follows:

As the Catholic League recently documented [click [here](#)], SNAP does not exist to protect children; rather, its goal is to smear the Catholic Church. That it would team up with the most radical left-wing legal organization in the nation, CCR, is hardly surprising. After all, never once has CCR bothered to protest the incredible assault on the due process rights of priests over the last decade.

Most cases of molestation did not involve children, and they did not involve rape. The most common victim was a post-pubescent male victimized by homosexuals, the most common offense being “inappropriate touching.” The figures being bandied about are nothing more than a wild guess provided by the Church’s critics; they bear no relationship to reality. How do we know? Because when hard data are available on these

matters, the projections are proven wholly inaccurate.

Moreover, it is a lie to say that sexual abuse is being covered up at the highest levels of the Vatican. The homosexual scandal took place during the sexual revolution, and most of the offenses ended a quarter-century ago. To charge otherwise is scurrilous.

The Holy See is not a member of the ICC, making it difficult to prosecute. Nonetheless, the Catholic League will contact the ICC today, providing documentation of our own that demonstrates how partisan this complaint really is.

Contact SNAP president Barbara Blaine: SNAPblaine@gmail.com

9/11 TRIBUTE TO AIR ON FOX NEWS CHANNEL

On Sunday, Catholic League president Bill Donohue will make a statement on the 9/11 tragedy that will air on the Fox News Channel. Two of the 30 second ads will run between 8:00 a.m. and noon (EST); the third will run during Fox News Sunday that evening.

Below is Donohue's tribute:

The Catholic League salutes all those men and women who died on 9/11, ten years ago today.

In today's first reading at Mass, there is a selection from the Old Testament book of Sirach, one line of which is particularly apropos: "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven."

Although we heed the call to forgiveness, we must never forget that these innocent victims were massacred because of our Judeo-Christian values. We owe it to them to remain vigilant in the defense of our heritage.

LYING ABOUT PRIESTS

Catholic League president Bill Donohue notes recent lies about priests:

It has been said that Fr. Mychal Judge, the first of the First Responders to die on 9/11, was gay. Not everyone agrees. No matter, even those who allege that Judge was gay say he kept his sexual orientation private, disclosing it to only a few friends. Fr. Brian Jordan, for instance, said of his fellow Franciscan in 2002 that "I knew him for 25 years and I didn't know that he was gay until after he died."

It really shouldn't matter whether Judge was gay or straight, but unfortunately some in gay circles, as well as in liberal quarters generally, are turning this issue into a national spectacle. Worse, some are lying. In the August 19 edition of a dissident Catholic newspaper, the *National Catholic Reporter*, it says, "Judge was a Catholic priest who publicly acknowledged that he was a celibate gay man." After reading this, I asked Jeff Field, our communications director, to e-mail Tom Fox, editor of the newspaper asking him for the evidence that Judge publicly declared that he was gay. That was yesterday, and Fox has not replied. It is a lie.

SNAP Wisconsin, the Wisconsin branch of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, posted an article on September 7

about a Philadelphia priest who has never been convicted of anything, but will go on trial next year for allegedly covering up a crime. The title of the article reads, "The Crimes of Monsignor William J. Lynn." Field contacted the SNAP chapter yesterday asking them to correct the record. "You know very well that Monsignor Lynn has only been accused and hasn't been convicted of any crimes," Field said. There has been no response.

Lying is bad enough, but when it is done for political purposes, it is obscene. That priests are the primary victims these days is indisputable.

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NYT SPINS 9/11 CLERGY GAG RULE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue discusses how the *New York Times* is covering NYC Mayor Bloomberg's 9/11 clergy gag rule:

It is no secret that the *New York Times* is the most secular major newspaper in the United States, nor is it a secret that Mayor Bloomberg is a thoroughgoing secularist, so it was hardly surprising that the *Times* would find a secularist to explain why Bloomberg decided to censor the clergy from speaking at the 9/11 memorial ceremonies this Sunday.

Alan Wolfe is an atheist who directs the Center for Religion and Public Life at Boston College, a Jesuit-run institution,

and it is his belief that America has changed drastically—almost unrecognizably—in the past ten years. We went from a unified culture to “complete Balkanization.” This allows the *Times* to conclude, “Ten years later, any consensus that existed about the appropriate role of religion in public ceremonies marking a monumental American trauma has fallen apart.”

If this tale is to be believed, then there should be plenty of evidence showing how the American people no longer want a role for religious expression at public events. But, of course, there isn't. So why make it up? To convince the reader that Bloomberg's censorial act is a better index of our culture today than the sentiments of his critics.

To understand what has changed, all we have to do is look at who's in charge. After the Twin Towers were hit, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called New York Archbishop Edward Egan for assistance, sending a police car to pick him up. The next day, Giuliani said, “The only thing we can do now is remain calm and focus on the rescue efforts...and pray.”

Bloomberg will have none of it. Indeed, when he speaks about prayer, he sounds foolish. This week, on “The View,” he said we need to remember that “there are people who don't want us to say what we want to say, and, uh, pray the way we want to pray *and all that sort of stuff*.” [My emphasis.] The big change is not our culture—it's our mayor.

LEFT-WING PROTESTANTS JOIN

9/11 FRAY

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments as follows:

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is receiving oblique cover from left-wing Protestant leaders for his 9/11 clergy gag rule. While the leaders nominally disagree with the mayor, they save their real salvos for those who have been critical of Bloomberg's censorial act.

Tim King, the communications director for the left-wing group, Sojourners, characterizes Bloomberg's decision as "understandable but regrettable." His choice of words reflects his real interest in pinning the blame for the controversy not on Bloomberg, but on his critics. "And to those religious leaders who are stirring up a media controversy about this decision...you are showing exactly why Mayor Bloomberg didn't want you there in the first place."

In other words, the Mayor of the City of New York insults hundreds of millions of Americans of all faiths by banning the clergy and First Responders from the 9/11 memorial ceremonies, and those who object are responsible for "stirring up a media controversy." But when Sojourners holds their press conference tomorrow on this issue, somehow we are to believe that they will not be adding to the controversy. Guess the peace-makers are traveling to New York with their healing kit.

It's time to stop the lying. Those who blame the critics of religious intolerance for "stirring up a media controversy" have taken the side of those who promote it. Sojourners has laid anchor with Bloomberg.

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9/11 PRESS CONFERENCE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue will join New York City Council Member Fernando Cabrera and others on Thursday, September 8, on the steps of City Hall at noon. Participants will appeal to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to reconsider his decision to ban the clergy from speaking at Sunday's 9/11 memorial ceremonies.

Donohue will also address religious leaders who are feigning criticism of Bloomberg while taking aim at people like himself who have been critical of the mayor.

BLOOMBERG'S "LIAISON" BACKS 9/11 GAG RULE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue looks at who is supporting New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 9/11 gag rule:

It is nearly impossible to find anyone who supports Mayor Bloomberg's gag rule censoring the clergy and First Responders from speaking at the 9/11 ceremonies this Sunday. One exception is a woman who lost her husband in the attacks, and who is identified as a liaison between the mayor and the victims' families. Her name is Christy Ferer. But she is not exactly a go-between: she works for Bloomberg. Moreover, she used to date him.

"There are so many faiths that would have to be present," Ferer recently said. "How do you not insult somebody?" Better to insult everyone equally, she concludes. But not exactly: no group of New Yorkers is more insulted than Catholics. Not only is Archbishop Timothy Dolan banned (along with other clergy), no First Responders are allowed to speak (yet the vast majority of those who died on 9/11 were Catholic).

Ferer's ties with her ex-boyfriend have paid dividends. Besides being a Special Assistant to Bloomberg today, she previously served on the Advisory Council Board for the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and is past Commissioner of the Port Authority. She also served on the transition committee for Mayor-elect Bloomberg. Her husband who was killed on 9/11, Neil Levin, was also a longtime friend of Bloomberg, and a former director of the Port Authority.

Many members of victims' families have previously complained that Ferer does not reach out to them, and there is no evidence that she consulted with them regarding the propriety of censoring the clergy and First Responders from the 9/11 events. She says she reads their e-mails, but this is a poor substitute for dialogue. In other words, we need to know the names of those whom Bloomberg and Ferer consulted with before the decision to ban the clergy and First Responders was made.

Contact Bloomberg's Press Secretary, Stu Loeser: sloeser@cityhall.nyc.gov