

My Father's House

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The New Anti-Catholicism The Last Acceptable Prejudice

By Philip Jenkins

Reviewed by Fr. Bill McCarthy, MSA

The Catholic Church is the Pillar and Standard of Truth

Since God is the author of all truth and certitude, He has never left His children without bright lights to both truth and certitude. In the Old Testament, He gave us the prophets who spoke, in His name, the truth with infallible certitude. The most often repeated words of the Bible are "The Lord said" or "Thus said the Lord." God spoke clearly and distinctly - most of the time through His prophets. This is what a prophet is - one who "forth tells" or foretells what the Lord said.

In the New Testament, God made sure His people would know "the way, the truth and the life." He sent His Son as Light to a darkened world so that everyone could live in the light of truth and holiness. Yet most men preferred the darkness of ignorance -- not the light.

His Mission Extended

Christ then established His Church as His Mystical Body to continue across time and space His evangelizing, healing and redemptive work. We were to be His hands, His eyes, His mouth, His heart. He set up His Church to be the pillar and standard of truth by giving to Peter and his successors the infallible prophetic anointing that He gave to all His true prophets. "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church And to you I will Give the Keys to the Kingdom, that whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. Whatsoever you loose upon earth shall be loosed in heaven. The forces of death's realm shall not prevail against it" (Mt 16:18ff).

The Catholic Church - Mystical Body of Christ

Therefore, the Catholic Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. Christ pours His Holy Spirit into it beginning at Pentecost. Dispersed by Christ, the Church can think as He thinks. Inflamed by His love, the Church can love with His love. Empowered by His Spirit, the Catholic Church can continue His redemptive and evangelizing work. Of course, only Christ can and did found a Church as His inspired Body. Only Christ can found a Church for NO mere man can form a Mystical Body. There can be and is only one Church, i.e., the one He formed and founded in the year 30A.D. in Caesarea Philippi upon Peter, His anointed and prophetic servant, head and leader.

The Church Across Time and Space
Because God is one, His Church must be one. God cannot be author of confusion. He wants us all to be one in Him. Because God is holy, He gives His Holy Spirit special graces and sacraments to make us holy. Because God loves all nations, He wants His Church to be Catholic and universal.

The Spirit in Earthen Vessels
God's plan to save mankind was to allow the Church to be the instrument of salvation by which His Spirit would enter into the minds and hearts of His followers. Because God cannot take back the birthright that Adam and Eve freely handed to Satan, He superceded the original covenant by allowing His Spirit to indwell in poor, weak human nature. So every Catholic holds the Spirit in a very earthen vessel. Right from the beginning, therefore, there would be scandals in the Church. Christ even said that it is necessary that scandals come, but woe to him by whom they come. His first pope, Peter, denied Him three times. His beloved priest, Judas, betrayed Him. Everyone of His original priests fled in fear when He was arrested.

Down Through the Ages
So it has been down through the ages. Many of His followers have lived lives of courageous holiness. But many others lived mediocre lives. Jesus predicted this when He said, "Narrow is the road that leads to salvation and few there are who find it." There have always been scandals in the Church, and I suppose there always will be until the end of time. Many a Catholic mother has had an abortion, and many a Catholic doctor has performed one. Many a Catholic politician serves as advocate for them.

A Life in a Bubble
It may be said today, "Why are you Catholics in the midst of the scandals?" Philosophically, the answer is because "I do not want to live the rest of my life in a bubble and end up committing suicide. You see, if the argument is because some priests or Catholics are sinful, then how can you be with them; then who could you be with? You could not be with a grocer or a doctor or a lawyer or a policeman or anyone, for that matter, because all are sinners. Logically, you would have to live in a bubble until one day you woke up and looked into a mirror and realized that you, too, were a sinner. And since your argument is, "I cannot live with sinners," you would have to commit suicide.

The Catholic Church in Right Perspective

1. No institution in history has done more to promote purity, virginity and moral integrity than the Catholic Church.

Jesus Christ established His Church in the midst of the very pagan Roman Empire. And as His Mystical Body, the Catholic Church has taught a no tolerance policy on abortion, pornography, artificial contraception, promiseeury, self-abuse, incest, sodomy, and even deliberately consented-to unchaste thoughts. The Church has always promoted the Gospel of Life, a Legion of Decency and a Catholic School System that has promoted virginity and purity. The Church founded by Christ holds up for everyone Mary the Mother of God as our model of purity, and certain saints such as St. Cecelia and St. Maria Goretti, who died maintaining their virginity. The Church has always advocated prayer, frequent confession, modesty in dress, frequent reception of the Eucharist, and the practice of mortification and penance. In all of history, no institution has done more to promote purity, as any fair-minded person would readily admit.

2. There is not another institution in the United States addressing sexual abuse among minors more than the Catholic Church.

Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, stated unequivocally, "I'm 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."

3. According to the most definitive study by Phillip Jenkins, who is not a Catholic, 0.3 percent of priests are pedophiles.

That percentage is much higher, of course, in the homosexual community *per se*. And it stays around one percent right across the board for doctors, teachers, coaches, lawyers, newspapermen, firemen, and policemen. To really attack the problem of pedophiles, we have to broaden our scope, therefore, beyond the clergy. Otherwise, we are just reflecting an anti-religious, anti-Christian, anti-Catholic, and anti-Jewish bias. Most clergy in prison for sexual abuse are not Catholic priests; and by far (*very far*, in fact) the majority of men in prison for sexual abuse of minors are not clergy.

4. By far the greatest sexual abuse among youngsters happens at home where one out of every three girls are abused and at least one out of every six boys.

Any program to correct sexual abuse, therefore, must be focused on the home.

5. Celibacy is not the problem.

Huge sexual abuse problems are found in Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Buddhists, Episcopalians, Pentecostals, Congregationalists, Assembly of God and Baptists. The most extreme sexual abuse clergy case in U.S. history involved a Pentecostal minister who molested several hundred boys in the 1980s.

6. The media treatment of the priests' sexual abuse scandal reflects a deeply seated, Anti-Catholic bias.

By and large the treatment has been unfair. Mixed in with truths are half-truths and innuendos. Although it is true that a small percentage of priests and bishops have been at fault, it is definitely not true that the Catholic Church, as a whole, has been at fault. Never before have the media been so guilty of stirring up such wide sweeping religious bigotry and bias.

Dr. Thomas Drummond's Article - Zero Tolerance in the New Testament

As Dr. Thomas Drummond has said in the Newsletter for the *New Life Institute for Human Development*: "One way to judge the rightness of the church's reaction to the media-driven sex scandals of late is to imagine having to live through that reaction over and over again for eternity. Would we look forward to each recurrence with the agreeable satisfaction we experience as we listen repeatedly to a favorite song, or reread a cherished letter written long ago?"

Anti-Catholic Media

"The events of the last few months are about alleged sexual misbehavior by clerics and religious with minors. However, these times are about more than that. They are about anti-Catholic media, profit-driven lawyers, real victims of sexual abuse, and bogus 'victims' of sexual abuse. These times are about demanding payment for allegedly stolen sexual favors, about drive-by-litigation that kills people's reputations long after those shot at have died or repented and made reparation for lapses in judgment and sins committed. These days are about an episcopacy working to find its sea legs, with some grasping at "zero tolerance" to steady themselves. What kind of reaction could we have to this state of affairs that we might look forward to remembering it with a sense of rightness in the event of reliving these days in endless repetition?"

Not Primarily About Abuse

"First, the issue is not merely about the protection of children from sexual exploitation. It is also about persecution of the Roman Catholic Church, from within by some of its clergy and ax-grinding constituents, as well as from

biased media that covered up the sexual abuse of refugee children by United Nations "peacekeepers" as the Boston scandal was unfolding. The media left the U.N. scandal on the cutting room floor and scapegoated the church in a profitable sexual extravaganza.

Unfair Treatment

"Why is there no Million Victim March on the United Nations headquarters in New York demanding the resignation of Kofi Annan, the Secretary General, for allowing the peacekeepers to rape truly vulnerable homeless children already living in fear for their lives? As prelates answer under oath in depositions about their responsibilities, so too such a march would demand that child abusing peacekeepers be brought before the U.N. International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity: the purpose for the court's existence. When priests and U.N. peacekeepers abuse children they are obligated to protect, they receive different treatment from the media, the public, politicians, lawyers, prosecutors, and victims of sexual abuse. Apparently, sexual abuse is either heinous or neutral depending on who does it. Zero tolerance is a malleable policy, based in situation ethics, selectively applied for political reasons. It is not a model for church policy.

Anti-Catholic Legislators - Shocking

"When we see actions in federal courts and state legislatures subsequent to the stories of priestly and military sexual abuse of children, the anti-Catholic motivation for the present media and legal bloodbath becomes clear. The Connecticut legislature narrowly defeated a provision that would deputize priests in the police power of the state by suspending the seal of the confessional. In Oregon, a man on trial for his life went to confession, which the prosecutor taped surreptitiously. It was only the prosecutor's personal decision not to use the tape that kept it out of the courtroom. By adopting a political policy of zero tolerance, the episcopacy would have to lift the ancient seal of the confessional - not a way to regain the moral high ground.

Golden Opportunity

"The benefit to the Church in all of this is a golden opportunity to design a reaction to this current persecution that would renew the church by re-establishing its moral principles. (and zero tolerance is antithetical to those principles), so that it could repeatedly recall with satisfaction, despite criticism from the press, the rightness of its response. This response of the episcopacy would spring, not from public relations, but from the religious depths of the church's divine nature. Like madmen for God the bishops would run into the marketplace crying, "We seek God! We seek God!" And to reporters who say to them, "You have killed God, and your church is his sepulcher. How will you wipe this blood off of yourselves? What festivals of atonement will you invent?" They must respond by finding refuge in the covenant God and we have made together, so if we have to relive these days again we can rejoice in that decision. And how shall this be done?"

The Gospel of Mercy

"First, consider that zero tolerance for sin would be the foundation of a new religion inspired not by the Holy Spirit, but by fear of the press. Zero tolerance for sinners denies the covenant that Yahweh spent thousands of years perfecting with his irascible people. It obliterates the good news of the New Testament that so excited God when, instead of continually smiting the Israelites for breaking the contract with him, he promised an eternal covenant that ensured forgiveness to those who repented.

Forgiveness

"I will cleanse them of all the guilt they inherited by sinning against me: all their offenses by which they sinned and rebelled against Me. I will forgive (Jer 33:8).

"According to the law almost everything is purified by blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb 9:22).

"When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' And bowing His head, he handed over His Spirit"

(Jn 19:30).

Once the blood of God's own Son was shed, the covenant was sealed, forgiveness was online and that is the only spin truly available to the episcopacy.

Ordained to Forgive

Bishops, cardinals and popes, all priests, were ordained to forgive sin under the new and eternal covenant (whether the press approves is irrelevant). Zero tolerance for sin and sinners is in serious conflict with that covenant, and a Vatican Council meeting for years, could not reconcile such polarization. Encouraging a corrupt press, (that kept the U.N. scandal from public view), and ambitious prosecutors, by handing over, with no requirement to do so, ignoring Constitution, canonical and legal due process, the names of those who had sinned, repented, and made reparation with full faith in God's word that he would forgive them, is fundamentally at odds with the new covenant, sealed forever with the blood of Christ, between god and his people.

The Covenant of Mercy

"If zero tolerance replaces the covenant of forgiveness, the church may indeed become God's tomb. Ironically, it is no more difficult to be persecuted for protecting the covenant between God and his people than it is to be persecuted by a press exercising a capriccioso anti-Catholicism under a crippled moral standard that they do not apply to U.N. child rapists.

God's Approval, Not Man's

Having taken refuge in the eternal covenant between God and his people, understanding that forgiveness does not mean approval, practicality requires consideration of the criteria used to select and form priests and religious. In the case of clerical pedophiles and ephhebephiles, their gross sexual, psychological and emotional immaturity renders them psychological minors and brings into question the validity of their ordinations. Were they capable of giving the full and informed consent necessary to receive the sacrament? Could they make such a commitment without the psychological and social development necessary to live the life under its contractual requirements?

Firmly Rooted in the Covenant

"While there may be a place in the church's response for properly directed zero tolerance, it is not properly directed to sin and sinners. Zero tolerance for immaturity in aspirants to priesthood does not violate the New Testament contract with God, nor does zero tolerance for misguided and incompetent evaluations of those aspirants. Zero tolerance for lack of professional development in the ordained, who intervene in the lives of the laity, does not violate the contract with God either.

Mercy Over and Again

"Thus, if our reaction was to become firmly rooted in the nature of the contract with God, and its seducement of forgiveness for the repentant sinner, we will have centered ourselves in faithfulness, and by exercising zero tolerance appropriately, where it should have been exercised all along, we will have protected the people of God from the immature, professionally and spiritually unprepared ordained and the havoc they create. Then we could, if need be, relive over and over again this commitment to renewal with a sense of peace, for it reflects the faithfulness of the stewards of the church as they guard the covenant, no matter what the press may think about it. At worst, the church will be persecuted for the right reason: its faithfulness to the covenant of the New Testament."

7. In the American dream, all men are created equal, that is Christian and Jew, Protestant and Catholic, black and white.

Thanks to the Civil War and the recent Civil Rights movement, much of the racial bigotry has been overcome. However, once again, we are met on a great battlefield, testing "whether this nation or any nation so conceived and dedicated can long endure".

8. There is no place for bigotry in America.

So if you are Catholic and your notion of Catholicism allows you to be bigoted towards any group, you're not a good Catholic and you're certainly not a good American. The same would hold true of Protestants, Jews, Blacks, Hispanics - in fact, every group. Bias is not Jewish, bigotry is not Christian and neither bias nor bigotry are American.

9. As John Leo pointed out in his article in *US News and World Report*, March 18, 2002, the news media are damaging their honesty and credibility.

Quoting Bernard Goldberg's book, *Bias*, "the packaging of news reflects an anti-religious, anti-Christian, anti-Catholic, anti-family, anti-decency, and anti-life world view." Tammy Bruce's new book, *The New Thought Police: Inside the Left's Assault on Free Speech and Free Minds*, corroborates both Goldberg and Leo. The American newsroom culture is so strongly pro-choice, pro-homosexual, pro-pornography, and anti-religious that it cannot bring itself to report religious issues fairly.

10. No one abuses children more than the media.

The media back abortion, which to date has killed over 100 million of our children. It backs blatant pornography, sodomy, promiscuity, immorality, and highly-offensive speech. Howard Stern, Jerry Springer and Madonna are darlings of our media. Howard Stern, for example, has had over 3,100 sponsors, some of them being the leading radio and television stations in this country. Our media is filled with violence, immorality and highly offensive speech. Unfortunately, the media is the number one informant of the youthful souls of our country. It is common knowledge that the newspapers in this country are run by irreligious, atheistic, anti-family, and anti-Christian editorial boards. Abortion, homosexuality and the sexual revolution are widely endorsed, as well as a false feminism that is anti-God, anti-church and anti-life.

11. Thank God for Christian organizations such as Focus on the Family, the Christian Coalition, and the Evangelical and Pentecostal who, by and large, are pro-God, pro-family and pro-life.

12. For the sake of our children, we need to work toward a "no tolerance" of evil policy right across the board.

We need as a nation to get rid of all pornography, all televised promiscuity, all violence, and, of course, all abortion - which is the worst and ultimate form of child abuse. Only with a "no tolerance" policy right across the board by every organization - religious and secular - will we be able to attack the problem of abuse of our children. At present, over 85 percent of all American children are being severely abused in one way or another, mostly by the entertainment, music, theatrical, and media industries who are reaping billions at the expense of the innocence of our children.

The New Anti-Catholicism

Although Anti-Catholicism has a long history in America, Philip Jenkins argues that this virulent strain of hatred once thought dead is alive and well. He writes, "Although a statement that is seen as racist, misogynistic, anti-Semitic, or homophobic, can haunt a speaker for years, it is still possible to make hostile and vituperative public statements about Roman Catholicism without fear of serious repercussions."

Jenkins shines a light on anti-Catholic sentiment in American society and illuminates its causes, looking closely at gay and feminist anti-Catholicism, anti-Catholic rhetoric and imagery in the media, and the anti-Catholicism of the academic world. For newspapers and newsmagazines, for television news and in movies, for major book publishers, the Catholic Church has come to provide a grossly stereotyped public villain. Catholic opinions, doctrines, and individual leaders are frequently the butt of harsh satire. Indeed, the notion that the Church is a deadly enemy of women, the idea of Catholic misogyny, is commonly

accepted in the news media and in popular culture, says Jenkins. And the recent pedophile priest scandal, he shows, has revived many ancient anti-Catholic stereotypes.

It was said that with the election of John F. Kennedy, anti-Catholicism in America was dead. This provocative new book corrects that illusion, drawing attention to this important issue.

Who is Philip Jenkins?

Philip Jenkins is Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University. His books include *Pedophiles and Priests: Anatomy of a Contemporary Crisis*, *Mystics and Messiahs: Cults and New Religions in American History*, and *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. He frequently appears on radio and television as an authority on the clergy abuse issue and was the author of a recent major article in *Atlantic Monthly* on the future of the Church.

Limits of Hatred

Catholic-baiting is the anti-Semitism of liberals. Examples are far too easy to find. The *New Republic* stated that Pope Pius XII, who saved more than a million Jews from the Holocaust, was directly serving the anti-Christ. The nation dismissed Pope John Paul II as a homicidal liar and Catholic bishops as mitred, chasubled, and coped pilots. Plays from *Sister Mary Explains It All*, to *Dogma* are viciously anti-Catholic.

Anti-Catholic Bias in the Media

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 40,000 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 news 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 Los 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 Nazi's 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 clandestinely by the various underground organizations that were saving 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 persuasion 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 -- Protestants and Catholics, Near East and Far East, men and women with yellow, black, brown and white skins -- and can walk hand-in-hand, 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 *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 country that boasts of so-called women rights. I watched as our children were being violated 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. The 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 the issue 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. George Santayana in his wisdom observed, "Those who do not remember the past, are condemned to repeat it."

An Ecumenical Age

More ecumenical work has been done in this century, especially under the pontifical leadership of Pope

John Paul II, than in any other period. He recently 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 you, my Jewish brothers and sisters, I would be at your side. If this were happening to you, my black brothers and sisters, I would voice my concern for you as I did with Martin Luther King, Jr. If this were happening to you, my Protestant brothers and sisters, I would fight just as strongly for you against such bias. It is not, however. It is happening to the Church I love and the priesthood that I have served since 1948 when I first entered the seminary. And we need *all our brothers and sisters* to stand strongly at our side.

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 self-evident 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 all the good that 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 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." Again, 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."

June 10, 2003