

**W**hen the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women begins tomorrow in Beijing, many eyes will focus on the Vatican. And well they should: the delegation from the Holy See stands in stark relief to those Western nations, the U.S. included, that seek to impose the politics of radical individualism on an increasingly resistant world.

## **The Holy See: Voice of Sanity in a Sea of Madness**

- It is maddening to listen to the merits of alternative lifestyles when the institutions of marriage and the family are foundering.
- It is maddening to listen to discussions of "five genders" when every sane person knows there are but two sexes, both of which are rooted in nature.
- It is maddening to listen to the mantra of "pro-choice" when female mutilation, forced sterilizations and forced abortions go uncontested.
- It is maddening to listen to the glories of sexual liberation when we are left with the debris of illegitimacy, deadbeat dads and communicable diseases.
- It is maddening to listen to demands for quotas when female infanticide goes unchecked.
- It is maddening to listen to those who boycotted states that didn't pass the ERA now defend holding a human rights conference in a nation where torture and cannibalism (e.g., eating human embryos) are tolerated.

Against this madness is the Holy See. Its support for marriage, family, fatherhood and motherhood accords with its profound respect for the dignity of the human person. Its call for sexual restraint is more than good advice, it is a requisite of civilization.

Anyone is free to criticize the Holy See, but what we don't need is the kind of insult that Vatican delegates endured in Cairo. There is no role for Catholic bashing in any forum, and this is doubly true of U.N. venues.

Let the debate begin. If it's an honest one, we are confident that the sanity of the Holy See will triumph over the madness of its adversaries.

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