

OLYMPIC STUNT WAS PLANNED; FRENCH LEADERS COMPLICIT

This is the article that appeared in the September 2024 edition of Catalyst, our monthly journal. The date that prints out reflects the day that it was uploaded to our website. For a more accurate date of when the article was first published, check out the news release, [here](#).

The vulgar parody of the Last Supper at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics in Paris was not simply the product of one very sick anti-Christian bigot. There is good reason to believe that senior French officials gave their blessings to this attack on Christianity. That is why we asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to launch an investigation.

Much of the attention focused on the antics of the man who created the offensive skit, Thomas Jolly. According to the New York Times, growing up his parents “nurtured his passions for dolls and classical dance.” Not surprisingly, they raised a homosexual.

Days before the opening ceremony, the Associated Press reported that Jolly was being “extremely tight-lipped about what would eventually transpire at the ceremony.” But everyone knew he was up to something. “‘I’ll be fired if I tell you anything,’ Jolly says with a ‘cheeky laugh.’” Now why in the world would Jolly say that? Was he planning to mock Muslims?

President Emmanuel Macron was not kept in the dark. It was reported by the New York Times that Macron had “a keen interest in the show” and met with Jolly “regularly.” It is hard to believe they didn’t discuss the show’s content.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo also had strong interest in the show; she, too, met with Jolly regularly. She said his production would be “playful, with a message of the city’s ‘openness to

the world and the pleasure of diversity.'" Now why in the world would she say that? What kind of "playful" skit would someone like Jolly craft that would celebrate the "pleasure of diversity"?

Tony Estanguet, the President of Paris 2024, is the one who appointed Jolly to be Artistic Director of the Olympic ceremonies. In his statement in 2022 heralding his choice, he bragged how Jolly's "extraordinary shows are proof that he knows how to break norms and take them to the next level." Now why in the world would he say that?

Bill Donohue wrote to IOC President Thomas Bach explaining why a probe of French officials was needed. We published an email contact for him and we are happy to report he was bombarded with letters.

We contacted him a second time about the closing ceremony, asking that he do what he can to make sure that Jolly does not offend again. We also contacted the 15 major sponsors of the games, leading Republicans and Democrats, and the U.S. Olympic Committee, asking them to do the same.

The closing ceremony went off without a problem. Whether Jolly had scripted an offensive skit that he felt pressured to nix is not known.

CENSORS FAIL

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Over the summer, one of the nation's leading hate groups,

Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), filed a formal complaint with the IRS arguing that the Catholic League has “engaged in unlawful political campaigning.” The atheists are a vicious bunch.

It cited a recent news release where Bill Donohue said, “Kamala Harris is not religion-friendly.” It provided not a single instance whereby we violated any IRS stricture—it simply repeated criticisms we made of Harris. That is not only our First Amendment right, it does not run afoul of IRS rules.

For more than 30 years, there have been many attempts made to hound Donohue from public life. Some have tried to get him kicked off TV while others have falsely accused him of libel (he won in court). Some have tried to get him fired. Still others have gotten to the point where he has had to contact law enforcement, at the federal and local level. He has even had to secure bodyguards.

This latest effort—the militant atheists would like to take away the Catholic League’s tax-exempt status—will fail, just like the rest of them. As long as we stay clear of endorsing candidates, which we never do, we are free to express our concerns about the issues.

Our foes should have learned by now that no one can shut Bill Donohue up. We will continue to publicly hammer anti-Catholic bigots. We will be deterred by no one. Bet on it.

OUR CULTURE OF

COMFORTABLENESS

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William A. Donohue

What happened in Butler, Pennsylvania is emblematic of our culture of comfortableness. We are a nation that lacks accountability for misconduct and incompetence, the net result of which is a growing pattern of serious social problems. It is institutionally ubiquitous.

It is this culture that accounts for the failure of the Secret Service to protect former president Donald Trump. A very relaxed environment in the Secret Service accounts for what happened. Consider the following.

- In March 2017, a 26-year-old man, Jonathan Tuan-Anh Tran, jumped the fence at the White House while carrying a dangerous weapon; he had two cans of Mace. Astonishingly, he was allowed to walk around for 15 minutes before he was apprehended by two Secret Service agents. While they were fired, a week later Tran was released. The following year he was found carrying a knife while attempting to illegally enter the office of Rep. Devin Nunes.
- In 2022, Arian Taherzadeh, 40, and Haider Ali, 35, duped four Secret Service officials by posing as officers and employees of the federal government. They obtained paraphernalia, handguns and assault rifles used by federal law enforcement agencies. These were not ordinary members of the Secret Service: one was on detail for the first lady; another was a uniformed division officer in the White House; a third was on detail for Vice President Kamala Harris; and the fourth

was assigned to the presidential protection detail. None was fired—they were merely suspended.

- In April 2024, a female Secret Service special agent assigned to cover the vice president jumped on her boss and began beating him. The agent, Michelle Herczeg, who had a history of aberrant behavior, chest-bumped and shoved her superior, then tackled him and punched him while still having her gun in her holster. Fellow agents wrestled her gun away, cuffed her and removed her from the premises. When questioned about this, Anthony Guglielmi, chief communications officer for the Secret Service, called the incident a “medical matter.” The offending agent was not fired—she was simply removed from Harris’ detail.

These are just a few examples that we know of in recent times.

Regarding the last incident, Rep. James Comer, who chairs the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, argues that the Secret Service, under the tutelage of its former director, Kimberly Cheatle, has become so concerned about the diversity, equity and inclusion agenda that it has lost sight of its primary mission, namely providing the highest standards of security. Shameless as ever, Cheatle refused to resign, waiting to be forced out for her incompetence. She should have been fired on the spot.

Lowering standards is a prescription for failure. It is not just the Secret Service that has become too comfortable in their work. Here are a few examples.

It is important for parents to be friendly with their children, but it is a monumental mistake to be their friend. When that happens, parents lose their mantle of authority. It is not easy to discipline someone who sees you as his equal, making accountability almost impossible.

Brooks Brothers makes excellent men’s dress shirts. They also

have what they call “Friday Shirts.” They are described as a “comfortable alternative to our signature dress shirts.” This complements the “dress down Friday” phenomenon that was created many years ago. This set a tone in the workplace: employees can get comfortable on Fridays. When this becomes part of their psyche, they are less likely to bust their chops.

From kindergarten to graduate school, student expectations have been lowered for decades, the result being a decline in academic excellence. The one ensures the other.

Calls to “defund the police,” and going easy on street crime, has led to a demoralization of the police, a shrinking of their ranks, and a crime wave that is out of control. In New York City, it is not uncommon to see cops standing around doing nothing—they have been told to stand down. They have become quite comfortable in their new environs.

We remove cats and dogs who cannot fend for themselves and place them in shelters. Men and women who cannot fend for themselves are left to rot on the sidewalks, and pleas to remove them are met with demands to protect their “liberty.” No one is held accountable.

Baseball players who jog the bases, instead of sprinting, are rarely disciplined. They have become accustomed to their comfortable condition.

Let’s not forget Catholic children who attend Mass wearing their soccer uniforms. Parents who insist on proper dress are met with resistance by their children, so most accede to their wishes instead of holding the line.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with getting comfortable, especially after working hard all day at school or at work. But when comfortableness becomes the hallmark of our culture, misconduct and incompetence reign supreme.

We have become so nonchalant about wrongdoing that it is a wonder that matters haven't deteriorated further. The reaction to the attempted assassination of Donald Trump was a disgrace. It sadly reflects who we have become. Time to reboot.

CATHOLIC ASSESSMENT OF KAMALA HARRIS

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Bill Donohue

There are many ways to assess any public person. My interest here is to assess Kamala Harris from a Catholic perspective.

Before issuing an abbreviated rendition of this article at the end of July, the last news release I wrote about Harris was in May. It was occasioned by her foul mouth. Everyone concedes that politicians of all stripes are known to curse, but they typically do so among themselves, or at private events. Not her.

On May 13, with the cameras rolling, she spoke at an Asian American organization, saying, "We have to know that sometimes people will open the door for you and leave it open. Sometimes they won't, and then you need to kick that f**king door down." She then descended into her proverbial cackle.

Why the obscenity in a public forum? She is the Vice President of the United States. Nice role model for young minority girls.

Sometimes Harris says things that embarrasses her family. Her father, who is from Jamaica, took umbrage at a comment she made suggesting that Jamaicans are all a bunch of potheads.

In 2019, Harris was asked on a radio talk show if she supported legalizing marijuana. She responded, "Half my family's from Jamaica. Are you kidding me?"

Her father, Donald Harris, quickly rebuked her, saying his grandmothers and deceased parents "must be turning over in their graves right now to see their family name, reputation and proud Jamaican identity being connected, in any way, jokingly or not with the fraudulent stereotype of a pot-smoking joy seeker and in pursuit of identity politics. Speaking for myself and my immediate Jamaican family, we wish to categorically dissociate ourselves from this travesty."

Harris not only makes offensive comments, her feminist views are so extreme that she reflexively sides with women who accuse men of sexual harassment.

When Brett Kavanaugh was being considered for a seat on the Supreme Court, he was accused by Christine Blasey Ford of sexually assaulting her when they were teenagers. But under stiff questioning, her account fell apart. In March 2024, the *Washington Examiner* ran a piece that said it all. "Half a Decade Later, Christine Blasey Ford Still Has No Corroborating Witness."

At the time, Harris sat on the Senate Judiciary Committee; it was charged with assessing Kavanaugh's suitability to be on the Supreme Court. Before he uttered one word at the hearing, Harris said of Ford, "I believe her." After Ford came off as a fraud, Harris stuck to her guns and tweeted that Kavanaugh "lied."

At least she is consistent. In 2019, when she was a senator, Biden was accused by women of touching them inappropriately. At a presidential campaign event in Nevada, she said, "I

believe them.” She even wrote a piece for *The Hill* that was titled, “Harris: ‘I Believe’ Biden accusers.” Fortunately for her, the media never ask her to explain herself.

Of primary interest to Catholics is Harris’ position on social and cultural issues. Let’s begin by assessing her definition of culture. She spoke about this at the 2023 Essence Festival of Culture in New Orleans.

“Culture is—it is a reflection of our moment and our time. Right? And present culture is the way we express how we’re feeling about the moment and we should always find times to express how we feel about the moment. That is a reflection of joy. Because, you know...it comes in the morning.” She then broke out into a fit of laughter. But she was not done.

“We have to find ways to also express the way we feel about the moment in terms of just having language and a connection to how people are experiencing life. And I think about it that way, too.” No one knew what she was talking about.

Harris may be incoherent in her speeches, but her policy decisions, especially on social and cultural issues, are not in doubt.

On September 13, 2019, I wrote a news release titled, “Kamala Harris’ Lust For Abortion.” Earlier in the year, I said, she defended abortion at any time during pregnancy, right up until birth. She also wanted to force states that restrict abortions to obtain federal approval from the Department of Justice before implementing them.

When Harris was California’s attorney general, she bludgeoned pro-life activist David Daleiden. He used undercover videos to expose how abortion operatives harvest and sell aborted fetal organs. She authorized her office to raid his home: they seized his camera equipment and copies of revealing videos that implicated many of those who work in the abortion industry.

In her role as California AG she also sought to cripple crisis pregnancy centers with draconian regulations. Specifically, she supported a bill that would force these centers to inform clients where they could obtain an abortion. She was sued and lost in the Supreme Court three years later.

Like many other Democrats, Harris is not content to sanction child abuse in the womb. Even when they are born, she is okay with letting those who survive an abortion die.

To be specific, on February 25, 2020, Sen. Harris voted against the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a bill that would “prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.” That’s called infanticide.

Harris’ record on abortion and infanticide is at odds with her opposition to the death penalty. When it comes to convicted serial rapists and mass shooters, she wants to spare their lives. In 2019, she was explicitly asked if she opposed the death penalty for acts of treason. She said she did.

There we have it. Harris says that those who endanger the safety of all Americans by attempting a violent overthrow of the government, or spying on the military for a foreign enemy, should have their lives spared, but innocent children who are moments away from being born are not entitled to have their lives spared. And children who survive an abortion, but are in need of medical attention, can be left to die on the table, and no one will be held accountable.

The Democratic Party is the proud party of homosexual activists and transgender radicals.

Harris is so happy to see two people of the same sex “marry” that she actually performed “marriages” between gay couples in 2004. She also opposed Proposition 8, the California initiative barring gay marriage. The people spoke—they voted

for it—but she does not believe in “power to the people”: she believes in power to the ruling class (which won in the Supreme Court). No wonder her voting record earned her a perfect score of 100 percent by the anti-women and anti-science gay behemoth, the Human Rights Campaign.

When Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis supported a bill that would prohibit teachers in the early grades, K-3rd grade, from being indoctrinated with gay and transgender propaganda, she opposed it. In doing so she also showed her contempt for parental rights; the bill prohibited efforts to undermine them.

Harris’ enthusiasm for transgender rights includes allowing females who claim to be men to join the military and males who claim to be female to compete against girls and women in sports.

Religious liberty is a First Amendment right, but her deeds suggest she is not supportive of it. She is good at “God talk”—when referring to a specific year she occasionally says “in the year of our Lord.” But talk is cheap. As a U.S. senator, she co-sponsored the “Do No Harm Act” that would force religious institutions to violate their doctrinal prerogatives.

Harris even co-sponsored the most anti-religious liberty bill ever introduced, the Equality Act. It would coerce Catholic doctors and hospitals to perform abortions and to mutilate the genitals of young people seeking to transition to the opposite sex. This bill would sideline the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a bill passed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton ensuring that the government does not encroach on religious rights.

In 2018, the Catholic League was among the first organizations in the nation to protest her attack on a Catholic nominee for a federal district judge post. She badgered Brian Buescher at a hearing, simply because he was a member of the Knights of

Columbus, a male entity.

As I pointed out at the time, Harris has never objected to Jewish women groups or the League of Women Voters. Just a Catholic male group. What really got her goat is Buescher's membership in a Catholic organization that is pro-life and pro-marriage, rightly understood. In other words, she was invoking a religious test for public office, which is unconstitutional.

Not only does Harris harbor an animus against Catholics, she has no respect for separation of church and state. In 2021, she created a video to be played in Virginia black churches urging everyone to vote for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe. The video aired in 300 churches for several weeks. Harris starred in it, beckoning congregants to vote for him.

Harris is no friend of the black poor. She has consistently voted against school choice, thus keeping inner-city blacks in their place. If she truly believed in social justice, she would work to see that poor blacks have the same opportunity to send their children to the school of their choice. Instead, she consigns them to schools that no member of the ruling class would ever elect for their own kids.

Her biography explains why she is so insensitive to the black poor. She was raised in a home of privilege, and has lived a privileged life ever since. She has successfully exploited her connections to advance her career, having been anointed most of her posts. She even secured her first job out of law school as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County even though she was not a lawyer (she failed the bar the first time around).

Being a beneficiary of black privilege explains why she is so uncharitable. When she was California attorney general, her 2011-2013 tax returns showed she made \$158,000 but did not

give a dime to charity. Liberals do not believe they need to have any skin in the game—it's the job of government to pay for the poor.

Another way the government is supposed to fulfill her social justice agenda is by supporting reparations for slavery. When she was in the senate, she co-sponsored a bill to do just that. In doing so, she put herself in an awkward position. Her ancestors were slavemasters.

Her father, Donald Harris, who is a Stanford professor of economics, said in 2018 that his grandmother was a descendant of Hamilton Brown, who was a plantation and slave owner in northern Jamaica. Brown didn't own one or two slaves—he owned scores of them. Most of them were brought from Africa, which has a long history of slavery (it still exists today in some countries).

As I said four years ago, “if the average American has to pay X amount for slavery, Harris should at least have to pay 10X. Isn't that what redistributive justice is all about? Catholics need to know.”

OPEN LETTER TO OLYMPIC CHIEF

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This letter was sent to the president of the International Olympic Committee.

July 29, 2024

Mr. Thomas Bach
President
International Olympic Committee
Maison Olympique
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Bach:

As president of the largest Catholic civil rights organization in the United States, I am imploring you to conduct an investigation into the obscene antics that marked the opening ceremony at the Paris Olympics. There is reason to believe senior members of the French government knew what Thomas Jolly was planning to do and did nothing to stop it. They may even have given their blessings to this stunt.

French president Emmanuel Macron was not kept in the dark. He learned that Jolly was planning a “great story of emancipation and freedom.” More important, it was reported by the *New York Times* that Macron had “a keen interest in the show” and met with Jolly “regularly.” It is hard to believe they didn’t discuss the show’s content.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo also had strong interest in the show; she, too, met with Jolly regularly. According to the *Times*, she said his production would be “playful, with a message of the city’s ‘openness to the world and the pleasure of diversity.’” It is hardly a big leap to conclude that Jolly disclosed to her his “playful” skit, one that would celebrate the “pleasure of diversity.”

Tony Estanguet, the President of Paris 2024, appointed Jolly to be Artistic Director of the Olympic ceremonies. In his statement in 2022 heralding his choice, he bragged how Jolly’s “extraordinary shows are proof that he knows how to break norms and take them to the next level.”

How revealing. Are we to believe that what Estanguet had in

mind was a mockery of Islam?

The Associated Press reported the week before the opening ceremony that Jolly remained “extremely tight-lipped about what would eventually transpire at the ceremony.” He admitted, “I’d be fired if I tell you anything.” Perhaps. Had he disclosed what his show was about, he may have gotten fired because of the worldwide pushback from Christians. He certainly would not have lost favor with the French elite. Not one of the three that I mentioned has condemned Jolly’s bigotry.

You are in a position to get to the bottom of this. Jolly did not pull this off by himself. Those in positions of power need to be questioned about what they knew, when they knew it, and why they didn’t act to stop this vulgar assault on Christian sensibilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William A. Donohue, Ph.D.
President

OLYMPIC STUNT DENIERS PROVEN WRONG

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It’s settled. Those who denied that the vulgar show performed

at the opening ceremonies of the Olympics was not about the Last Supper have been proven wrong. Referring to the bigoted artist, Thomas Jolly, a spokesperson for the Olympics said the following in a statement to the *New York Post*: “Thomas Jolly took inspiration from Leonardo da Vinci’s famous painting to create the setting.”

So much for the nonsense that this anti-Catholic stunt—which featured a mostly naked man and drag queens—was a celebration of the Greek god, Dionysus.

Every honest person knows that this obscene portrayal was done to assault Christian sensibilities. Yet many denied the obvious. Here are some who did.

- Boston French Consulate: “The ceremony was designed to celebrate the unity of the Olympic spirit.” They accepted Jolly’s lying response, saying that “the performance in question was inspired by the image of a pagan feast,” one that paid homage to Dionysus, “the Greek god of festivities and wine.”
- The official account for the Olympics on X [posted](#) “The interpretation of the Greek God Dionysus makes us aware of the absurdity of violence between human beings.”
- In an interview with BFM, Thomas Jolly [said](#), “The idea was to do a big pagan party linked to the gods of Olympus.” He added, “You’ll never find in my work any desire to mock or denigrate anyone. I wanted a ceremony that brings people together, that reconciles, but also a ceremony that affirms our Republican values of liberty, equality and fraternity.”
- Phillippe Katerine, the performer who dressed as the semi-naked blue man in the Olympic scene, [said](#) that the performance “was mostly a misunderstanding. Because when it comes down to it, it wasn’t about representing ‘the Last Supper’ at all.”
- Barbara Butch, the DJ at the center of the skit, [wrote](#) in a now inaccessible Instagram post that she “was the

Greek God of the Sun, Apollo, and referenced Jan van Bijlert's painting 'The Feast of the Gods,' which is displayed in a French art museum."

- Snopes "fact checker" Jack Izzo [writes](#), "So at the end of the segment, when the top of a large serving platter rose to reveal a blue man (French singer Phillippe Katerine) wrapped in grapevines, Jolly was not referencing Jesus and 'The Last Supper,' but rather Dionysus, the Greek God of wine and festivity."
- Writing for MSNBC, Anthea Butler [commented](#), "The moral panic over a scene of drag queens feasting at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics set off a firestorm of outrage from religious conservatives and politicians who believed the scene was a mockery of the Last Supper. Except it wasn't about the Last Supper at all."
- Sally Jenkins [writes](#) in the *Washington Post*, "That drag queen sequence was meant to refer, like Delville, to Greek pagan celebrations – not, as some Christian leaders insist, to mock Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper.'"
- Louise Marshall, an honorary senior lecturer at the University of Sydney and an expert in Renaissance Art, is quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, "Frankly, when I looked at the clips, 'The Last Supper' isn't necessarily what springs to mind. It seems very lighthearted and funny and witty and very inclusive."
- "The View" co-host Whoopi Goldberg [said](#) on the July 29 show that "The guy that put it all together said it was from 'The Feast of the Gods,' which is a 17th Century Dutch painting of the Greek Olympian gods, you know, the Olympian gods because it's the Olympics." She further stated "There are too many people in the picture for it to be the 12 disciples and then the seven or eight other people in the picture."
- Dutch art historian Walther Schoonenberg [posted](#) on X that "The tableau vivant or 'living painting' in the

opening ceremony of Paris 2024 was of The Feast of the Gods, by Jan van Bijlert from 1635.”

- In an [Instagram post](#), “Full House” actress Jodie Sweetin said, “The drag queens of the Olympics were re-creating the feast of Dionysus, not the last supper.” The post continued “And even if you thought it was a Christian reference – what’s the harm? Why is it a ‘parody’ and not a tribute? Can drag queens not be Christian too?”
- Donna Kelce, the mother of NFL stars Travis and Jason Kelce, [shared a Facebook post](#) by user Jeff Rose that said, “The Opening Ceremony of the Olympics wasn’t a mock of the Last Supper. If you have any knowledge of the Greek origin of the Olympics and the French’s rich history of theater you would have gotten this. However, because of your veiled homophobia, some of you can’t discern factual information.”

Everyone of these persons are guilty of denying the truth. Worse, they seek to blame those who are offended for misrepresenting Jolly’s obscene and bigoted portrayal. What he did is hate speech, and attempts to justify it are as obscene as his stunt.

ADS RUN DURING RNC CONVENTION

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The Catholic League ran radio ads during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee; they started July 14 and ran through July 19 (we did likewise in August when the Democrats met in Chicago).

The ads ran on WLS 890 AM. It is based in Chicago and has one of the largest radio signals in the world; it is also one of the top news talk stations in Milwaukee (which is only 90 miles from Chicago).

In addition, we periodically sponsored WLS's coverage of the events. For example, at the top of the hour, the radio station announced that it is covering the convention, acknowledging the Catholic League as a sponsor. We hope to draw new members as a result.

Here is the text of the ad that ran on WLS 890 AM.

The Catholic League extends a warm welcome to Republicans convening in Milwaukee.

While there are many critical issues facing our country, the Catholic League believes the number-one civil rights issue of our day is the exploitation of children done in the name of gender ideology.

Pope Francis has labeled gender ideology as the "ugliest danger" of our time.

The Catholic League believes it is outrageous that children are being coaxed into thinking that they can change their sex. Attempts to do so have serious mental and physical consequences. Moreover, allowing men to compete in women's sports is subversive of women's rights.

Please address this issue.

BILLBOARD AND RADIO ADS RUN DURING DNC

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The Catholic League displayed a billboard and ran radio ads during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

The digital billboard is located just outside the United Center, the venue of the DNC. It ran from August 19 to August 25. Here is what it looked like.

Welcome Democrats

DO WHAT IS MORALLY RIGHT

END GENDER TRANSITIONING NOW

[Our logo, name, location and website address appeared below on the left side. Across the bottom it said, *Paid for by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.*]

The radio ads ran on WLS 890 AM. It is based in Chicago and has one of the largest radio signals in the world. It is also one of the top news talk stations in Chicago.

- 5 ads were run August 18 between 6 AM and Noon
- 5 ads ran through August 23, starting on August 19, between 6 AM and noon
- 20 ads ran through August 23, starting on August 19, between 6 AM and 7 PM

In addition, we periodically sponsored WLS's coverage of the events. For example, at the top of the hour, the radio station announced that it was covering the convention, acknowledging the Catholic League as a sponsor. We hope to draw new members

as a result.

The text of the ad is the same as the text that ran during the RNC convention on WLS 890 AM.

WHY DID WALZ, BIDEN, SANDERS AND De BLASIO HONEYMOON IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES?

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In the 1930s, if a Republican politician chose to go to Hitler's Germany for his honeymoon, he would have been hounded from office. But in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s three Democrats and one independent (with close ties to the Democrats) chose to go to communist countries for their honeymoon. One of them is Tim Walz, the newly minted Democratic vice presidential candidate. We need to know why.

In 1989, Walz moved to Communist China to teach at a high school for a year. He later said it was "one of the best things I've ever done." Five years later he got married and chose to honeymoon there. He has been to China at least 30 times.

When Walz was chosen to join Vice President Kamala Harris on the presidential ticket, the Chinese state media noted his frequent trips there and praised him for "fostering cultural exchanges."

Under Mao Zedong, who ruled China from 1949 to 1976, 77 million people were killed, far outdoing the body count under Hitler and Stalin. While Walz has criticized human rights abuses in China in recent years, he has never explained why he would honeymoon in a nation with a history of mass murder. Nor has he explained why he is reticent about condemning Communist China for threatening the security of Taiwan.

Walz has much in common with Joe Biden. In 1977, then-Senator Biden spent his honeymoon with his second wife, Jill, in a Communist-run country, Hungary. But he did more than celebrate his marriage. According to Daily News Hungary, he met with Communist officials and “had some secret meetings during his stay.”

It was a weird place to go to at the time. In 1956, Hungarian young people staged a revolt protesting Soviet domination. Tens of thousands took to the streets for six days before they were crushed by the communists. Mass arrests and executions followed and some 200,000 Hungarians fled to Austria and Yugoslavia before the borders were closed.

Why would Biden choose to honeymoon behind the Iron Curtain? That’s a long way from Rehoboth Beach.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who frequently caucuses with the Democrats, spent his honeymoon in the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The communists killed 66 million, mostly under Stalin.

Like Walz, Sanders has never explained why he would honeymoon in such a blood-stained country. He did so in 1988. While he was there he condemned U.S. foreign policy, but said nothing about egregious human rights abuses in the USSR.

In 1972, Sanders said that U.S. policy in Vietnam was “almost as bad as what Hitler did.” In 1985, he had a friendly sit-down with Daniel Ortega, the communist dictator of Nicaragua. In 1989, he visited Castro’s Cuba, praising the communists for

their healthcare system, schools and housing, but saying nothing about the political prisoners being held. Today he refuses to condemn the oppressive Marxist regime of Maduro in Venezuela.

In 1994, former New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio went on his honeymoon to Cuba. What he did was illegal, but that didn't matter. He never told his children about this—they found out after he admitted it on TV; they were told their parents honeymooned in Canada.

In 1988, de Blasio went to Nicaragua to support the communist Sandinista regime. In 1990, he said he supported “democratic socialism” (which is an oxymoron), but when he was asked about this by the New York Times in 2013, he denied it. When the reporter said he has the evidence, de Blasio said, “It doesn't matter.”

It does matter to the American people that left-wing political leaders cozy up to communist totalitarian dictators. Biden has already been erased by Harris, De Blasio is out of office and Sanders is going nowhere, but for Walz, that is a different story. He needs to come clean. It is one thing to teach in Communist China, quite another to celebrate a wedding there. And why all the back and forth trips?

VANCE'S CATHOLICISM UNDER FIRE

This is the article that appeared in the September 2024 edition of Catalyst, our monthly journal. The date that prints out reflects the day that it was uploaded to our website. For a more accurate date of when the article was first published, check out the news release, [here](#).

It didn't take long. J.D. Vance, Donald Trump's pick to be his vice president, is a convert to Catholicism, and already that is a source of anger among the haters. He is being dubbed an "integralist" and a "Christian nationalist." Our interest has less to do with Vance than it does the nature of attacks on Catholics of a traditional stripe.

Anthea Butler teaches at the University of Pennsylvania and is a regular guest on MSNBC. The religion professor contends that God is "a white racist." She claims Vance is "aligned with what is called Catholic integralism, the belief that Christians can use a 'soft power' approach to exert influence over society." She cites his opposition to killing babies in the womb as one such example of what she means.

Jack Jenkins is the national reporter for the Religion News Service. He also believes Vance is guilty of Catholic "integralism." He is unhappy with Vance for not answering questions about "his own thoughts regarding Catholic integralism."

What is Catholic integralism? That was the title of an article by Steven P. Millies in 2019. It's an old idea, he says, one that seeks "the integration of religious authority and political power."

So who are these "integralists" who want a theocracy? To prove his point he says "Pope Francis remains a head of state today." He is also upset with Catholic writer Sohrab Ahmari for saying we need to "fight the culture war with the aim of defeating the enemy." That makes him an "integralist."

Kevin Augustyn authored an article on this subject for Discourse magazine that is even better. "This ideology is growing, vibrant and influential, but it is inherently illiberal and dangerous to American democracy." He says the believers maintain that it is wrong to separate church and state. So who are they? He does not say. He quotes none of

them.

He also claims that “some integralists” are committed to a “totalitarian vision that justifies such things as the disenfranchisement of women, Jews, atheists and indeed all non-Catholics; the persecution of heretics and sexual minorities; the kidnapping of secretly baptized children; and the abolition of religious toleration even for other Christians.”

These “integralists” sound like maniacs. So who are they? He does not say. He quotes none of them.

Justin Dyer is executive director of the Civitas Institute and a professor of government at the University of Texas at Austin. He wrote a piece for the *Washington Post* last year on “the logic of integralism” that is precious.

He says Catholic integralists believe in lots of weird things. “Nothing is truly private” and “there is no private life or private conscience.” So who are they? He does not say. He quotes none of them.

These writers would have us believe that this is the way Vance thinks. But no one seems to be able to come up with anything he has said that sustains this charge. In fact, what Vance has said is true and admirable.

“My views on public policy and what the optimal state should look like are pretty aligned with Catholic social teaching. That was one of the things that drew me to the Catholic Church. I saw a real overlap between what I would like to see and what the Catholic Church would like to see.”

If that makes him an “integralist,” we need more of them. We hasten to add that some of the books Bill Donohue has authored were specifically written to give sustenance to what Vance believes. Guess that makes Donohue an “integralist” as well, though he didn’t know it until now.

Christian nationalism is the big bogeyman for Christian bashers. So we knew someone would charge Vance as being a devotee. The first to do so is a U.S. Senator, Chris Murphy from Connecticut. He says Vance was picked “to help shape this transition away from democratic norms, this transition to a white, patriarchal, Christian-dominated nation.”

So what did Vance say to merit this accusation? He does not say. He quotes nothing he ever said.

So who is Sen. Murphy? He grew up in a congregational church and now admits he rarely goes to church. He blames his children and his schedule. He says he is “not a regular churchgoer these days, in part because of kids. In part because of a busy schedule.”

His “busy schedule” has earned him an “F” lifetime rating on life issues from Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. His lust for abortion extends to infanticide: he has consistently voted against efforts to protect children who are born alive after failed abortions. Planned Parenthood consistently gives him a rating of 100%. He also earned a 100% rating from the Human Rights Campaign, the big anti-science and anti-women LGBT group.

As we said at the beginning, these attacks are not merely aimed at Vance—they are aimed at all traditional Catholics. These haters want to demonize us and drive us out of the public square. But they are in over their heads—our side is growing and getting bolder. We will make sure of that.