

COALITION TARGETS PLANNED PARENTHOOD

In late October, the Catholic League joined over 60 national organizations in signing a coalition letter addressed to every U.S. Senator requesting an immediate suspension of federal funding for Planned Parenthood. At issue are allegations that the pro-abortion giant has violated federal and/or state laws on late-term abortions. Here is an excerpt of the letter:

“According to the 107-count complaint filed in Kansas’ Johnson County District Court last week, Planned Parenthood purposefully performed illegal late-term abortions in violation of Kansas State law and unlawfully falsified documents in order to conceal that fact. They are also accused of failing to comply with the required medical reporting guidelines.

“The complaint alleges 29 misdemeanor counts of performing ‘*unlawful* late-term abortions,’ 29 misdemeanor counts of ‘unlawful failure to determine viability for late-term abortions,’ 23 *felony* counts of ‘making false information,’ and 27 misdemeanor counts of ‘unlawful failure to maintain records.’

“Planned Parenthood operates around 860 facilities around the country, and there are approximately 40 states with laws banning late-term abortions. This illegal conduct may be happening all over the country.

“While Planned Parenthood claims that it does not perform late-term abortions after 22 weeks, the charges were reviewed by a Johnson County, Kansas district judge who found probable cause. These are substantive charges levied against Planned Parenthood. States have passed laws on late-term abortions because they are detrimental to women as well as babies. Women

are often not informed that late-term abortions increase the likelihood of severe blood loss, damage to vital organs, later premature births and loss of fertility.

“We urge you to ensure that our tax dollars are not subsidizing abortion clinics that perform illegal late-term abortions.”

Please contact your senators about this important issue. Planned Parenthood has been getting away with deception and propaganda for decades. Now it appears it is also guilty of violating the law. It's time it paid a price for doing so.

MEDIA IGNORE SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE SCHOOLS

Beginning October 20, the Associated Press (AP) ran a three-day series on sexual abuse in the public schools. In its first installment on this issue, the AP called sexual abuse by public school teachers “a widespread problem.” The news wire service, which spent seven months gathering information, pulled no punches: “Students in America’s schools are groped. They’re raped. They’re pursued, seduced and think they’re in love. An Associated Press investigation found more than 2,500 cases over five years in which educators were punished for actions from bizarre to sadistic.”

Indeed, the AP said that on any given school day, three educators are actively hitting on students, thus speaking to “a much larger problem in a system that is stacked against victims.” And as we’ve known for some time, this is because the teachers unions are more interested in the rights of accused teachers than they are the welfare of alleged victims.

Who speaks for the kids is a mystery.

Complicating the cause of justice was the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification. It keeps tabs on guilty teachers but only shares the names among state agencies. No wonder suspended teachers are commonly passed from one school district to another, or from one state to another. So frequent is this phenomenon that it's called "passing the trash" or the "mobile molester."

Just as outrageous was the media's reaction. A Nexis search showed that only five newspapers carried the entire three-day series: *Daily Breeze* (CA), *Richmond Times Dispatch* (VA), *Knoxville News-Sentinel* (TN), *Statesman Journal* (OR) and *Inside Bay Area* (CA); it was also carried by *Connecticut Post Online*.

So where was the *Boston Globe*, which broke the Catholic scandal, and all the other big media outlets? Just goes to show that it was never the molested who counted, just the identity of the molester.

D'SOUZA AND HITCHENS DUKE IT OUT

On October 22, The King's College played host to a debate between Dinesh D'Souza, noted author and member of the Catholic League's board of advisors, and popular British atheist writer Christopher Hitchens. The two men met at the New York Society for Ethical Culture to discuss the question "Is Christianity the Problem?" The Catholic League's Kiera McCaffrey was in attendance for the battle of the minds.

Both Hitchens and D'Souza are crack debaters, so the audience expected a lively evening and was not disappointed. Those accustomed to hearing Hitchens manipulate the truth to support his arguments weren't disappointed either. Blaming Christianity for all the world's ills, as he is wont to do, Hitchens attempted to convince the audience that the Nazis were really Christians. To support his preposterous claim (which he has trotted out before) he told the audience that Joseph Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister was a Catholic who was excommunicated by the Catholic Church not for holding a leadership role in the Nazi party, but for marrying a Protestant. In truth, Goebbels left the Church when he married his Protestant bride in 1931—before the Nazis' rise to power. But Hitchens is prone to making the sort of charges that draw a guffaw from the crowd and then quickly moving on to something else.

For his part, D'Souza engaged the crowd with selections of the arguments he offers in his latest book, *What's So Great About Christianity* (for more information, see pp. 8-9). Particularly strong were his rebuttals of Hitchens' preposterous claim that Christianity is in some way responsible for the atrocities perpetuated by Joseph Stalin. D'Souza also countered Hitchens' statement that whenever an atheist makes a moral decision in our time, he is doing it without being influenced by Christianity. D'Souza pointed out the pervading influence of Christianity in our culture and suggested Hitchens and others are reaping the benefits of the faith's moral fiber without being aware of it.

Anyone wishing to watch the debate in full may do so by visiting The King's College's website at www.tkc.edu/debate

BRITNEY'S CONFESSIONAL SHOOT

When asked by the New York *Daily News* on October 30 about pop star Britney Spears' latest photo shoot, which depicted racy scenes with a priest in the confessional (below), Catholic League president Bill Donohue had this to say: "This is all the puzzle pieces coming together. This girl is crashing. She's not even allowed to bring up her own kids because she's not responsible enough. Now we see she can't even entertain."

On CNN's "Showbiz Tonight" on October 30, Bill Donohue maintained that Spears was not the anti-Catholic bigot that Madonna is, but added, "I think the girl is going south both in terms of her career and in terms of her personal life. She does need to see a priest. I mean a real one, get her head straight." When music consultant Quddus Philippe suggested that the public might enjoy and support the kind of controversy that Spears' photo shoot had generated, Donohue replied, "I wonder if the audience would support her if she chose Muslims instead of Catholics. I wonder how far she would want to push that envelope."



POPE PETITIONED TO BEATIFY PIUS XII

Two national Catholic organizations, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights and the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, are working in a joint effort to petition Pope Benedict XVI to expedite the cause for the beatification of Pope Pius XII. The petition was written by Sister Margherita

Marchione, author of numerous books on the pontiff.

It is our strongly held conviction that Pope Pius XII has been unfairly portrayed as someone who stood silent during the Holocaust. Indeed, we know of no world leader who did more to resist the Nazis and rescue Jews than this great man. To depict him otherwise is to slander him, and this is not something Catholics will ever accept.

Please sign the petition below, cut it out and mail it to the Catholic League. You can also sign the petition by clicking [here](#).