

Lowland Reporter Herald 6-27-02

Editor's note: This letter is being reprinted because of omissions made to the letter during the editing and production process.

Catholic Church's policy on abortion hypocritical

To the editor:

The so-called "pro-life" Catholic Church can never again claim a moral authority to speak about legal abortion and absolutely nothing; especially the recent policy statement from the conference of bishops, which didn't reprimand, remove or otherwise punish any of their own for the conspiratorial cover-up they committed, will change that. Without a sincere reverence for past victims or a shred of genuine concern for the safety and quality of life of born children, that policy unconscionably refuses to demand zero-tolerance toward priests who molest children. A sexually abusive priest won't be thrown out of the priesthood, just "removed from any public contact." Considering the hierarchy's propensity to act as conspirators, the notion that the Catholic hierarchy will enforce this mandate or is capable of monitoring the "removed" priests is contemptible and ludicrous.

The Dallas Morning News reported that nearly two-thirds of bishops in charge of a diocese have allowed sexually abusing priests to continue working. On June 20 a New York grand jury said the church met sexual abuse claims with "an orchestrated effort to protect abusing clergy members from investigation, arrest and prosecution."

"Betrayal," a book by the Boston Globe reporters who broke the story of Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law's cover-up

of Father John J. Geoghan's molestation of at least 130 born children over a 34-year period, said "The extent of betrayal of children's innocence, of parents' trust, of priestly vows, of bishops' responsibilities, of the Church's basic tenets was unnerving. Rather than protect its most vulnerable members, the Church had been putting them in harm's way. Church leader's were confronted with overwhelming evidence that the Archdiocese of Boston placed a premium on protecting the Church's reputation at the expense of its victims," (children no longer in the womb.) Law, while he openly defies demands by laity to resign for his unapologetic and blatant betrayal of born children, says to them, quite audaciously, "Betrayal hangs like a heavy cloud over the Church today ..."

The utter indifference and contempt that the so-called "pro-life" Catholic hierarchy has shown for the safety and quality of life of born children isn't surprising to abortion rights supporters, but it's truly contemptible. These male clergy, while not willing to uphold zero-tolerance for adult male priests sexually abusing born children, demand zero-tolerance for women who legally terminate their unintended pregnancies after considerable contemplation of the quality of life their born child might not have because they aren't emotionally or financially prepared to parent, need to finish their education, live in an abusive relationship, or the father is AWOL. It's hypocrisy at its worst.

Without moral authority any longer to demand an end to legal abortion, God would say about these sinners of all sinners, "They're to keep silent."

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