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Anti-Catholic Bias in the Media

Fr. Bill McCarthy, MSA

In the March 18th issue of US News and World Report, the courageous John Leo wrote an article entitled “With bias toward all” stating clearly what most Americans take for granted: That the news media are damaging their own honesty and credibility by pushing a leftist anti-God, anti-Christian, anti-Catholic, anti-family, and anti-life agenda. Mr. Leo clearly states that some 440,000 copies of Bernard Goldberg’s book *Bias* are now in print. Who knew that a complaint about news bias would become a runaway bestseller? You could tell the book was touching a nerve when two very good journalists, columnist Michael Kinsley and TV critic Tom Shales, both attacked Goldberg with berserk and sputtering, almost vein-popping rage.

A Total Disconnect

Goldberg says reaction to the book shows “a total disconnect between regular people and media people.” He thinks most “regulars” understand that the packaging of news reflects the world view of the packagers, while most media people take the fundamentalist view that the news is neutral and pure, so anyone who doesn’t agree with this must be a right-wing nut. Goldberg got a good ride from radio and cable TV, but the three old-line TV networks have pretended his book doesn’t exist. He thinks *Bias* is the first No. 1 nonfiction bestseller of modern times that failed to get a single minute on CBS, NBC, or ABC. He was interviewed by Italian *Nightline* but not by the American version, the one that will cause the republic to fall if it is ever replaced by David Letterman.

New Anti-Life Bias

The reluctance of the news business to hold seminars and conduct investigations of new bias is almost legendary. In 1990, *The Los Angeles Times* media critic David Shaw stunned everybody with a 12,000 word, four-part series on press coverage of the abortion issue. He essentially concluded that the American newsroom culture is so strongly pro-choice that it cannot bring itself to report the issue fairly. This apparently explosive report provoked no self-examination, no panel discussions. It quickly made the rounds of newsrooms like *samizdat*. Privately, lots of reporters and editors said it was true, and a few articles appeared. But in general, journalists reacted as if the Shaw report had never happened.

I arrived on the advisory board of the *Columbia Journalism Review* a year later, and I pushed hard (but, of course, too late) for *CJR* to examine Shaw’s findings. No dice. Everyone was determined to look the other way. I cannot think of a major newspaper series that got less attention. The reason, I think, was obvious: Feminists in the newsroom would not stand for this issue to be aired, so it wasn’t.

From Darling to Outcast

Don't deviate. Since the “diversity” juggernaut has swept through the newsroom, other groups have acquired the power to monitor their own coverage. This is, of course, a deadly threat to the news media's honesty and credibility. Here is a current example of how this system works. For years, Tammy Bruce was a familiar political figure and talk-show host in Lost Angeles with all the right tickets for an easy newsroom acceptance. In fact, she was three of the newsroom's favorite lobbies rolled into one person -- she was a pro-abortion-rights, lesbian activist, and head of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Organization for Women. (She was pro-gun-ownership too, but nobody's perfect.) Then she made two fateful deviations from the party line: She charged that NOW was muting criticism of O. J. Simpson to keep on the good side of the NAACP, and she wrote an op-ed piece defending Dr. Laura Schlessinger from the gay McCarthy-ites who eventually drove her off TV for saying that homosexual sex is “deviant.” (Bruce says that Dr. Laura has been personally kind to her and to PFLAG, the organization of parents and friends of lesbians and gays.)

Free Speech Not Allowed

Her op-ed piece was mainly a defense of free speech. Instead of printing her op-ed right away, as it usually did, the *L.A. Times* delayed and said there were problems. Bruce sent it to the *New York Times*, which gave it a heavy edit that “bore little resemblance to what I had originally submitted” and was “arguably anti-Laura.” She withdrew the piece. It finally ran in the *L.A. Times*, tucked away in the poorly read “Calendar” section, and very late in the quickly unfolding debate over Dr. Laura. Bruce found her status had changed. She had become un-interviewable in the *L.A. Times*. She said, “I've found out what it's like to get your message out when you are on the wrong side of an issue.”

Her New Thought Police

Now she has a strong book out: *The New Thought Police: Inside the Left's Assault on Free Speech and Free Minds*. A few conservative outlets plugged it, but in five months she has not received a single review in any mainstream newspaper or magazine, which sort of proves her point about the power of the censoring left. If Norah Vincent, a brave *L.A. Times* columnist, had not written about this newsroom-unapproved book, few people in Bruce's hometown would have even known she had written it. She is no person in the *L.A. Times*, and her book apparently never happened. Now she knows: Bernie Goldberg is right.

Religious Bigotry and Holy Wars

Religious bigotry has been with us for centuries and many holy wars have been fought because of it. People of my generation have watched sadly as irreligious systems took over Russia, Italy, and Germany. We saw the rise of Communism, Fascism, and Nazism, all of which were irreligious. They suppressed religion and did not respect the sanctity of human life. As a result 100 million were murdered by Communists; 45 million were killed in World War II (6 million were innocent Jews; 3 million innocent Catholics, many of whom were priests.) If you go to Dachau or Auschwitz, they will show you that Jews and Catholics were killed side by side.

We speak of the Holocaust today, one of the darkest moments of history, when 6 million of our innocent Jewish brothers and sisters were slaughtered because of German bigotry. What did Hitler do to the youth to spread such hate among the German people? Throughout the 1930s he fermented the belief that Jews were money lenders and greedy merchants. He got the universities and the newspapers to go along with him and thus was able to slaughter a total of 9 million innocent Jews. Only the Catholic Church strongly opposed him.

Pope Pius XII wrote an encyclical entitled “*With deepest sorrow*” warning of the danger of such religious bigotry. Albert Einstein would later say, in 1940, “Being a lover of freedom, when the revolution came to Germany, I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities were immediately silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom, but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks. Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler’s campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I’m forced thus to confess, that which I once despised, I now praise unreservedly.” (*Time Magazine 1940, Dec. 23, page 40*)

Catholic Church Greatest Friend of the Jews During the Holocaust

The real story: Pope Pius XII was the greatest friend of the Jews during the holocaust! The real facts as the media hasn’t presented them:

1. Pope Pius XII did more than any other person to save Jewish lives during the Holocaust, saving more than one million of them: 200,000 in Hungary, 50,000 in Poland, 360,000 in Bulgaria, 250,000 in Romania, 22,000 in Slovakia, and 120,000 in Italy.
2. At the risk of losing his neutrality and the risk of his own life, he ordered all Catholic convents, seminaries, monasteries, orphanages, and hospitals to be open to hide our Jewish brothers and sisters.
3. In Rome occupied by Nazi troops, he harbored Jews within the Vatican itself to the extent that the Nazis did in fact have a plan to invade and kill the Pope and others.
4. While secretary to Pope Pius XI, the future Pope Pius XII wrote an encyclical letter warning the German people of the dangers of Hitler and Nazism. This letter, written in German, was smuggled into Germany by Francis Spellman, the future Cardinal of New York.
5. Between 1936 and 1943 Pope Pius XII protested against Hitler and Nazism over 60 times. After the Dutch hierarchy officially protested the arrest and murder of Jews, Hitler retaliated so forcefully with the deaths of added Catholics and Jews that along with the Red Cross, the Vatican realized that any future protests would bring down fierce measures of Nazi retaliation. From that point on all help for the Jews was carried out by the various underground organizations that were saving the Jews by the tens of thousands.
6. When the head rabbi of Rome had arranged significant funds as a ransom of Italian Jews, it was Pope Pius XII who raised most of the ransom. In fact, the head rabbi became a Catholic right after the war, taking the Pope’s own name.
7. Right after the war, the B’nai Brith Society named Pope Pius XII Man of the Year, and he was praised by every prominent Jewish leader from Golda Meir to the head rabbi of the United States.
8. When Adolf Eichmann’s diaries were released by the Israeli government on March 1,

2000, Eichmann unwittingly exonerated Pope Pius XII for as Eichmann wrote, Pope Pius XII “vigorously protested the arrest of Jews, calling for the interruption of such action, otherwise the Pope would denounce it publicly.” Further on he stated in his diary, “At that time, my office received the copy of the letter, that I immediately gave to my direct superiors, sent by the Catholic Church in Rome, in the person of Bishop Hudal, to the commander of the German forces in Rome, General Stahel. The Church was vigorously protesting the arrest of Jews of Italian citizenship, requesting that such actions be interrupted throughout Rome and its surroundings. To the contrary, the Pope would denounce it publicly. The Curia was especially angry because these incidents were taking place practically under Vatican windows. But, precisely at that time, without paying any attention to the Church’s position, the Italian fascist government passed a law ordering the deportation of all Italian Jews to concentration camps.”

“The objective given and the excessive delay in the steps necessary to complete the implementation of the operation, resulted in a great part of Italian Jews being able to hide and escape capture,” Eichmann wrote. A good number of them hid in convents or were helped by men and women of the Church.

9. Since Pope Pius XII did so much more for his Jewish brothers and sisters than any other person on the face of the earth at that time, the largest monument for non-Jews should be erected at Yad Va Shem to Pope Pius XII. It would also be wonderful if the head rabbi of Jerusalem, following the lead of Pope John Paul II, should make a public apology on behalf of the Jewish people for any Jewish negativity toward Pope Pius XII whom history will prove to be their greatest friend.

World War II

I personally witnessed the ravages of such hatred of that Nazism when my closest relatives fought against everything that Nazism stood for including bigotry against Jews. My uncle Joe Cote fought in the army against the Germans including three major offenses and won the purple heart for his heroic efforts. My uncle Bill Halloran fought in the navy and my cousin Ray Smith fought in the marines. My cousin Billy Wall died in that war and when his sister Dorothy heard of his death, she lost her speech for life. They all fought for the

highest ideals of America where every American regardless of their color, race or religious persuasions could be free. We were all proud to be Americans.

Ireland

As I grew older I saw what religious bigotry and hatred could do in the land of my forefathers I watched as anti-Catholic bigotry inflamed the hatred in many a protestant heart. I heard the rabid voice of Ian Paisley as he stood up for such bigotry and I watched the secular press inflame it as well, with equal horror. I watched Catholics respond with hatred, extreme violence, and murder. I have been to Northern Ireland and have seen the shrines and names of the martyrs killed by religious bigotry. I made it a point to visit John Hume, that holy man who was given the Nobel peace prize for bringing Catholics and Protestants together and getting them to sign a peace concordant that has held for five years. The marvelous thing was that the Irish press fought for peace and against bigotry on both sides.

Israel

I have been to the Holy land and Jerusalem, the center of the world's great religion, and have witnessed what bigotry and hatred can do. And in all these cases, I have witnessed what a bigoted press and media can do on both sides, and I thanked God for America. This beautiful land that holds these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal and can walk hand-in-hand, Protestants and Catholics, blacks and whites, Near East and Far East, men and women with yellow, black, brown, and white skins walking side by side under the yoke of American liberty.

1962

As a newly ordained priest in Meriden, I watched in horror as our Supreme Court began to do away with religious freedom, although our constitution clearly states that no one should suppress religious freedom. That is what Hitler had done in the 1930s. Then I watched in 1973 when once again our Supreme Court did away with the sanctity of human life just as the Communists, Fascists, and Nazis had done. For years I watched our educational, legal, and medical systems capitulate. And above all, I watched the media capitulate so that now the legal abuse of our young people is everywhere. To date 100 million babies have been slaughtered: 12 million Jewish babies; twice as many as in the Holocaust; 20 million black, twice as many as in the slave trade; 50 million women, in a that boasts of so-called women rights. I watched as our children were being slaughtered by pagan forces, pornography, child abuse, sodomy, and abortion.

The Media

And throughout all this, it was the American media that backed it all. They never spoke out against pornography, sexual abuse, or even co-ed dorms where promiscuity had become light years beyond epidemic proportions.

The Catholic Church

The Catholic Church, conservative Christians and Jews, were the only ones who stood tall to stem the tide of corruption against our youth. But their voices were drowned out as they decried abortion, child abuse, sodomy, pornography and even the widespread use of contraceptives. America fell more deeply into the threshold of darkness. Now the media boasts of "alternative life styles," "choice," and "consenting adults."

September 11th

Then came September 11th. I watched terrorists attack and a nation respond with prayer and outrage, singing *God Bless America* and waving the American flag. I read with joy that a member of the House of Representatives introduced a bill to allow the singing of *God Bless America* in our public schools and it passed 404 to 0. I also read with joy in the Christian press how the American Family Association reissued our National Motto *In God We Trust* and how 300,000 of these flag draped posters were in our public school classrooms. About two months ago our Supreme Court clarified again that prayer, bible reading, and religious discussion is constitutional provided that it is "student initiated." Of course the American Civil Liberties Union, National Organization of Women, and our all-too-secular press will object.

An All Out Anti-Catholic Affront

Now this, our all too-pagan and liberal press and media, have made an all out frontal attack on the Catholic Church. Never in modern history has the attack been so widespread. This issue is not, (I repeat is not) "child abuse." If it were, the press would be attacking child abuse

in its many forms, most of which they allow, condone, or cover up.

The Catholic Church is Doing More than Any Other Institution in the United States to Address the Horror of Sexual Abuse of Minors

As Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, originally stated, "I am very heartened by the professionals who work with both victims and abusers, who encourage us in this work because, they tell us, there is not another institution in the United States that is doing more to understand and address the horror of sexual abuse of minors."

An Unsurpassed Record

Any fair-minded person should realize the Catholic Church teaches a no-tolerance policy on abortion, pornography, artificial contraception, promiscuity, self-abuse, incest, homosexual acts, sodomy, and even deliberately consented to impure thoughts. On the positive side, the Church promotes the Gospel of Life, A Legion of Decency, and a Catholic school system that promotes virginity and purity. The Catholic Church holds up for everyone (along with certain Saints, such as Saint Cecilia and Saint Maria Goretti, who died to maintain their virginity) Mary, the Mother of God, as our model of purity. She has advocated prayer, frequent confession, modesty in dress, and the practice of mortification and penance. In all of history, no institution has done more to promote purity, as any fair-minded person will readily admit.

The media has a long history of viciously attacking Christ and His Church. The media pushes abortion (100 million of them so far). Christ and His Church teaches the sanctity of every human life, especially the unborn. The media advocates pornography as First Amendment rights. The Church does not. [The Church advocates respect and dignity for all persons.] The media publishes articles that dehumanize children (64,572 instances in the last six months' issues alone). Christ objects to each one of them. The media endorses permissive public school education that is corrupting our youngsters. (Littleton is only the tip of the iceberg.) The Church has its own schools which teach Godly virtues, the Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes. The media fights for homosexual lifestyles that most often include sodomy. Christ teaches through His Church that sodomy is the sin that brought down Sodom and Gomorrah. The media sides with pagan practices and highlights them (i.e., movie stars and college kids living together). The Church teaches virginity outside of marriage. The media goes along with Planned Parenthood that teaches that artificial contraception, abortion, and homosexual unions are normal and are to be endorsed. The Church stands on God's law revealed in Nature and in Scripture.

The Church is, according to the Scriptures, "the pillar and standard of truth." (1Tim 3:15). The media is anything but, with the amount of innuendoes, half truths, and outright lies it prints. The Church endorses poverty, chastity, and obedience for everyone. The media endorses the opposite: money, sex, and power.

If it were "cover-up," they would attack "cover-up in all of its many forms," especially in the media itself. *No, the issue is blatantly anti-Catholic.* It is sowing these seeds of anti-Catholicism in the minds of Americans, especially in our youth. Such seeds of bigotry in the past have produced the Holocaust, the horrendous slaughter of Catholics and Protestants in northern Ireland, and the situation in Israel today. Woodrow Wilson said, in his wisdom, "If we do not learn from the lessons of the past, we are condemned to repeat them."

An Ecumenical Age

More ecumenical work has been done in this century, especially under the pontifical leadership of Pope John Paul II. He just met at Assisi with all religious leaders to bring about respect, unity and sharing of minds and hearts. And now religious bigotry raises its ugly head once again. Once again it is not the issue of child abuse. If it were, it would have been handled very differently with the media and newspapers working with all agencies and churches to confront it and bring it to an end. No, the issue is anti-Catholic bigotry. Already a priest and elderly parishioner have been killed in New York right in the middle of Mass.

All People of Good Will

To Fight Bigotry in all Forms

If this were happening to my Jewish brothers and sisters, I would be at your side. It is not, however. It is against us and you need to stand strongly at our side. If this were happening to my black brothers and sisters, I would voice my concern as I did with Martin Luther King, Jr. If this were happening to my Protestant brothers and sisters, I would fight just as strongly against such bias. It is happening to the Church I love and the priesthood that I have served since 1948 when I first entered the seminary.

We Need Your Help

So I am asking everyone to join with me to see bigotry for what it is. I am asking you to reach out in love and forgiveness to your Catholic brothers and sisters who are being so persecuted.

A Strong Word to the Media

And I would strongly say to the media of America that you are absolutely and definitely wrong to stand for bigotry. History will prove you wrong. Slander and defamation of character are never God's way or the American way. It is evil. It is an abomination. It is wrong. I would say to everyone -- Catholic, Muslim, Jew, or Protestant -- you are not a good Catholic if you are bigoted against Muslims, Jews, or Protestants, and an even worse American; if you are Protestant and your Protestantism gives you recourse to bias and bigotry, you are not a good Protestant or a good American; if you are a Jew and your Jewishness allows you to be bigoted against Catholics or Protestants, you are neither a good Jew nor a loyal American.

I Call On Everyone

I am asking everyone, young and especially old, to stand strongly against this bigotry or any bigotry. We as Americans hold these truths that all men and women are created equal regardless of faith, race, or ethnic origin. Write and send your protest to the newspapers. Most likely they will not print them. Be willing to cancel your subscriptions as I have done. In the public forum, do everything at this time to promote every good thing your Catholic brothers and sisters have done, both priests and laity alike. If we do not stamp this out, the dream of our founding fathers will come to an end.

A New Battlefield

For again we are in a great battlefield testing to see if this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. Bigotry and bias will always divide us. We cannot allow it to come to or remain in any group. Bias is not Jewish. Bigotry is not Christian. And neither bias nor bigotry are American. I call out to the good people in the media who, like John Leo,

are saying, “The news media are damaging their honesty and credibility.” I call upon all my fellow Americans of every race, religion, or color to stand with your Catholic brothers who are being painted with a broad negative brush and to say to the media, “Enough is enough. In the name of God and decency and in the name of our founding fathers, it has to cease!” Too much damage has been done. You must repent and come back to the highest ideas of our land. It has to cease. For the sake of the American experiment, it has to cease. *America, you’re too young to die.*

For the fruit of bigotry and hatred is violence; the fruit of violence is terrorism; and fruit of terrorism is war. As Mother Teresa said, “The fruit of prayer is love, the fruit of love is peace.”

Long ago St Francis said, “Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon.”

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