



Catholic Civil Rights League

www.ccrl.ca

Monthly highlights

Volume 1, No. 8, August 27, 2010

Photos, articles challenged for bias and inaccuracy

Newspaper photo challenged

The League wrote Aug. 23 to the Ottawa Sun and the regional 24 Hour newspaper to protest the use of a photograph satirizing the Last Supper. The picture, part of a fundraising calendar created by a local “gay-friendly” rugby team, features semi-nude team members arranged around a dining table in seating arrangement almost identical to that of the famous Da Vinci painting. While acknowledging that the photo was created by the team, not the newspaper, the League pointed out that the choice was likely to offend most readers. The co-opting of very familiar religious images for commercial or satirical purposes is a common challenge, but this one was particularly insulting to believers. We expressed the hope that greater care would be exercised in future.

Pope, cardinal falsely maligned

The departure to Rome of Cardinal Ouellet, Canada’s most senior churchman and a good friend of the League, was marked by some good press reports ([Post](#), Aug. 19, [Register](#), Aug. 23) but also by some [cynical observations](#) about the sex abuse scandal and the need to revise the celibacy requirement for priests. In response, the League pointed out that all factual evidence suggests that celibacy is not a factor in sexual abuse, and that both the cardinal and the pope have pledged themselves to greater openness in addressing the problem. Our letter, [The Pope and sex abuse](#), appeared in The National Post, August 25.

The Last Exorcism and ‘Hollywood theology’

“The Last Exorcism” opens Friday (Aug. 27) in most cities, and by all accounts misrepresents doctrine, practice and custom as only Hollywood can. Purporting to be the story of an “evangelical minister” who agrees to film his last exorcism as a documentary, the storyline soon mishmashes Catholic and evangelical Protestant beliefs on possession with some dramatic exorcism sequences that almost never occur in either tradition. This movie is definitely not to be taken seriously, and is unlikely to be entertaining unless you like horror movies.

Film festival seeks entries

The Real Life Film Festival/Festival du cinema c’est la vie (RLFF), which showcases films with moral themes suitable for the whole family, has launched its film submission period for next year’s festival. The event takes place in Sudbury, Ont. and is of particular interest to youth. For more information, visit the website www.sudburycinema.com.

Let the League know: Articles, cartoons and advertising that you believe have anti-Catholic content should be sent to ccrl@ccrl.ca to help us respond in a timely way.

Join us on Facebook: Search for “Friends of the CCRL”

YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/CatholicCivilRights

Better knowledge of lack of abortion law needed, says League

TORONTO, August 4, 2010 – The Catholic Civil Rights League today commented on a new survey showing that as many as two-thirds of Canadians do not know that Canada has no abortion law.

The Angus Reid poll, which asked 1,022 Canadian adults a variety of questions about their views on abortion, including their understanding of the country's law, found that just 22 per cent of them correctly identified the legal void that permits the procedure throughout pregnancy, with no government restrictions. Forty one per cent believe that the government regulates the procedure, only allowing it through the third month of pregnancy.

“It's quite possible so many believe we have an abortion law, and that there are more restrictions after the first trimester, since that is the case in almost all the western world,” said League Executive Director Joanne McGarry. “It may well be that a majority would support such a law, or that it is more difficult to find medical practitioners willing to do abortions as a pregnancy progresses. However, that is not what the law says, and it's difficult to have meaningful debate about any issue when people do not know the factual situation.”

The League is a long-time supporter of the national March for Life and other educational initiatives in support of respect for life from conception to natural death. We were also involved in the bubble zone case in B.C., and have provided support for similar cases elsewhere, in support of the right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion raised by the question of peaceful protest.

All abortion-related events provoke heated response from both pro-life and pro-abortion groups, particularly in the media. Abortion continues to be a moral and religious issue that most people consider serious. This poll suggests that it is also an issue where many are uninformed, underlining the importance of further education.

- Visit our website www.ccrl.ca for more articles and press releases about the League's work.

We need your expertise

We are currently seeking volunteers to fill upcoming board vacancies in western Canada and Ontario. If you are a member of the League with expertise in business, finance, education or the media, and can commit some time to our apostolate, please contact us.

Chapter contacts

For upcoming meetings of our Windsor-Essex chapter contact Bob Baksi at robert@baksi.com.

Antigonish chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month and is active in media and public school issues. For more information, contact Don MacLellan at maclellan_donald@yahoo.ca.

To inquire about forming a chapter in your area, contact Joanne at 416-466-8244 or ccrl@ccrl.ca.

League Annual Meeting in Toronto

Mark your calendars: Charles Lewis, religion editor of the National Post, will be guest speaker at our annual general meeting in Toronto Oct. 21. The meeting begins with the 5:30 Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral, in memory of our late director Frederick W. Hill and other deceased League members. The talk, a light buffet and the business portion of the meeting, will take place afterward at a nearby venue. Details will be confirmed in September.

Supporting the League

The League welcomes new members. If you received this publication through a friend and are not already on our mailing or e-mail list, we invite you to join our membership community. For further information, call 416-466-8244, e-mail ccrl@ccrl.ca or visit our website, www.ccrl.ca

We rely completely on your generous support to continue our work. Gifts can be made online (www.ccrl.ca/join/donate) or by mail to 500—120 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, ON M4P 1E2.