



LOCKWOOD R.I.P.

Robert P. Lockwood passed away March 4. He was one of the most prolific Catholic journalists of our time, writing columns and books for *Our Sunday Visitor* for decades. He was also the president of *Our Sunday Visitor Publishing*, a company he brought to a new level of excellence. His last post was as director of communications for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Bob served with distinction as a member of the Catholic League's board of directors for many years. He later served as the league's director of research and was then named to the league's board of advisors.

Bill Donohue has many fond memories of Bob. "There was nothing Bob wouldn't do for the Catholic Church, or the Catholic League. He never turned down an assignment and worked diligently on every project he undertook." Indeed, some of his work can be found on the Catholic League's website.

Lockwood was a native New Yorker who moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana to take command of *Our Sunday Visitor*. He moved back to Fort Wayne after his job in Pittsburgh.

Donohue recalls him as "an astute writer, editor, and publisher. He was fun to work with, and he loved a new challenge. Gregarious and good humored, he was the kind of person every organization would love to have on staff. He never put his own interests above the best interests of the Catholic League."

God bless Bob Lockwood. He left us too soon; he was 69.

BIGOTRY IN THE CONGRESS; RELIGION IS THE NEW TARGET

Religious bigotry has replaced racial bigotry among congressmen. Both the House and the Senate have shown a spike in religious bigotry, the targets being mostly Catholics and Jews.

A few months ago, two U.S. senators, Kamala Harris and Mazie Hirono, showed their anti-Catholic colors by attacking a Catholic nominee for a job on the federal bench because of his membership in the Knights of Columbus.

Brian Buescher, who was nominated by President Trump to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska, was badgered by these Democrats for belonging to an "all male society," one that just happens to oppose abortion and gay marriage. It is undeniable that Buescher was attacked because he belongs to a Catholic group.

In January, Bill Donohue contacted the House Ethics Committee asking for sanctions against Rep. Ilhan Omar after she lied about students from Covington Catholic High School. She accused them of making fun of rape—"it's not rape if you enjoy it"—and for racism (they were accused of taunting five black men). None of this was true, which is why she deleted the remarks from her

website. She never apologized, which is what we would expect.

Donohue wrote to Ethics Committee chairman Rep. Ted Deutch and Ranking Member Kenny Marchant asking them to invoke Rule XXIII, Section 1, of the Code of Official Conduct which addresses civility.

More recently, Omar went on a rampage against Jews, accusing them of buying votes and putting the interests of Israel ahead of the U.S. She rolled out the familiar anti-Semitic tropes to the applause of extremists in the Democratic Party.

When a resolution was introduced in the House calling for a statement condemning anti-Semitism, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House Speaker, caved in to Omar and her ilk by diluting the resolution; it condemned virtually every expression of bigotry. We labeled it a "sham."

This led Rabbi Aryeh Spero of the National Conference of Jewish Affairs, who is a good friend of Donohue's, to stage a sit-in at Pelosi's congressional office. We supported it and some Catholic League members participated in it.

Religious bigotry is no more acceptable than racial bigotry. Regrettably, we now have to fight to get this voice heard. The good news is we have some key allies to work with.

Bill Donohue on Clergy Abuse; *Washington Post*, March 10

"Many abusing priests are dead or out of ministry. Moreover, the bishops have made great progress since U.S. bishops adopted reforms in 2002."

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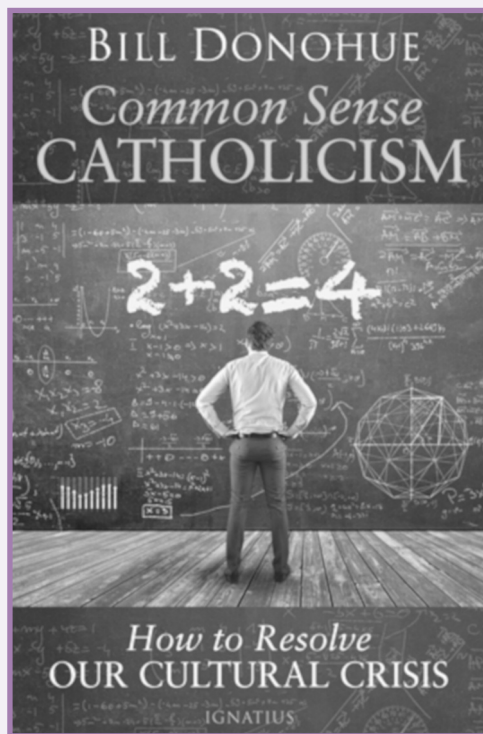
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Books We Recommend



*Available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Ignatius Press and other outlets.
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"Bill Donohue, in addition to his crusading work defending religious rights as head of the Catholic League, is a brilliant social scientist. Here his gifts are on full display. In this important book he reveals how we can all apply the common sense wisdom of Catholicism to our daily lives and remedy our current cultural crisis."

—Raymond Arroyo, *New York Times* Best-Selling Author, Fox News Contributor, EWTN's "The World Over" Host

"In this rousing defense of common sense and the Catholic intellectual tradition, celebrated social scientist William Donohue exposes the perils of a society in thrall to ideologically driven academics and points the way back to sanity and human flourishing."

—Thomas D. Williams, Ph.D., Theologian, Best-Selling Author, Breitbart News Rome Bureau Chief

"This well-reasoned and accessible study shows that the woes plaguing our society can be cured only by returning to the common sense reading of human nature embodied in the Catholic social tradition and the worldview of the American founders."

—Russell Shaw, Author, *American Church* and *Catholics in America*

"Bill Donohue identifies the causes and the outcomes of the growth in our society of preposterous systems of thought that dehumanize us. The remedy he proposes for societal and personal flourishing is a renewed embrace of the social teaching of the Catholic faith and the natural law philosophy that underlies that teaching."

—Fr. Gerald Murray, Pastor, Holy Family Church, New York; Member of EWTN's Papal Posse

WHY I WROTE *COMMON SENSE CATHOLICISM*

When I was in the Air Force, in the late 1960s, I became interested in politics. It was a turbulent time, and this was certainly true of California, where I was stationed. My first political leanings, some may be surprised to learn, were liberal-left. That didn't last long.

When I was discharged, I attended New York University. I quickly became more skeptical of liberalism, seeing in it a utopian vision that didn't square with reality. I was also dismayed at the hypocrisy and double standards that were evident among the left-wing students and professors whom I encountered.

It was my roots, more blue collar than white, that allowed me to size up the dreamers and the frauds on the Left. Such an upbringing imports a heady dose of common sense.

My grandfather (a retired New York City policeman) and my grandmother, both of whom were born in Ireland, played a major role in raising me. My mother was a nurse who worked nights, so I didn't see much of her until the weekend. My father abandoned my sister and me when we were very young. It was my mother and grandparents who anchored me in Catholicism and common sense, setting the stage for my transition to conservatism.

I spent 20 years in education before becoming president of the Catholic League, four of them in a Catholic elementary school in Spanish Harlem, and sixteen as a professor of sociology and political science at a Catholic college in Pittsburgh (I also did a year at The Heritage Foundation near the end of my college teaching years).

In my new book, I write, "from my years spent as a college professor, I can testify that some of the stupidest people I have ever met teach college." I define stupidity

as "a lack of common sense, as in sound judgment." I also write that "it is entirely possible to be well educated yet not possess common sense. This is especially true of intellectuals—they are more likely to lack common sense."

What is it that makes many intellectuals stupid (I hasten to add I am not indicting all of them)? Above all, it is their rejection of nature, and nature's God. And because they get that wrong, they get it all wrong.

The Founders understood human nature, and that is why, despite obvious flaws, America has enjoyed unparalleled freedom and prosperity. That is now imperiled, mostly because of the deep thinkers who reject nature and nature's God. Their stupid ideas are the reigning ideas in education and in our cultural institutions. They have also found their way into law and public policy.

No institution in society better understands human nature than the Catholic Church. Its teachings are a repository of wisdom. The Church is not at war with nature, or nature's God; on the contrary, it is at home with them.

The contrast between the norms and values of the dominant culture, and those that inhere in Catholicism, shine brightly. This is brought to light when we consider the goals of the French Revolution, namely, freedom, equality, and fraternity. These were, and still are, noble ends, but they were completely obliterated by the intellectuals and the architects of the French Revolution, and they are now imperiled by the contemporary wizards of our day.

The dreamers understand liberty as license; the Church knows better. The blue-sky thinkers envision a world where male-female differences, and the inequalities that mark the economic classes,

will be eliminated; the Church knows better. The bookworms do not seek fraternity in tradition and religion—they hate both; the Church knows better.

We live in strange times.

There was a time, not too long ago, when it was illegal to burn the American flag on a courthouse lawn, but it was legal to erect a Nativity scene in the same spot. Now the reverse is true.

When TV bloomed in the 1950s, we never saw the bedroom of Ralph and Alice in "The Honeymooners." Now there is nothing we don't see.

It seems like only yesterday when men who thought they were women, and vice versa, were housed in the asylum. Now they are housed in the university.

Up until just recently, we rewarded those who worked hard. Now college students are told that working hard is a microaggression, a sign of patriarchy that must be eradicated.

Respecting Western civilization was the norm for most of my life. Now the professors want to tear it down.

From the beginning of Hollywood movies, up until at least the 1970s, priests and nuns were portrayed positively. They have since been trashed.

The bottom line is this: Freedom, equality, and fraternity have been distorted by the brainy ones who think they know better. They don't.

The deep thinkers believe human nature and the Almighty are a fiction, and as a result they have created a social and cultural mess. Their own lives, and the ideas they entertain, are a colossal train wreck.

Common Sense Catholicism is the only cure for the stupidity that these geniuses have bequeathed. Hope you enjoy the book.

MICHIGAN AG'S ANTI-CATHOLIC BIAS

Dana Nessel, Michigan's new Attorney General, is not off to a good start with Catholics. In February, she held a press conference where she insulted Catholics. Her topic was a state investigation into allegations of Catholic clergy sexual abuse. She threw a sucker punch at Catholics by telling residents to "ask to see their badge and not their rosary" when contacted by investigators.

Why hasn't Nessel launched an investigation of every institution, religious and secular, where adults intermingle with minors on a regular basis? Why did she cherry pick Catholic ones?

Would she allow the authorities to contact residents seeking information about street crime committed by African Americans? Wouldn't that be racial profiling? And would she make a racial slur at a press conference on this subject?

By singling out Catholic institutions, Nessel is engaging in religious profiling. The only entity in the state, besides Catholic ones, that she is pursuing over allegations of sexual

abuse is Michigan State University, home of the infamous Larry Nassar crimes and the cover up by university officials.

Is Nessel aware of the fact that the sexual abuse of minors is rampant in Michigan? In 2017, Michigan ranked 6th in the number of reported cases of human trafficking according to CARE House. In 2016, *USA Today* published a major story on how the 50 states deal with the sexual abuse of minors in the public schools. Michigan received an "F."

The newspaper noted the failings by reporting that "Weak screening, left to local school districts" was commonplace. "No information online about teacher disciplinary actions" was noted. Perhaps worst of all was the finding that "Some teachers' misconduct [was] not shared with other states." So Michigan just "passed the trash," as it is known in the public school industry.

Michigan gets a failing grade for handling sexual abuse cases in the public schools and Nessel gives them a pass! It is almost too hard to

believe. It proves that she is not interested in combating sexual abuse, for if she were she wouldn't let public schools off the hook.

Further proof that Nessel discriminates against Catholics can be shown by accessing her website. Under "Initiatives" she lists five issues, the first of which is "Catholic Church Clergy Abuse." She even has a form where the public can submit information about alleged offenses. There is a similar form that applies to Michigan State University, but there is no form for anyone else.

The Catholic Church does not own this problem. More important, it has made such great strides in recent decades that it is almost non-existent in this country today. The same is not true of other institutions.

To acquaint Nessel with the scope of the problem, we have compiled a tally of recent cases. Abusers include teachers, administrators, doctors, lawyers, family members, online predators, and law enforcement personnel. We have even included a list of recidivists, or repeat offenders.

MICHIGAN OFFICIALS ASKED TO PROBE THE SCHOOLS

As we pointed out recently, perverts and rapists are preying on public school students in Michigan today, yet neither Governor Gretchen Whitmer nor Attorney General Dana Nessel are asking for an investigation of the schools. That's because they are too busy hounding the Catholic Church.

Nessel recently started an investigation of clergy sexual abuse, but not of ministers, rabbis, or imams—only Catholic priests—and Whitmer is asking state legislators for a \$2 million supplemental allocation to pay for the Catholic probe.

Why only Catholic priests? Was there some breaking news that priests are on a rampage molesting students? No. It is due to one thing: the Pennsylvania grand jury report released last year that detailed wholly unchallenged and unsubstantiated charges against priests, most of whom were dead or out of ministry.

Why was the Pennsylvania grand

jury report launched? Not because of some pending crisis initiated by law enforcement or reporters. It began because one bishop turned in one high school faculty member who was accused of an offense in the 1990s.

Now ask yourself this question: If a school superintendent turned in a teacher for an old offense, would Pennsylvania's Attorney General launch an investigation of every public school in the state dating back to when Truman was president?

In any event, what does this have to do with Michigan? Nessel argues that if there were cases of abuse in Pennsylvania—dating back to World War II—then surely there must be cases in Michigan. Surely there are. Ditto for the public schools. So why aren't lawmakers being asked to investigate them?

Does Michigan have a problem with public school students being sexually abused? Clearly it does. How do we know? Because in the

50-state analysis of this issue conducted by *USA Today*, published in 2016, Michigan was rated among the worst in the nation: It received a grade of "F." Also, in 2017, CARE House ranked Michigan 6th in the nation in the number of cases of human trafficking.

Accordingly, Bill Donohue has written to Governor Whitmer and the entire state legislature asking for an investigation of sexual abuse in the public schools. If they decide to cherry pick the Catholic Church, they would be guilty of religious profiling. Moreover, the courts may see them as engaging in religious discrimination. Surely many Catholics, and non-Catholics, would.

The Catholic League takes this issue seriously. That is why we filed an amicus brief defending the rights of priests in Pennsylvania last year. We won, 6-1, in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court last December.

THE GULLIBLE GEORGE WILL

Opinion writers who opine about matters they are not well grounded in are a problem. George Will is such a man. A devout atheist, he takes the Catholic Church to task for offenses, real and contrived, relying heavily on the work of Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, the man behind the discredited Pennsylvania grand jury report on the Church.

If Will took the time to read the grand jury report, which Bill Donohue did, and if he took the time to read the John Jay reports on the issue of clergy abuse, which Donohue did, he would not appear so gullible.

Donohue debunked the grand jury report when it was released. One of the myths he addressed is taken up by Will. He begins his article by saying, "'Horseplay,' a term to denote child-rape, is, says Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, part of a sinister glossary of euphemisms by which the Catholic Church's bureaucracy obfuscates the church's 'pattern of abuse' and conspiracy of silence."

Will took Shapiro's bait. First of all, most of the alleged victims

were neither children nor were they raped: inappropriate touching of adolescents—which is indefensible—was the typical offense. So stop the hyperbole, Mr. Will.

Also, the word "horseplay" was not part of the lexicon of Church officials: it appears once in over 1300 pages of the report, and it was used to describe the behavior of a seminarian. Once again, Will fell for Shapiro's ploy.

Don't take Donohue's word for it—read what Peter Steinfels said about Shapiro's grand jury report; he is a former religion reporter for the *New York Times*.

After reading the report, fact checking the accusations, and speaking to those familiar with the report, including people in Shapiro's office, Steinfels concluded that Shapiro's most serious and sweeping indictments of the Church are "grossly misleading, irresponsible, inaccurate, and unjust."

Don't take Steinfels' word for it—consider what happened in December. That's when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled 6-1 in favor of eleven accused

priests who claimed that releasing their names to the public would violate their reputational rights as guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Constitution. The Catholic League filed an amicus brief in this case.

The court ruled that the report contained "false, misleading, incorrect and unsupported accusations."

Will needs to rewrite his article, rebutting what Donohue said, what Steinfels wrote, and what the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled.

He should know better than to cite a grand jury report as the basis of his article. The priests named in the grand jury report were never afforded the right to challenge the accusations. That is because such reports are investigative, not evidentiary.

In 2015, after Will accused Pope Francis of standing against "modernity, rationality, science, and ultimately...open societies," Donohue wrote the following about him: "He is an educated man, but his grasp of Catholicism is on a par with that of Bill Maher's." Looks like nothing has changed.

THIESSEN'S MISTAKE

The following letter to the editor by Bill Donohue was published March 10 in the Washington Post:

Marc A. Thiessen's call for Catholics to stop making donations to the bishops' Lenten appeals was badly flawed ["Boycott the bishops," op-ed, March 6]. Once Pope Francis asked the bishops to pitch matters such as the case of former cardinal Theodore McCarrick to Rome, it made any vote on this issue moot. It was unfair to suggest that Cardinal Gerhard Müller, former prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, acted irresponsibly by deciding not to answer every victim's letter: Those at the local level are best suited for this job.

Mr. Thiessen said "we are still

learning new information from grand juries" about sexual abuse. He failed to note that what we are learning includes unsubstantiated cases from the past century. Many abusing priests are dead or out of the ministry. Moreover, the bishops have made great progress since U.S. bishops adopted reforms in 2002. For Mr. Thiessen not to acknowledge this verity seriously undermined his plea to boycott the bishops.

The dust-up between Donohue and Thiessen was picked up by Catholic News Service. Both men stuck to their guns.

Thiessen said "the only way to get through to them [the bish-

ops] is to withhold our money." If the poor get hurt, he said, "there are other sources of funds they can tap into."

Donohue said Thiessen "gives the reader no idea that the crisis in this country has been licked." Furthermore, he said, "The damage was done to the church during the sexual revolution. The way his article is written...suggests that we are stuck in a time warp."

In closing, Donohue noted that "A lot of the priests who were delinquent...they're either dead or out of ministry....If we give off the idea that we have not made any progress, that is simply wrong."

ASSESSING GAY PRIESTS' ROLE IN THE SCANDAL

Prior to the February Vatican summit on clergy sexual abuse, Vatican observer Edwin Pentin wrote that it was "not clear" whether "the role of homosexuality in the abuse crisis" would be addressed. It wasn't. And one thing is for sure: every effort to downplay the role of gays is being made.

A front-page story in the February 18 edition of the *New York Times* is typical of the way most of the media are covering this subject. "Studies repeatedly find there to be no connection between being gay and abusing children. Yet prominent bishops have singled out gay priests as the root of the problem, and right-wing media organizations attack what they have called the church's 'homosexual subculture,' 'lavender mafia,' or 'gay cabal.'"

Furthermore, Cardinal Blase Cupich, who was at the summit, says that while most of the problem is a result of "male on male" sex abuse, "homosexuality itself is not a cause." He says it can be explained as a matter of "opportunity and also a matter of poor training on the part of the people."

All of these statements can be challenged. First of all, not all studies have shown that there is no link between homosexuals and the sexual abuse of minors.

A good summary of the literature that shows the central role of homosexual priests in the abuse scandal can be found in an article by Brian W. Clowes and David L. Sonnier. The most recent research that challenges the conventional wisdom on this subject is the study by D. Paul Sullins, a sociologist who teaches at Catholic University of America. He found that the link between homosexual priests and sexual abuse was strong.

Let it be said emphatically that it is morally wrong to blame all gay priests or to bully someone who is gay, be he a priest or a plumber. It is also wrong to call on all gay priests to resign: such a

sweeping recommendation is patently unfair to those gay priests who have never violated anyone.

However, it is not helpful to the cause of eradicating the problem of sexual abuse in the priesthood to dismiss a conversation about the obvious. We can begin by talking honestly about who the victims are.

Notice that the *New York Times* says there is no connection between homosexuality and abusing "children." This is a common way of framing the issue, and it is a deceitful one. Most of the victims were adolescents, not children. In other words, the problem is not pedophilia.

We know from one report after another, in both this country and abroad, that approximately 80 percent of the victims are both male *and* postpubescent. Ergo, the issue is homosexuality. This does not mean that homosexuality, per se, *causes* someone to be a predator (Cupich is technically right about that), but it does say that homosexuals are disproportionately represented in the sexual abuse of minors. We cannot ignore this reality.

The American Pediatric Association says that puberty begins at age 10 for boys. A study of more than 4,000 boys examined by a doctor, nationwide, also put the figure at age 10. The John Jay report on priestly sexual abuse found that less than 5 percent of the victims were prepubescent, meaning that pedophilia is not the problem.

The John Jay researchers try to protect homosexuals by saying that not all the men who had sex with adolescent males consider themselves to be homosexuals. But self-identification is not dispositive. If the gay priests thought they were giraffes, would the scholars conclude that the problem is bestiality?

It was the John Jay researchers who first floated the "opportunity"

thesis that Cardinal Cupich picked up on. This idea is flawed. Predator priests hit on boys not because they were denied access to girls, but because they preferred males. More important, there is something patently unfair, as well as inaccurate, about this line of thinking.

It suggests that many priests are inclined to have sex with minors—and will choose the sex which offers them the greatest opportunity. There is no evidence to support this unjust indictment. Also, girl altar servers date back to 1983, after Canon law was changed. They became even more common in 1994 when Pope John Paul II ruled that girls can be altar servers.

If the "opportunity" thesis had any truth to it, we should have seen, over the past few decades, a spike in altar girls being sexually abused by priests, but this has not happened. Indeed, 80 percent of the victims are still male and postpubescent.

The notion that "poor training" is responsible for the scandal raises the obvious question: If all seminarians, straight and gay, were trained the same way (they were not segregated), then why didn't the "poor training" that the heterosexuals experienced lead them to sexually abuse minors?

Finally, every honest observer who has examined this subject knows there is a homosexual subculture in the Church. Two months ago, Pope Francis said "homosexuality is fashionable and that mentality, in some way, also influences the life of the church." Previously, he spoke about the "gay lobby" in the Church. Moreover, a 2016 decree on training for priests spoke about the "gay culture." Also, it was Father Andrew Greeley who used the term "lavender mafia."

Pope Francis is not a "right-winger," and neither was Greeley.

We need to stop, once and for all, playing politics with this issue and face up to some tough realities.

CLERICALISM DOES NOT CAUSE SEXUAL ABUSE

It is popular in left-wing circles to adopt the Marxist vision of society, one which interprets social interaction purely on the basis of power. According to this perspective, society consists of power brokers and their subjects, and not much more. This is a very narrow lens, a myopic condition that blinds them to reality.

Applied to the clergy sexual abuse scandal, those on the Left, such as the *National Catholic Reporter* and Faith in Public Life, blame clericalism, or elitism, as the cause of the scandal.

An editorial in the February 20 *National Catholic Reporter* said clergy sexual abuse has "its roots deep in a clerical culture that valued secrecy, privilege and power over the welfare of child victims and their families."

Similarly, John Gehring of Faith in Public Life (who is funded by atheist billionaire George Soros) says that "The root cause of this existential crisis for the church is clericalism, an insulated

patriarchal culture where priests and bishops are viewed as a privileged class set apart."

Father Hans Zollner, a Jesuit who helped to organize the bishops' summit on sexual abuse, also believes that "abuse of power" is the cause of the scandal.

Clericalism, of course, has never provoked a single priest to abuse anyone. That is a function of sexual recklessness, a behavior more commonly exercised by homosexual priests than their heterosexual counterparts. In short, irresponsible decisions account for sexual molestation, not a mantle of power.

Think of it this way. If elitism caused sexual abuse, then those who occupy positions of power in the National Education Association (NEA) should be more likely to abuse minors than the teachers who occupy a subordinate position. But it is not the NEA executives, anymore than it is the bishops, who are sexually acting out, it is the teachers and the priests

who serve under them.

Does this mean that clericalism plays no role in the scandal? No. There are two parties to this problem: the enabling bishops and the molesting priests.

Some of the former failed to act responsibly because they had a "bishop knows best" mentality, which is a form of clericalism. But that had nothing to do with the behavior of the abusers. Others listened to the therapists, many of whom were not supportive of the Church's teachings on sexuality, and who therefore contributed to the problem. Their role in the scandal is still underreported and underrated.

The preoccupation with clericalism on the part of so-called progressive Catholics has more to do with their myopia, and their desire to divert attention away from homosexuality, than with a pursuit of the truth. No one should fall for their game.

VACUOUS REPORT ON ABUSE ISSUED

It would be hard to find a more vacuous document on the subject of clergy sexual abuse than the one released by the Leadership Roundtable; it was based on a summit held prior to the February Vatican meeting on this subject.

The most serious flaw in the report was the refusal to address the reasons why priestly sexual abuse occurs.

It was encouraging to read on p. 4 a section that addresses the "Twin Crises of Abuse and Leadership Failures." Just as encouraging was a section on p. 5 that discusses the "Root Causes" of these problems.

Regrettably, *absolutely nothing in the report even attempts to examine the root causes of sexual abuse*; only leadership failures are noted.

Yet on p. 4 it admits that "there are twin crises that need twin solutions." True. The scandal involves two parties: the enabling bishop

and the molesting priest. Why didn't anyone associated with this report bother to question why only the former is discussed?

Three cardinals, Blase Cupich of Chicago, Joseph Tobin of Newark, and Sean O'Malley of Boston, participated in the summit. Surely someone, if not them, should have seen the gaping hole in this report.

The report follows the establishment-talking point, adopted by Rome, that puts the entire blame on the bishops, thus avoiding a discussion of the priest who acted out. This explains why clericalism is mentioned twelve times; there is no mention of gays or homosexuality.

Whatever role clericalism may have played with some bishops, it is of no explanatory value accounting for why a priest molested a postpubescent male. And since this describes 80 percent of the cases, why was there no discussion of the role played by homosexual priests?

Just as was true in the Vatican summit, there is a reluctance to come to grips with the overwhelming role played by homosexual priests in the sexual abuse scandal.

What do those associated with this report think Pope Francis meant when he took up the issue of a "gay lobby" in the Church?

What do they think Father Donald Cozzens meant when he said the priesthood risks becoming a "gay profession"?

What do they think Father Richard McBrien meant when he spoke about the "gay culture" in the Church?

What do they think Father Andrew Greeley meant when he wrote about the "Lavender Mafia" in the Church?

None of these men are known as die-hard conservatives. If they were honest enough to discuss the obvious, why aren't those at the Leadership Roundtable?

THE RIGHT TONIC: *COMMON SENSE CATHOLICISM*

Russell Shaw

Bill Donohue, *Common Sense Catholicism: How to Resolve Our Cultural Crisis* (Ignatius Press)

Imagine that dueling has been legalized in America. Imagine that two men decide to settle their differences by fighting a duel. What then? Bill Donohue points to some of the questions that then might very well be raised: "What if an arena agrees to host the event? What if a pay-for-view cable channel agrees to air the contest live? What if corporate advertisers jump at the chance to make money? What if everyone agrees that the winner gets to keep a hefty slice of the proceeds? What if a portion of the proceeds goes to fighting breast cancer?"

The answer, Donohue suggests, is all too obvious: "If the only value that matters is freedom of choice, then the duel is on."

Not to worry, Donohue isn't predicting the legalization of dueling, much less advocating it. This bit of fantasy is only meant to underline the craziness that surrounds the social acceptance of various aberrations already approved or currently being advocated, on the principle that the fundamental good to be preserved and promoted in the setting of social policy is the freedom to do as you please. (And dueling? The chances of dueling being legalized in America in the foreseeable future are of course somewhere between slight and nonexistent. Bear in mind, though, that the same thing was said not so long ago about same-sex marriage and, before that, about abortion. Like much else, social approval of bad policies and destructive practices occurs with breakneck speed these days.)

The little mind game about dueling is one of the small gems buried in Donohue's new book, *Common Sense Catholicism* (Ignatius Press). The volume is a well reasoned, vigorously argued, immensely timely, and intensely serious defense of the

wisdom embodied in the insights of the American founders and the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. Its practical relevance is clear from the subtitle: *How to Resolve Our Cultural Crisis*. If this won't do it, the reader comes away thinking, nothing short of some sort of social cataclysm will.

But what is the "common sense" that Donohue celebrates as the solution to our cultural ills? The dictionary defines it as "sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts." This is to say common sense is best understood as another name for the cardinal virtue of prudence as it is found in the Aristotelian-Thomistic catalogue of virtues.

Concerning prudence the eminent Thomist philosopher Joseph Pieper writes: "The meaning of the virtue of prudence...is primarily this: that not only the end of human action but also the means for its realization shall be in keeping with the truth of real things. This in turn necessitates that the egocentric 'interests' of man be silenced...so that reality itself may guide him to the proper means for realizing his goal." Prudence—common sense—understood this way is traditionally held to be first among the virtues, for without the well-balanced guidance of prudence, the other virtues are at risk of going awry, justice becoming rigorism, fortitude becoming rashness, and temperance becoming prudishness.

Bill Donohue has been fighting this particular good fight for many years as president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. *Common Sense Catholicism*, however, is not so much concerned to defend the Catholic Church against attacks as to tap the resources of the Catholic tradition as a service to the common good. Noting the alarming disarray of contemporary American culture, he states his case at the start:

"It wasn't always this way, and it

doesn't have to be this way. Getting back on track, however, requires that we figure out what happened and why, and then apply the right remedies. To understand what ails us, we need to put aside the notion that our problems are fundamentally political and economic. They are not. American society is in trouble largely because our social and cultural house is broken....We have adopted policies, norms, and values that are at odds with some very fundamental truths governing human nature....The collapse of common sense is driving our derailment."

The text that follows is divided into three large sections under the familiar catchwords of the French Revolution: liberty, equality, and fraternity. There is deliberate irony in this of course, inasmuch as the vision of the French *philosophes* who provided intellectual underpinning for that historic outburst was grievously flawed, much like the rationalizing of today's secular "deep thinkers" whom Donohue skewers mercilessly in his book but whose bad ideas so often shape our laws and policies.

Consider the prevailing confusion about that fundamental value, liberty. For many people today, liberty means freedom to do as you please. But it is the absolutizing of freedom of that sort which lies at the heart of so many of our largest social problems. Immature individuals tend naturally to suppose that this is the highest level of freedom; adolescents straining to shake off the requirements imposed by authority—parents, teachers, others in a position to tell them what to do—are seeking freedom to do as they please. But a more mature view of the matter suggests that merely doing as you please is neither the last word on liberty nor an unqualified good. To be sure, some degree of this sort of freedom is essential to moral responsibility. But for anyone living in social relationships with others, unconditional

freedom to do as you please is impossible—and would be undesirable even if somehow possible.

Yet the assertion of a right to unconditional freedom of this kind now functions as a touchstone in setting social policy relating to questions of personal behavior. And not only adolescents think this way. For example, in a notorious opinion in 1992 affirming an unconditional right of unfettered access to abortion (*Planned Parenthood v. Casey*), three justices of the Supreme Court—Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor, and David Souter—delivered themselves of this remarkable sentiment: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

Pause and let that sink in. Is the universe really whatever and however I choose to define it? Try telling that to someone—which is to say, everyone—who now and then knocks his or her head up against a hard, external something called reality. Yet just such balderdash lies at the very "heart of liberty" as it is understood by those who share the world view championed by Justices Kennedy, O'Connor, and Souter. One is reminded of something George Orwell, quoted by Donohue, once said: "One has to belong to the intelligentsia to believe things like that: no ordinary man could be such a fool." (It should come as no surprise that Justice Kennedy went on to write the Supreme Court's majority opinion declaring a constitutional right to same-sex marriage.)

Absurd as it is, this view of liberty would nevertheless be merely amusing were it not for its profoundly destructive practical consequences. Not long ago I came across the following posted outside the office door of some people I know: "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." The source was identified as that enormously popular rock singer of the 1960s Janis Joplin, and an internet search showed that the line occurs in a Joplin song about a woman who has hit rock bottom after los-

ing her boyfriend. While the song has a certain poignancy in depicting despair, what it says about freedom is self-pitying nihilism. This, you might say, is where doing as you please and only that tragically ends. (Janis Joplin—God rest her soul—died of a heroin overdose in 1970.)

By contrast, there is the clear, sweet music of common sense in something like this from Donohue: "Our cultural crisis is our own doing. It can be undone, but only if we commit ourselves to creating a society of ordered liberty. Otherwise, we will collapse under the weight of rights run amuck. Freedom has a lovely face, but when it is distorted, there is nothing uglier."

The disastrous social consequences of the embrace of individualistic doing-as-you-please may nowhere be more obvious in America today than in the calamitous decline of marriage and family life. Over the last seventy years, such causal factors as no-fault divorce, sexual libertinism, and legalized abortion have contributed

"Freedom has a lovely face, but when it is distorted, there is nothing uglier."

to an ongoing social disaster now clearly visible in such things as the fact that four out of ten American children are now born out of wedlock (seven out of ten among blacks, five out of ten among Hispanics). The marriage rate has fallen below the rate at the depth of the Great Depression (7.9 per thousand in 1932, 6.9 per thousand in 2015), cohabiting adults numbered about 18 million in 2016 (an increase of 4 million in just nine years), and the birth rate reported last year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fell to a new low of about 60 per 1,000 women ages 15-44, well below the replacement rate. The U.S. has now joined Japan and the countries of Western Europe in the demographic winter.

In the hands of secularists, moreover, the ideology of do-as-you-please freedom readily operates as an engine driving social control and

coercion. In this it mirrors the thinking of the spiritual father of the French Revolution, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who in his influential *Social Contract* offered this chilling bit of counsel: "In order that the social compact may not be an empty formula, it tacitly includes the undertaking, which alone gives force to the rest, that whoever refuses to obey the general will shall be compelled to do so by the whole body. This means nothing less than that he will be forced to be free." And so the door is flung open for secularist ideologues to persecute dissenters in ways ranging from the Soviet Gulags to the hounding of bakers and florists who refuse in conscience to provide their services to same-sex marriage celebrations.

Near the end of *Common Sense Catholicism*, Bill Donohue says this: "The social teachings of the Catholic Church are ordered toward the good of individuals and society. They work because they are in harmony with human nature, respecting the limitations of the human condition....If freedom, equality, and fraternity are to be realized, we can do no better than to heed what the Church instructs us to do." As a realist, nevertheless, he knows perfectly well that this is a large order indeed at a time when the Catholic Church, far from being heeded, is itself often a target of scorn and derision while unconcealed persecution may perhaps lie just around the corner. "If our cultural crisis is to be rectified," Donohue writes, "we will have to stop treating the public expression of religion as if it were a problem. We need to get over our public phobia of religion."

Here's hoping that this invigorating book carries this message to many readers soon. The time may be shorter than we care to think.

Russell Shaw is the author of more than twenty books, and has served as communications director for the U.S. Bishops and information director for the Knights of Columbus. He is also a member of the Catholic League's board of advisers.

CLOSURE FOR COVINGTON CATHOLIC

The innocent students at Covington Catholic High School have finally achieved closure. An investigative report, conducted by a private detective agency commissioned by the Diocese of Covington, has exonerated the students. Four investigators interviewed dozens of students and chaperones, and watched hundreds of hours of videos.

Just as we have been saying from the get-go, none of the students did anything wrong. They have been completely exonerated.

Indeed, Covington Bishop Roger J. Foys, who initially criticized the students before learning of new evidence from a second video, commended the boys, saying, "We should not have allowed ourselves to be bullied and pressured into making a statement prematurely."

It is worth recalling the invidious stereotypes that were quickly

advanced by critics of the students. Not all the unfair critics were anti-Catholic bigots—some were Catholics who got sucked into this mad rush to judgment; some of them were also guilty of harboring stereotypical types.

Here is a list of the most commonly cited false charges against the students:

- The fact that Covington was Catholic was cited by anti-Catholic bigots who argued that Catholic teaching was responsible for their hatred.

- White privilege was mentioned by self-hating whites as a causative factor that explained the students' racism.

- Charges that the boys screamed "build that wall" at the Indian instigator were made by knee-jerk bullies—the investigation proves that no student chanted this refrain.

- Pro-abortion fanatics blamed the March for Life for having the Covington Catholic students participate.

- Violence against Nick Sandmann, the student who stood his ground against the Indian agitator, was encouraged by peaceniks.

- MAGA (Make America Great Again) hats worn by some of the students were seized upon by Trump haters as proof of their bigotry and intolerance.

- White racists, who always see Indians as victims and whites as victimizers, called the students racists. For the same reason, they also refused to condemn the black thugs who made many bigoted remarks.

Sandmann has filed a lawsuit against many public persons who defamed him. We wish him well.

MORE RIGHTS FOR THE SEXUALLY CONFUSED?

The Equality Act has been around for decades, under various names, but it always fails. It will again this year, even if it clears the House; Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House Speaker, has said the legislation is a priority for the new Congress. If most Americans knew what it is really about, they would not support it.

This bill is not about equality—it is about trashing the free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the First Amendment. In effect, it would gut the constitutionally sound practice of awarding religious exemptions whenever there is a conflict between religious expression and the rights of homosexuals and the sexually confused (e.g., a man who thinks he is a woman, and vice versa).

The Equality Act has two major goals: (a) it would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to ban discrimination against homosexuals and the sexually confused, and (b) it would undermine the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993 by allowing gay rights to trump religious rights.

The predicate of this legislation is

that sexual orientation and gender identity are analogous to race and ethnicity, and are therefore deserving of the same protections afforded by the Civil Rights Act. However, that is based on a false assumption.

Sexual orientation speaks to behavior, and gender identity, in this context, refers to the sexually confused; by contrast, neither race nor ethnicity are a function of volition.

While no one can justify unequal treatment on the basis of ascribed characteristics such as race and ethnicity, justifying disparate treatment on the basis of achieved characteristics such as sexual orientation and gender identity can be justified in some instances.

For example, religiously devout parents may rightly object to having their children counseled by a woman who has acquired male genitalia. In normal times, this would not be controversial. Sadly, we live in abnormal times.

There is one very important aspect of the Equality Act that has been generally ignored, even by its critics: It would mean that homosexuals and the sexually confused would qualify for affirmative action.

Of course, the Equality Act says nothing of the kind. It is deceptive. In fact, it pulls the affirmative action trigger.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act explicitly prohibited preferential treatment on the basis of race. But administrative agencies and the courts did not interpret it that way, and instead saw it as a vehicle for affirmative action.

Hence, if African Americans qualify for preferential treatment because of the way the Civil Rights Act has been interpreted, then there is no stopping homosexuals and the sexually confused from qualifying were the Equality Act to pass.

This would mean that an employer who is a practicing Catholic, evangelical Christian, observant Jew, Muslim, or Mormon, would be expected to give preferential treatment to homosexuals and the sexually confused (save for small businessmen) when hiring.

We cannot allow the Pelosi rule—pass the bill and then we'll figure out what it means—to be operative. We already know what it would lead to, and that is not something most Americans would ever support.

DEMS REJECT UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

The Democratic Party Platform says, "Democrats have been fighting to secure universal health care for the American people for generations, and we are proud to be the party that passed Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act."

They walked away from that pledge, finding an exception to its universal coverage. If a baby survives an abortion, he is not entitled to health care. The majority of Democrats voted to permit infanti-

cide; only three voted for the bill that would protect the kids. President Trump denounced what the Democrats did.

Some of the Democrats who explained their vote were factually wrong. Sen. Mazie Hirono, for example, said it has always been a crime to kill a baby or to let him die after birth. Wrong. It is legal in New York State. Moreover, her vote makes it easier not to charge a doctor with malpractice for failing to attend to the needs of an infant

who survives an abortion.

Sen. Tina Smith said the bill sponsored by Sen. Ben Sasse would "compel physicians to provide unnecessary medical care." Wrong. Babies born alive often require medical care, and when it is not given, some die.

Every Democrat who is either running for president, or planning to run, voted to legalize selective infanticide. The Democrats no longer support universal health care.

CUOMO CAN'T DEFEND HIS ABORTION LAW

Exactly three weeks after New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed his abortion law, which allows non-physicians to perform abortions up until the baby is born—and provides no criminal penalties for infanticide—he met with President Donald Trump. According to the White House, Trump "raised his concerns to Governor Cuomo about Democrats' support of late-term abortions."

When Cuomo was asked about this, he blamed Trump for promoting "division."

In other words, Cuomo, who lit up the sky of New York in pink to celebrate killing children in and out of the womb, was totally unable to defend his barbaric law. If he had any guts, he would have told the president why it is important to praise his bloody law.

Perhaps most important, Cuomo is factually wrong to say that discussing his bill is divisive. There is nothing divisive about it. Every survey ever taken shows that the public has no stomach for late-term abortions, never mind infanticide. Even

those who identify as pro-choice cannot stomach Cuomo's law. So who's left? What a class group of people they must be.

This is the biggest mistake Cuomo has ever made. He will never get over it, and neither will those Democrats who agree with him. One does not have to be a conservative to figure this out: CNN's editor-at-large, Chris Cillizza, did in a post titled, "How Democrats are Handing Donald Trump a Viable Path to a Second Term."

KAMALA HARRIS OPINES ON LIFE AND DEATH

Recently, Sen. Kamala Harris was asked by National Public Radio (NPR) about her position on the death penalty. She is against it. When pushed further, she stuck to her guns.

NPR: "For any crime?"

Harris: "Correct."

NPR: "Not even, I don't know, treason?"

Harris: "Not in the United States, no."

NPR: "There's nothing that rises to that level?"

Harris: "Not in the United States, no."

Last year, Harris addressed the issue of aborting a child right up until birth. Here is what she tweeted on January 29, 2018:

"Tonight, the Senate is voting on whether to impose a 20-week abortion ban. Women have the constitutional right to make their own decisions about their reproductive health. It shouldn't be infringed upon. Get out your

bullhorns. Everyone should be shouting about this."

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 from being born are not entitled to have their lives spared.

Harris is a declared candidate for president of the United States.

Legacy Fund

Please remember us when you are writing or updating your will or trust. As you know, we receive no money from the Catholic Church or the government. We are dependent solely on our members. That is why your bequest is so important—it enables us to protect the religious and civil rights of our children and grandchildren.

CHURCH NEEDS MORE MASCULINE PRIESTS

The assault on masculinity has been going on inside and outside of the Catholic Church for decades, but it is now at a fever pitch. To cite one recent example, in his February 21 article, *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof blamed masculinity for the sexual abuse scandals in the Catholic and Southern Baptist Churches. The Southern Baptist Convention was recently investigated by reporters.

Kristof quotes Serene Jones, president of the Union Theological Society: "They [the two Churches] both have very masculine understandings of God, and have a structure where men are considered the closest representatives of God."

This remarkable comment deserves a serious rejoinder. But first a word on why the Southern Baptists were targeted and why Kristof interviewed Jones.

Why did the *Houston Chronicle* and the *San Antonio Express-News* investigate the Southern Baptist Convention? There are several other Baptist denominations, so why the Southern Baptists? Alternatively, why didn't they choose to probe the Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists,

or Presbyterians?

Let's take a wild guess. It's for the same reason the media, until now, have focused *exclusively* on the Catholic Church: both Churches are known for their orthodox Christian teachings on sexuality. If they can be discredited, their moral voice will be compromised. One would have to be ideologically blind not to see what's going on.

Why did Kristof tee it up for the president of the Union Theological Seminary? Because he knew she would feed his narrative. This New York-based institution has long been home to "progressive" thinkers, including dissident Catholic theologians (it has even employed those who have been banned from teaching at Catholic colleges due to their wholesale rejection of Catholicism).

More substantively, Kristof's thesis—masculinity is related to sexual abuse—is so spurious that even he admits to its flaw.

For starters, he summarizes his argument by citing the Catholic Church's male clergy and the "submissive" role occupied by females, but then a light goes off in his head. If this is the case, he wonders, then

why haven't most of the victims in the Catholic Church been women and girls?

Here is how he puts it. "It's complicated, of course, for many of the Catholic victims were boys...." Actually, there is nothing complicated about it—he is simply wrong. Masculine priests, those who are naturally attracted to females, account for very little of the sexual abuse.

Kristof can't even get this little bit right. The vast majority, 81 percent, of the victims were male. That's not "many"—it's most. And they were not boys: 78 percent were postpubescent; adolescents are properly regarded as young men. But to admit this is to admit that homosexual priests are responsible for the lion's share of the abuse. And no one at the *New York Times* is going to admit to this verity.

The Catholic Church needs more masculine priests, not fewer. To put it differently, though matters are better today, for many years the Church had too many priests who were either effeminate or sexually immature. We've seen where that got us.

WASHINGTON POST GETS IT WRONG ON ABUSE

No one can fault the *Washington Post* for criticizing the Vatican summit on clergy abuse for being short on concrete prescriptions for reform. That much is true. But at the end of the February 27 editorial it made two accusations that are simply not true, and one that is misleading.

The editorial took the Church to task for its "steadfast opposition to changes in state laws that prohibit survivors of pedophile priests from filing lawsuits years after the abuse took place," citing the Church's "unique history as a haven for abusers."

The misleading comment is the remark about the Church opposing changes in state laws that allow for prosecuting old cases. In virtually every instance where this has happened, those state laws have exempted the public sector.

In other words, state laws that allow for a "look back" provision *almost never* apply to students raped by public school teachers: those students have only 90 days to file a complaint. This is because of the antiquated doctrine of sovereign immunity. When the law applies equally to the public sector, there is no Catholic opposition, as recently evidenced in New York.

Thus, the editorial unfairly characterized the Church's opposition. Would not the *Washington Post* condemn a state law that allowed for a "look back" provision for students abused in the public schools but did not apply to private [read: Catholic] ones? Moreover, would the editorial page blast the public school establishment for opposing such a law on the basis of selective enforcement?

One of the two errors in the editor-

ial, "Fine Words, Flimsy Deeds," was the reference to "pedophile priests." It is a fiction to charge that the Catholic Church has a pedophile problem. More than 19 of 20 accused clergy members *are not pedophiles*. Most of them—8 in 10—are homosexuals. This cover up by the editorial page is unconscionable.

Finally, there is *zero* evidence that the Church has a "unique history as a haven for abusers." No institution has a unique history of harboring abusers, but if there is one that leads the way it surely is the family—that's where most of the abuse takes place—followed by the public schools.

The *Washington Post* needs to get up to speed with these issues before lecturing the Catholic Church. We don't own this problem, and we never did. It's about time they admitted this verity.

CARDINAL PELL'S APPEAL IS JUSTIFIED

Australian Cardinal George Pell was convicted in December of molesting two choirboys in the 1990s, but it was not until February 25 that the details were disclosed; charges against Pell that would require a second trial over other allegations were dropped. Pell's lawyers are appealing the conviction.

There are many holes in the story that led to Pell's conviction. To begin with, one of the boys who was alleged to have registered a complaint overdosed on drugs and died. More important, the boy's mother said her son admitted, on two occasions, that Pell never abused him. This does not matter to the boy's father: He says he is going to sue the Church or Pell once the appeal is resolved. Let him. And let him sue his wife for libeling their son.

Regarding the other boy, the sole complainant, he said that Pell made him perform oral sex on him after saying Mass at Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral two decades ago. Donohue has already written extensively about this, so we will not repeat it here.

However, we will offer a good summary of what this one boy alleges

to have happened. The quoted parts are taken from a well-researched news story published by Rod McGuirk of the Associated Press; he writes from Melbourne.

"The jury convicted Pell of abusing two boys whom he had caught swigging sacramental wine in a rear room of Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral in late 1996, as hundreds of worshippers were streaming out of Sunday services.

"[Robert] Richter, his lawyer, had told the jury that only a 'mad man' would take the risk of abusing boys in such a public place. He said it was 'laughable' that Pell would have been able to expose his penis and force the victim to take it in his mouth, given the cumbersome robes he was wearing.

"The jury was handed the actual cumbersome robes Pell wore as archbishop. Over his regular clothes, Pell would wear a full-length white robe called an alb that was tied around his waist with a rope-like cincture. Over that, he would drape a 3-meter (10-foot) band of cloth called a stole around his neck. The outermost garment was the long poncho-like chasuble.

"More than 20 witnesses, including clerics, choristers and altar servers, testified during the trial. None recalled ever seeing the complainant and the other victim break from a procession of choristers, altar servers and clerics to go to the back room.

"The complainant testified that he and his friend had run from the procession and back into the cathedral through a side door to, as [Mark] Gibson, the prosecutor, said, 'have some fun.'

"Monsignor Charles Portelli, who was the cathedral's master of ceremonies in the 1990s, testified that he was always with Pell after Mass to help him disrobe in the sacristy." He maintains the charges are totally false.

In other words, one of the alleged victims says he was never a victim, and the other can find no one—not one among over 20 who were with him that day—to support his story.

Keep Cardinal George Pell in your prayers. It is not easy for any priest, never mind a high-ranking one, to get a fair trial today. The hysteria and the animus that exist makes for a toxic environment.

SOME CATHOLICS QUESTION THEIR STATUS

A recent Gallup survey shows that news stories about clergy sexual abuse have Catholics questioning their affiliation with the Church. Before examining why, an analysis of the data is warranted; it reveals a nuanced portrait of Catholics.

The survey found that 37% of Catholics said they are questioning whether to remain in the Church; the figure in 2002 was 22%. Who are these Catholics? Most of them seldom or never go to church: 46% of these Catholics are questioning whether to remain versus 22% of those who attend church weekly. In other words, those with one foot out the door are more likely to consider exiting, which is precisely what we would expect.

A more interesting picture emerges when Catholics are asked how much confidence they have in the priests in their parish versus priests in general. Six

in ten have confidence in their own priests (41% said "a great deal" and 18% said "quite a lot") versus only a third for priests nationwide (20% said "a great deal" and 12% "quite a lot"). The figures for the bishops are similar to the latter.

Not surprisingly, Catholics who are regular attendees have a great deal of confidence in their priests, sporting a figure of 86%; but only 39% of those who seldom or never attend church feel this way. Most of the latter probably wouldn't be able to name the priests in their parish.

The difference between Church-goers and lapsed Catholics is most revealing when considering the second bank of questions. There is a reason why Church-goers have a lot of confidence in their priests: though it was not mentioned in the survey or in the concluding analysis, *almost all priests have*

never had an accusation made against them.

Thus, the everyday experience that Catholics who are regular church-goers have is a positive one—they and their priests are untouched by the scandal. But they read a lot about other priests, clergymen they do not know, and that explains the big drop in confidence for priests nationwide.

What Catholics are reading, of course, matters. For example, most of the news stories on the recent Vatican summit left the impression that the sexual abuse scandal is ongoing. It is not. It is certainly not true in the United States: most of the offenses that took place were in the last century.

The fact is there are many foes of the Church, and Catholic dissidents, *who don't want the scandal to end.* Their goal is to keep it alive so they can push for their secular reforms.



IN THE NEWS

National Headquarters

- February 14, 2019 – Frontpage Mag on the Catholic League as a safeguard of decency
- February 19, 2019 – Insights on actor-director Kevin Smith's blasphemous "Dogma" movie
- February 19, 2019- *National Catholic Reporter* on the connection between homosexuality and the abuse scandal
- March 7, 2019 – *Arlington Catholic Herald* (VA) on the death of columnist and former Catholic League Director of Research Robert P. Lockwood
- March 8, 2019 – Lifesite News on the *Wall Street Journal's* use of a misleading photo that suggested Pope Pius XII was sympathetic to the Nazis
- March 14, 2019 – *Catholic New York* on the death of columnist and former Catholic League Director of Research Robert P. Lockwood
- March 14, 2019 – Fox47 (MI) on calling on the governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer, to investigate the state's public school system for sexual abuse, as she is doing with the Catholic Church

William A. Donohue President

- February 12, 2019 – Currents News (Diocese of Brooklyn) on how, under New York's new pro-abortion law, a man who stabbed to death his pregnant girlfriend could not be charged with killing her

- February 15, 2019 – The Oregon Faith Report on the anti-Semitism and anti-Catholicism of Rep. Ilhan Omar
- February 15, 2019 – Targeted News Service on Georgetown University's posturing about reparations for slavery, while it currently employs a teacher who justifies modern day slavery
- February 15, 2019 – Targeted News Service on Amazon abandoning plans to build a new headquarters in Queens, NY
- February 19, 2019 – Newsmax on Amazon abandoning plans to build a new headquarters in Queens, NY
- February 21, 2019 – Breitbart on the *New York Times* and others trying to downplay the homosexual roots of the Church abuse crisis
- February 22, 2019 – Christian Today on Dr. Donohue attaching his name to a letter to Attorney General Barr urging action against social media giants for censoring conservative voices
- February 22, 2019 – Targeted News Service on *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof blaming masculinity for sexual abuse in the Catholic and Southern Baptist Churches
- February 22, 2019 – WPRO Radio (Providence, RI) "The News with Gene Valicenti" on the Vatican summit on priestly sexual abuse
- February 23, 2019 – WND on Dr. Donohue attaching his name to a letter to Attorney General Barr urging action against social media giants for censoring conservative voices

- February 24, 2019 – *America Magazine* on homosexuality, not clericalism, being at the root of the clergy abuse crisis
- February 24, 2019 – Patheos: The Free Thinker on Pope Francis calling bishops to the Vatican for a summit on priestly sexual abuse
- February 25, 2019 – Breitbart on homosexuality being at the root of the clergy abuse crisis
- February 25, 2019 – *Northwest Florida Daily News* on serious complications that can result from abortions
- February 25, 2019 – Targeted News Service on an insulting anti-Catholic remark by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel
- February 25, 2019 – *Washington County News/Holmes County Times-Advertiser* (ChIPLEY, FL) on serious complications that can result from abortions
- February 26, 2019 – Eurasia Review on an insulting anti-Catholic remark made by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel
- February 26, 2019 – Relevant Radio "The Drew Mariani Show" on the conviction of Cardinal George Pell
- February 27, 2019 – WPRO Radio (Providence, RI) "The News with Gene Valicenti" on the conclusion of the four day Vatican summit on priestly sexual abuse
- February 28, 2019 – Christian Newswire on Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's anti-Catholic bias
- February 28, 2019 – Reuters on the conviction of Cardinal Pell in Australia, after so many holes in the legal case against him were exposed



... a partial list of where we have been quoted
and/or profiled since our last issue ...

February 28, 2019 – *SowetanLive* (South Africa) on the conviction of Cardinal Pell in Australia, after so many holes in the legal case against him were exposed

March 1, 2019 – Christian Newswire on new school choice policies unveiled by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos

March 1, 2019 – Christian Newswire on freshman Representative Ilhan Omar's religious bigotry

March 1, 2019 – Newsmax on freshman Representative Ilhan Omar's religious bigotry

March 4, 2019 – CNSNews on freshman Representative Ilhan Omar's religious bigotry

March 4, 2019 – Targeted News Service on new school choice policies unveiled by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos

March 4, 2019 – Targeted News Service on the Leadership Roundtable releasing a vacuous report on clerical sexual abuse

March 10, 2019 – *Washington Post* on columnist Marc Thiessen's ill-advised call to boycott bishops' collections that serve people in need

March 11, 2019 – Catholic News Service on *Washington Post* columnist Marc Thiessen's ill-advised call to boycott bishops' collections that serve people in need

March 11, 2019 – CNSNews on how the Equality Act would undermine the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) of 1993 by allowing gay rights to trump religious rights

March 13, 2019 – Catholic Philly on actor/comedian Pete Davidson libeling

priests as rapists during a segment of Saturday Night Live

March 13, 2019 – *The Catholic Spirit* (Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis) on actor/comedian Pete Davidson libeling priests as rapists during a segment of "Saturday Night Live"

March 13, 2019 – Eurasia Review on support for a sit-in by the National Conference of Jewish Affairs outside the office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi after expressions of anti-Semitism in the Democratic Caucus

March 13, 2019 – *National Catholic Reporter* on actor/comedian Pete Davidson libeling priests as rapists during a segment of "Saturday Night Live"

March 14, 2019 – Catholic Philly on columnist Marc Thiessen's ill-advised call to boycott bishops' collections that serve people in need

March 14, 2019 – Crux on columnist Marc Thiessen's ill-advised call to boycott bishops' collections that serve people in need

March 14, 2019 – saraacarter.com on support for a sit-in by the National Conference of Jewish Affairs outside the office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi after expressions of anti-Semitism in the Democratic Caucus

March 15, 2019 – National Center for Public Policy Research on Dr. Donohue attaching his name to a letter to Attorney General Barr urging him to take action against social media giants for censoring conservative voices

March 16, 2019 – Crux on actor/comedian Pete Davidson libeling priests as

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March 18, 2019 – Newsmax on Sen. Kamala Harris opposing the death penalty in all cases while embracing abortion up until birth

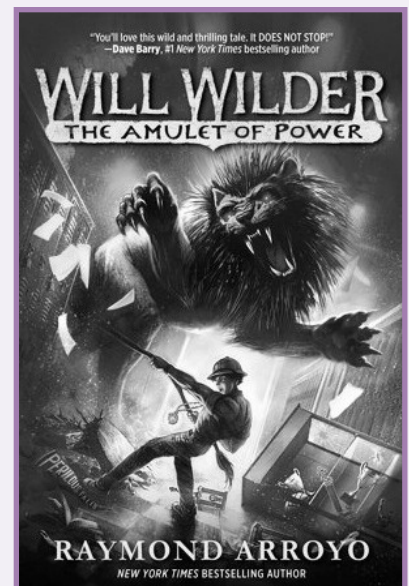
March 18, 2019 – CNSNews on Sen. Kamala Harris opposing the death penalty in all cases while embracing abortion up until birth

Rick Hinshaw
Director of Communications

February 13, 2019 – WSYR 570 (Syracuse, NY) "Dave Allen Morning Show" on Governor Andrew Cuomo's radical abortion law

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