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The Catholic Church in Right Perspective

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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, promiscuity, self-abuse, incest, sodomy, and even deliberately consented to impure 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 - in fact, very far - 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 day 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 scapegoat 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 tapes surreptitiously. It was only the prosecutors' 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 reestablishing 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 33:8*).

“When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ And bowing his head, he handed over the 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 for 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 y 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 ephebephiles, 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 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” policy 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.