

CATHOLICS IN ACTION

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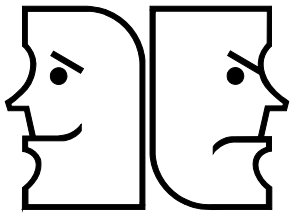
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Pray for All Mothers



*May Our Heavenly Mother's
Immaculate Heart Assist and Guide Us*



Smile & Grimace

Another Presidential Appointment

Harry Knox has been appointed to serve on the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

According to the Human Rights Campaign Knox was denied ordination in the United Methodist Church because he is a sexually active homosexual. Regardless, it is his open disdain for Catholicism that makes him a bad choice to serve on this Advisory Council. Knox could not resist blasting the Catholic Church when it decided a few years back to ban homosexual candidates for the priesthood who 'supported gay culture'. He branded this position as 'an attempt at mind control' and a 'dangerous and immoral' stance.

It is fair to say that the Obama administration would never appoint an anti-gay person to any post. But it seems to have no problem appointing anti-Catholics.

Is Quoting Scripture a Hate Crime?

On April 22, the House Judiciary Committee was scheduled to mark-up a hate crimes bill sponsored by Rep. John Conyers. Serious questions have been raised by religious leaders about this legislation, especially as it pertains to religious pronouncements against homosexuality.

Catholic League president Bill Donohue addressed this issue today:

"The idea of being prosecuted for reading Scripture may seem delirious, but it is just as crazy to think it couldn't happen. Consider the facts. When this bill was being considered in 2007, Rep. Louie Gohmert of Texas asked Alabama Rep. Art Davis (his amendment is in the bill) the following question: 'If a minister preaches that sexual relations outside of marriage of a man and a woman is wrong, and somebody within that congregation goes out and does an act of violence, and that person says that that minister counseled or induced him through the sermon to commit that act, are you saying under your amendment that in no way could that ever be introduced against the minister?' Davis, who supports the bill, replied, 'No.' "In other words, if a deranged person hears a priest,

minister or rabbi quote Leviticus 18:22, 'Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is an abomination,' and he then proceeds to assault a homosexual at a gay event—telling the arresting officer he was just following through on what he heard in his house of worship—the clergyman could arguably be charged with a hate crime. The very prospect of something like this happening should be enough to make any reasonable person wonder what is going on.

"The problem in general with hate crimes legislation is that it invites the government to probe way beyond motive. And in instances like this, it trespasses on free speech and religious liberty. This is a road no defender of liberty should ever want to go down

Think Republicans are the Saviors of Family Values?

At a meeting in Washington of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay rights GOP group, Steve Schmidt, a top adviser to Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign laid out the case for gay marriage, warning that the GOP will continue to lose young voters and the Northeast as long as the party opposes it.

Schmidt dismissed conservative arguments that allowing gay marriage would weaken the institution, as well as objections from religious conservatives, warning that they could turn the Republican Party into a "sectarian" party.

"For the party to be seen as an antigay, that is injurious to its candidates in places like California and Washington and New York," Schmidt said. He called heterosexual marriage "a tradition," not a "creed."

It is not how we define ourselves as Americans," Schmidt, who first declared his support for gay marriage in March, said.

His support of gay marriage not only puts Schmidt to the left of the McCain, who has said he believes that marriage should be between a man and woman, but President Obama, who took the same stance during his presidential campaign.

Could This Be True?

Catholics In Action has received information that at St. William "Catholic"

Church in Louisville, at least one of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is not Catholic.

This is certainly "extraordinary".

If a representative of St. William will contact us and confirm that this information is false – or if a diocesan priest or representative will tell us that this is somehow permissible – we will certainly apologize.

Catholic Universities Rushing to Distance Themselves From Church Teaching?

Georgetown University Law Center hosted an event honoring Vice President Joseph Biden with the "Legal Momentum Hero Award," in a move that Catholic commentators say is in direct violation of the U.S. bishops' 2004 policy against Catholic institutions giving honors to pro-abortion politicians. Georgetown University Law Center is affiliated with Georgetown University, a Catholic and Jesuit institution.

Vice President Biden is infamous for his strong support for abortion, despite his claims of being a faithful Catholic. During last year's election cycle, Biden provoked denunciations from scores of bishops after he went on NBC's Meet the Press and claimed that his support for abortion is in keeping with his Catholic faith.

Even as Notre Dame publicly snubs the Catholic bishops, Georgetown appears to be saying, 'Me, too!,'" said Patrick Reilly, president of The Cardinal Newman Society.

According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Biden "strongly support[s] Roe v. Wade." Biden was the co-sponsor of the extremely pro-abortion Freedom of Choice Act in the 102nd and 103rd congresses. He also voted for federal funding of Planned Parenthood and embryonic stem cell research, and against parental notification for minors seeking out-of-state abortions, a ban on abortions at military facilities, and a ban on human cloning.

Catholic Notre Dame University to Give Obama Honorary Degree on May 17th, Against USCCB Policy

.The school announced on its website that President Obama will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at the University's 164th Commencement Ceremony at 2 p.m. on May 17th.

President Obama has been called the "abortion president" by pro-life activists, and his appearance at the university would appear to violate USCCB's policy against honoring pro-abortion politicians.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved a statement in 2004 which stated that pro-abortion politicians "should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

In an open letter to Rev. John Jenkins, the president of Notre Dame, William Newton, a D.C. attorney, wrote, "As an alumnus of Notre Dame Law School, I am deeply offended that you would invite President Barack Obama to speak at Commencement this year."

Newton then lists the numerous pro-abortion decisions that Obama has made since assuming office. He went on to say, "This is the person that you feel is worthy to address the students and faculty of Notre Dame, in the shadow of Our Lady atop the Golden Dome, with the spires of the Basilica in the background?"

Since the news broke of the invitation, a fast-moving petition launched by the Cardinal Newman Society has gathered more than 310,000 signatures.

Bishop Thomas Olmsted speaks out:

In a letter to Notre Dame President, Fr. Jenkins, Bishop Olmsted said he was 'saddened and heavy of heart about your decision to invite President Obama to speak at Notre Dame and receive an honorary degree.'

"It is an act of disobedience to the Bishops of the United States."

The Bishop then quoted John Paul II who said, *"Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights - for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture - is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with the maximum determination."*

"I pray that you come to see the grave mistake of your decision, and the way that it undercuts the Church's proclamation of the Gospel of Life in our day."

Notre Dame's Bishop will not attend:

The bishop of the diocese where the University of Notre Dame is located, Bishop John D'Arcy, released a statement strongly criticizing the university's decision to invite President Obama to offer this year's commencement address and receive an honorary law degree on May 17. The bishop said that he would boycott the event.

.Bishop D'Arcy wrote that his decision to boycott the event is "not an attack on anyone, but is in defense of the truth about human life."

"President Obama has recently reaffirmed, and has now placed in public policy, his long-stated unwillingness to hold human life as sacred," said the bishop, apparently referencing the president's recent decision to allow federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. "While claiming to separate politics from science, he has in fact separated science from ethics and has brought the American government, for the first time in history, into supporting direct destruction of innocent human life."

"Even as I continue to ponder in prayer these events, which many have found shocking, so must Notre Dame," wrote the bishop. "Indeed, as a Catholic University, Notre Dame must ask itself, if by this decision it has chosen prestige over truth."

D'Arcy also explained that while he has "always revered the Office of the Presidency," and means no disrespect to the president, "a bishop must teach the Catholic faith 'in season and out of season,' and he teaches not only by his words — but by his actions."

Okay to be morally wrong – as long as you are not Catholic?

A statement by Notre Dame president, Rev. John Jenkins, that it's all right to honor a pro-abortion politician like Obama at his school because he's not Catholic, has caused amazement around the nation.

LifeSiteNews.com reported on April 8 that Jenkins sent the school's trustees a commentary at the beginning of the month saying the U.S. bishops' 2004 policy against giving public officials "awards, honors, or platforms which would suggest support for their actions" applies only to Catholics, because only they can act in "defiance" of Church teaching.

In an ecumenical age, Jenkins strangely seemed to think it unnecessary to demand moral behavior as good from non-Catholics as from Catholics.

Jenkins seemed to suggest that it's all right for a Catholic institution to honor reprehensible conduct as long as it's not being promoted by a Catholic.

Canon lawyer Edward N. Peters, responded at the "Is the Light of Law" blog: "Is the man serious? Does Jenkins really think that Catholic bishops would countenance a Catholic institution honoring a philanthropic murderer, or a free-speech crusading pornographer, or a right-to privacy pimp, provided merely that the awardee was not a Catholic? Really, that's too bizarre for words."

The question further arises: would they invite a racist speaker? How about having Lucifer address the Notre Dame grads?

For a list of the Bishops who have courageously spoken out against the invitation and honorary degree

PRO-LIFE PAGE



Witnessing For Life



.Each and every Saturday morning of the year, in every kind of weather – miserably cold, stiflingly hot, rainy, blustery and even occasionally below zero – a group of pro-life prayer warriors meets outside of Louisville’s EMW abortion clinic at 2nd and Market Streets. Lined up on both sides of the walkway there, they pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet from 7 a.m. until 8:15, while 20 or 25, and occasionally as many as 35, women enter the clinic to obtain abortions. Most of the group simply prays as the women walk past them and into the door of EMW. However, a few of these pro-life prayer warriors act as sidewalk counselors and attempt to talk to the women and to hand them brochures describing the physical and emotional ravages of abortion. They also provide them with information on alternatives to abortion and places where they can get any kind of assistance they might need in order to carry their pregnancy to term and give their babies a chance at life. On the other side, there are the clinic “escorts” – a group of orange-vested malcontents, whose supposed purpose is to protect these women’s “right to choose,” but who, in reality, don’t seem to want any of these women to know that there are indeed other life-affirming choices available to them. They are consistently both verbally and physically abusive to the sidewalk counselors, as well as those at the clinic who are simply praying. Add to that element the boyfriends and parents of the women entering the clinic, who in their haste to get rid of a “problem,” often shout insults and profanity at the pro-lifers, and you have a very highly-charged atmosphere. Still, many come to witness for the babies who cannot speak for themselves. Most are Catholic, but some are of other Christian denominations. There are people of all ages praying, from young children to teenagers to college-age folks to seniors. Whole families come each Saturday to pray for these unborn babies and their mothers. To those who come, it may at first seem to be a thankless and unpleasant task – and

.who wants to get out of a warm bed on Saturday morning for that? But those that come every week know that babies are sometimes saved through the efforts of these prayer warriors. And even when such success seems elusive, those praying and sidewalk counseling are following Jesus’ command to look out for these “least of our brothers (and sisters).”

On the Saturday before Mother’s Day each year, a special effort is made to get hundreds of people praying at the abortion clinic. Three years ago there were 500 people praying there on that Saturday and that same number is hoped for again this year on Saturday, May 9th. All pro-lifers are encouraged to come! Prayers will begin at 7 a.m. After the prayers end, all are invited to a Pro-Life Breakfast at Saint Martin of Tours Church (639 S. Shelby Street). An assortment of egg dishes, potato casseroles, donuts, pastries, pancakes, etc. will be served. Monetary donations for the breakfast will be taken, with all proceeds going to the Golden Arrow Center for Mothers and Children – a center which helps provide maternity clothing, diapers, baby clothes, formula and many of the other needs of those moms who do courageously choose life for their babies! ***Please consider joining in the prayers at the clinic and at the fundraising breakfast on that morning! Bring yourselves, your family and your friends to help in help in this witness for life!***

*Pray the Rosary each day
for
an end to abortion*



Bishop Sacks Dissident Feminist



Kudos To:

Madison Wisconsin Bishop Morlino, who has come under fire in the past for proclaiming Catholic Church teaching on life and family, is again facing the ire of liberal Catholics. This time, the Madison bishop is facing protests for sacking a pastoral associate who advocates dissident liberation and feminist theology.

Ruth Kolpack, who has served as pastoral associate at St. Thomas parish since 1995, was dismissed by the bishop on Thursday after she refused to recant a 2003 Master's degree thesis extolling the use of female pronouns in describing God, and questioning obedience to Church hierarchy.

"I'm concerned about women, about young girls, who grow up in a patriarchal, male-dominated society. What does it do to their self-esteem?" said Kolpack in defense of her thesis after the firing.

Prior to her dismissal, the bishop told Kolpack she could agree to denounce her thesis, make a profession of faith, and take an oath of loyalty in order to keep her post at St. Thomas. She said she would agree to the last two conditions, but would not denounce the thesis. **Call to Action**, a dissident Catholic group backing Kolpack, stated in a news release that such a move would be "not true to her work" and "risk her reputation as a scholar and academician."

While unwilling to get into details, the bishop told protestors that the thesis wasn't the only issue, as he had found her overall teaching mentality "troublesome" as well. Kolpack participated in diocesan educational programs.

Brent M. King, director of communications of the Diocese of Madison, explained in response to a National Catholic Reporter query that church personnel **"must uphold the faith and morals of the church...through what they publicly teach and claim to believe, what they associate themselves with, and by their actions."**

Call to Action, America's leading dissident group and famed for its rejection of the Church's teaching on life and family, reportedly urged its constituents to write to the Papal Nuncio to condemn Bishop Morlino.

The latest battle marks a long-standing feud between Bishop Morlino, who has earned a reputation for outspokenness on orthodox teaching, and a group of liberal Catholic laypeople and clergy in Madison.

Perhaps the day will come when all bishops will say that church personnel **"must uphold the faith and morals of the church...through what they publicly teach and claim to believe, what they associate themselves with, and by their actions."**



Visit the  Website

Our website brings you up-to-date information.

We're always working to improve

Let us know what you think.

Visit www.catholics-in-action.org and leave a comment.

At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bend -

Except at "Catholic" Georgetown University where His name was covered up

When President Obama spoke at Georgetown University in early April, a symbol of Jesus, the gold "IHS" monogram, inscribed on a pediment in the hall was covered by a piece of black-painted plywood at the request of the White House.

The Washington Times' Belief Blog asked the university about the presidential request:

Julie Bataille from the university's press office said: **"The White House wanted a simple backdrop of flags and pipe and drape for the speech, consistent with what they've done for other policy speeches. Frankly, the pipe and drape wasn't high enough by itself to cover the IHS and cross above the GU seal and it seemed most respectful to have them covered so as to not be seen out of context."**

If the president wants to be seen speaking at a "Catholic" institution he should realize that Jesus and/or the Cross should not be considered out of context.

When questioned on the subject Catholic University, spokesman Victor Nakas said:

"I can't imagine, as the bishops' university and the national university of the Catholic Church that we would ever cover up our religious art or signage for any reason. Our Catholic faith is integral to our identity as an institution of higher education."

One can only pray that Georgetown University and all "Catholic" institutions of higher learning come to realize that having the courage to promote true Catholic values should not diminish their academic standing.

At a Catholic university, Jesus should never be "out of context!"

Notre Dame

Continued from page 3

As of press time, forty Bishops & two Cardinals have gone public with their disapproval of Notre Dame's invitation to Obama – They are:

Bishop John D'Arcy-Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN
Bishop Samuel Aquila – Fargo ND
Bishop Gregory Aymond- Austin, TX
Bishop Gerald Barbarito Palm Beach, FL
Bishop Leonard Blair – Toledo, OH
Bishop Robert Baker – Birmingham, AL
Archbishop D. Buechlein – Indianapolis, IN
Archbishop E. Beltran- Oklahoma City, OK
Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz Lincoln, NE
Aux. Bishop Oscar Cantu- San Antonio, TX
Bishop Paul Coakley – Salina, KS
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo- Houston, TX
Archbishop Timothy Dolan- New York, NY
Bishop Thomas Doran – Rockford, IL
Bishop John Dougherty -Scranton, PA
Bishop Robert Finn, Kansas City-St. Joe MO
Francis Cardinal George- Chicago, IL
Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger, Evansville, IN
Archbishop Jose Gomez –San Antonio, TX
Bishop William Higi- Lafayette, IN
Archbishop Alfred Hughes- New Orleans, LA
Bishop Joseph Latino- Jackson, MS
Bishop Jerome Listeki- Lacrosse, WI
Bishop William Lori-Bridgeport, CT
Bishop George Lucas – Springfield, IL
Bishop Robert Lynch-St. Petersburg, FL
Bishop Joseph Martino- Scranton, PA
Bishop Charles Morlino- Madison, WI
Bishop George Murry- Youngstown, OH
Archbishop John Myers- Newark, N.J.
Bishop R. Walker Nickless –Sioux City, IA
Archbishop J. Nienstedt- St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN
Archbishop Edwin O'Brien- Baltimore, MD
Bishop Thomas Olmsted- Phoenix, AZ
Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk – Cincinnati, OH
Bishop Kevin Rhoades –Harrisburg, PA
Bishop Alexander Sample- Marquette, MI
Bishop Edward Slattery- Tulsa, OK
Bishop Richard Stika – Knoxville, TN
Bishop Anthony Taylor – Little Rock, AR
Bishop Robert Vasa – Baker, OR
Bishop Thomas Wenski – Orlando, FL

By the time you receive this newsletter perhaps more bishops including our very own **Archbishop Joseph Kurtz** will have spoken publicly on this matter.

Notre Dame is not the only Catholic University Awarding an Honorary Degree to a Pro-Abortion Politician... Remember Louisville's very own Spalding University:

Spalding University not only invited U.S. Representative John Yarmuth to speak to their 2007 graduation class, but honored him by awarding him an Honorary Doctorate. Yarmuth is a member of the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood, an organization which performs more abortions nationally than any other group. What an example to our young people.

Cardinal Rigali says new embryonic stem cell rules undercut 'ethical foundation'

Cardinal Justin Rigali has responded to new draft guidelines for human embryonic stem cell research, warning that they allow for the use of more than just "leftover" embryos. The draft rules also divorce biomedical research from its "necessary ethical foundation," thus enabling some human beings to use and mistreat others for their own goals, he stated. He also warned against growing efforts to fund with federal dollars the creation and destruction of human embryos for research through in vitro fertilization and cloning methods.

"Without unconditional respect for the life of each and every member of the human race, research involving human subjects does not represent true progress. It becomes another way for some human beings to use and mistreat others for their own goals," said Cardinal Rigali, commenting in a Tuesday statement as Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Suffering patients and their families deserve better, through increased support for promising and ethically sound stem cell research and treatments that harm no one."

The cardinal said that the draft guidelines reflect a policy approved but never implemented by the Clinton administration in 2000.

"However, the Clinton policy was limited to embryos that had been frozen, to ensure that parents had time to consider the decision to donate them for research; the new guidelines are broader in allowing destruction of newly created embryos that were never frozen, increasing the prospects for a rushed and biased consent process," he said.

This runs counter to the claim that the research funding involves only embryos that would otherwise be discarded, Cardinal Rigali charged.

"For the first time, federal tax dollars will be used to encourage destruction of living embryonic human beings for stem cell research – including human beings who otherwise would have survived and been born," he wrote.

He said it was "noteworthy" that the proposed guidelines do not allow federal funding for research using embryos specially created for research purposes through in vitro fertilization or cloning.

"We can hope that the NIH and Congress will continue to respect this ethical norm, and will realize that the alleged 'need' for violating it is more implausible than ever due to advances in reprogramming adult cells to act like embryonic stem cells."

The cardinal warned that congressional supporters of human embryo-destroying research have already said that they will pursue "a more extreme policy."

"The Catholic bishops of the United States will be writing to Congress and the Administration about the need to restore and maintain barriers against the mistreatment of human life in the name of science, and we urge other concerned citizens to do the same," Cardinal Rigali's statement concluded.

On April 17, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the opening of a public comment period for draft guidelines concerning human embryonic stem cell research. The guidelines will be published for review on April 24, 2009 and will be open for comment for 30 days following.

- Catholic News Service

Is your Parish Being Obedient?

Over the past few years numerous incidences of liturgical abuses have been reported in this diocese. Hopefully with certain clarifications issued by the chancery, the number of abuses has declined. The questions below are a sample of some of the most common liturgical abuses. In order to determine if these abuses are not as wide-spread as they once were, we invite you to send your answers to us by e-mail or regular mail. The results will be published in the next newsletter.

1. Sacred vessels; the Church requires the sacred vessels used at Mass to be made of precious metals. Some churches use glass goblets rather than the required gold or silver.

My parish always uses sacred vessels made of precious metals.

Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____

2. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist; the Church permits properly trained and commissioned lay people to distribute Holy Communion when the number of communicants would make it unnecessarily long for one priest or deacon to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ. In some cases, the priest will sit this important function out and let lay people do all of it. The priest is required to participate unless he is physically unable to do so.

My parish priest or visiting priest distributes Holy Communion (unless physically unable to do so).

Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____

3. Lay preaching is forbidden by the GIRM. Only the priest or deacon is permitted to preach the homily at Mass. Some churches permit a lay person from the parish council or some other organization to perform this important function. (It is permissible under certain circumstances to have a lay person speak at the conclusion of Mass.)

My parish allows only priests or deacons to preach the homily.

Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____

4. Use of improper matter for the consecrated bread and wine, Only unleavened bread and wine is allowed. Homemade bread is not permitted.

My parish uses only unleavened bread with nothing added.

Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____

5. Improvising the words of the liturgy. Some priests deviate from the very specific language during Mass. Sometimes this to incorporate inclusive language such as "through Christ, with Christ and in Christ" rather than "through Him, with Him, and in Him" or the use of Creator rather than the proper Father. Also the very precise words during the confection of the bread and wine at the Consecration sometimes changes at the whim of the celebrant.

Priest/s at my parish do not improvise the words of the liturgy.

Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____

My Parish _____

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