

Dear Supporters of SOC,

For your information and prayerful consideration for ACTION I send you the following, which was forwarded to me by a faithful supporter of SOC. After prayer for discernment I have been clearly directed to publicly call for prayer and fasting for the removal of our Bishop as well as to issue a call to no longer financially support this Diocese in any way. We need to pray for a parish organized outside the jurisdiction of this Diocese that is in full communion with our Holy Father. I understand this is possible and has already been done in Hawaii. The Vatican has approved this independent parish when it was clear the Bishop in that Diocese was in violation of canon law.

We need to fast and pray for the removal of our Bishop because he has proven not only to be in rebellion against the Magisterium, the Holy Father and the faith of the Church he has vowed to support, but to this point we *collectively* have probably not deserved anything better than what we have. Make no mistake about this point because God always gives a people leaders according to the degree of faithfulness he sees in them. Only when we cry out in humility for Mercy and undeserved favor will God give us more favor than what we deserve. In the meantime we need to humbly ask for the undeserved grace of a parish outside the corruption of this Diocese. There are many loyal priests in this Diocese who are loyal in their hearts to the Church and Magisterium but few of them are taking a stand as of yet against the outrages being promoted by our Bishop. They will only change when they see courageous people like you and I withhold all our giving and they feel the pain of this in a serious way. Creating great pain for these good but fearful priests will be an important grace for them that will move them to desperately need action on their part. **Do not judge these fearful priests! We need to Judge ourselves for your own fear in failing to act as we should!** God Bless you all for your courageous determination to embrace the Truth and become a motivation and encouragement for many others! [Let's keep those phone lines to the Diocese hot with holy outrage!!](#)

Dave Webster

LATEST SCANDALS IN OUR DIOCESE THAT REQUIRE ACTION

Urgent Call for Action! The leadership in the Cleveland Diocese has proven time and time again to be totally incapable of spiritual leadership by its years of scandalous mismanagement, abuse of sex abuse victims and the Faithful in general and its increasing resistance to correction. Indeed that leadership is increasingly participating in the destruction of our Church and its faith by not only encouraging the enemies of the Church and their agenda in this diocese but by actively obstructing and persecuting those who have attempted to maintain the Catholic faith and obedience to the Holy Father and the Magisterium in this Diocese. This persecution has included priests themselves who have been effectively silenced by this abuse. In wake of this most tragic state of affairs we are calling upon all the Faithful to join in three spiritual offences against the looming Forces of Darkness enveloping this Diocese.

- 1. EARNEST AND SUSTAINED PRAYER AND FASTING** for the removal of our Bishop and for the reclamation of the many souls of those who have been spiritually destroyed by the evil that he has allowed in this Diocese—including his own soul whom he has destroyed as well.
- 2. ACTION IN THE PERSISTENT AND UNRELENTING PHONE CALLS OF PROTEST** to every appropriate Diocesan agency and office at every offence and abuse we report on this site. Those in these offices and agencies share in the guilt for the rebellion and moral scandals racking this Diocese by their failure to confront their Bishop about his abuse of office and his failure to honor his oath of office and uphold the Church and its faith in this Diocese. Remind these servants of the Church their duty is to correct an erring brother if they wish not to have his blood on their own hands.
- 3. ACTION IN JOINING US IN PRAYERFUL / PROTEST** at the selected sites where these offences occur. Reports of such abuses need to be documented. **If an abuse is merely witnessed *it must be signed by the witness with address, phone number and date.* Prayer/Protest events will be posted on our home page and sent to those on our E-Mail list.**

CATHEDRAL SQUARE PERSONNEL AND PHONE EXTENSIONS TO 216-696-6525

Office of the Bishop:

The Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla ext. 2030 Fax (216) 696-6547 bishop@dioceseofcleveland.org

Rev. Ed Estok, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop ext. 2000 Fax (216) 696-6547
Eileen Von Alt ex 2030

Secretary for Parish Life:
Sr. Rita Mary Harwood ext. 2200
rmharwood@dioceseofcleveland.org;

Liturgy Office:
Rev. J-Glenn Murray ext. 4120

Interfaith Commission:
Rev. Joseph Hilinske ext. 5110

Chancery Office:
Rev. Ralph Wiatrowski ext. 2080 night: (216) 521-8379
Fax (216) 621-7332
Vice Chancellor: Rev. David J. Walkowiak ext. 2120

Clergy Personnel
Rev. Larry Jurcak ext. 2440
ljurcak@dioceseofcleveland.org

Auxiliary Bishops:
Most Rev. A. James Quinn (440) 244-2120 / (216) 579-0326 / Fax (440) 899-1122
Most Rev. Roger W. Gries (216) 361-0873 / Fax (216) 361-0877
Most Rev. Martin J. Amos (330) 762-9651 / Toll Free 1-877-406-1049 / Fax (330) 762-9655



The Cleveland Catacombs

A Blog for Roman Catholics

Saturday, March 13, 2004

Diocese of Cleveland Steps Up Its Losing War Against "The Passion of the Christ"

A few weeks back the Cleveland Plain Dealer featured a front page story, 'Passion' movie raises religious fervor, fears. The article informed readers that "The Diocese of Cleveland sent a February memo to all its parishes asking Catholics to be aware of the potential for anti-Semitism."

In addition to this memo, there was a letter sent out to area religious leaders by Father Joseph Hilinski, the Director of the Interfaith Commission, Diocese of Cleveland.

In this letter, Father Hilinski expresses "grave concern" over the movie and states that "to stimulate intolerance in order to promote a movie is reprehensible."

Catholic World News *responded with the following commentary:*

Ponder this

The Diocese of Cleveland issues a warning to Catholic parishes that seeing a movie which illustrates the events of the Gospels, may lead to the rise of anti-Semitism in churchgoing Catholics. Meanwhile, [a local Catholic university](#) allows the production of the "Vagina Monologues" on campus with proceeds going to a pro-abortion group. The diocese's response when told about this immoral play supporting the murder of babies? "No comment."

Evidently, according to the Diocese of Cleveland, the greater threat to society is a movie about the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, not a play that promotes sexual immorality and the funding of pro-abortion groups.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe (in me) to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea." (Mark 9:42)

Now, the Diocese of Cleveland is at again.

The Diocese is bringing to town **Sister Mary Boys** perhaps the most hyperbolic and ridiculous critic of "The Passion of the Christ."

[And if you don't believe me, the Catholic League has the quotes to prove it.](#)

But first, brought to you by the Diocese of Cleveland website, here is the information on the upcoming diocesan sponsored appearance by Sister Mary Boys:

http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/parishlife/schedule_and_events.htm

[Catholic-Jewish Colloquium, Monday, April 19, 2004, 7:30 pm at Tifereth Israel](#)

Sr. Mary Boys of Union Theological, as part of the Catholic-Jewish Colloquium, will speak on Monday, April 19, 2004 at 7:30 pm. The presentation will be at Tifereth Israel, 26000 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood. She will speak on the theme of the challenge of dealing with anti-Semitism in dramatizing the passion narratives of the Gospels on stage and screen. In part, this will be a Catholic response to the Jewish communities questions concerning Mel Gibson's movie, *Passion*. **For more information, contact the Interfaith Commission at (216) 696-6525, Ext. 5110.**

WHAT SISTER MARY BOYS HAS TO SAY ABOUT "THE PASSION" AND MEL GIBSON

Cybercast News Service, November 7, 2003;

Sister Mary C. Boys:

"Boys noted that the movie is already 'dividing evangelicals and Catholics—Catholics and Catholics, and Christians and Jews.

"I don't believe that [given the divisive] result that he [Mel Gibson] could claim that the Holy Spirit is behind this. ...

""Our concern is what happens after people see the film? Will anti-Semitic actions happen or will attitudes against the Jews be exacerbated by this film?""

The Jewish Week, September 19, 2003; Sister Mary C. Boys:

"One of the problems is people are going to see this film and are going to conclude that's the way it is because they don't know anything different, it's part of the religious illiteracy in our country,' Sister Boys said. 'We really have to find ways to educate them about interpreting Scripture more thoughtfully.'"

The Times Union (NY), September 19, 2003;

Sister Mary C. Boys:

""It's not understanding,' she said of Gibson's script. 'He wouldn't know a scholar if he ran into one.'"

The Evangelist (Diocese of Albany, NY), September 11, 2003;

Sister Mary C. Boys:

"The average Christian goes to see this film, which is going to be incredibly graphic, and [thinks] the people that do this to Jesus are the Jews. This does not do well for Christian-Jewish relations."

National Public Radio, "All Things Considered," September 3, 2003;

Sister Mary C. Boys:

"Will this film exacerbate divisions between Christians and Jews? Will this film exacerbate differences between traditionalist Catholics and those who see themselves more in the mainstream? Will this film exacerbate divisions between, say, Catholics and evangelicals? And I think if it does any of those, then I find it difficult to believe that the

Holy Spirit is at work."

Associated Press, August 9, 2003;

Sister Mary C. Boys:

"For too many years, Christians have accused Jews of being Christ-killers and used that charge to rationalize violence.... This is our fear."

Kansas City Star, August 9, 2003;

Sister Mary C. Boys:

"Our fear is that if the film is based on the script we read—which is possible but not necessarily the case—it could promote anti-Semitic sentiments."

The New York Times, August 2, 2003;

Sister Mary C. Boys:

"When we read the screenplay, our sense was this wasn't really something you could fix. **All the way through, the Jews are portrayed as bloodthirsty. We're really concerned that this could be one of the great crises in Christian-Jewish relations.**"

Dramatizing the Death of Jesus: Issues that Have Surfaced in Media Reports about the Upcoming Film, The Passion; by Mary C. Boys, Philip A. Cunningham, Lawrence E. Frizzell, John T. Pawlikowski, June 17, 2003:

"We understood from the outset of our review of the script that our report did not represent an official statement of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops....

"Anyone who composes a script for a dramatic presentation of the death of Jesus must draw upon four distinct passion narratives in the four gospels in the New Testament. One cannot assume that by simply conforming to the New Testament

The Jewish Week, March 28, 2003;

Sister Mary Boys:

"**As a member of the Catholic Church, I regard his thinking as bizarre and dangerous, and suggest that Jews judge them similarly. ...**

"**We seem to have at best fringe Catholics if not heretical with ... a tragically twisted understanding of the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. It is compounded by the arrogance great wealth makes possible in producing a film that will reopen wounds of history." that antisemitism [sic] will not be promoted.**"

posted by Brother Solanus : 4:47 AM

[Comment \(1\)](#) | [Trackback \(0\)](#)

Sunday, March 07, 2004

posted by Brother Solanus : 3:10 PM

[Comments \(3\)](#) | [Trackback \(0\)](#)

Friday, March 05, 2004

Bishop Pilla, TEAR DOWN THAT FLAG!

[What follows is an open letter to Bishop Pilla concerning homosexual abuse in the Diocese of Cleveland. Be sure to forward it on to other Catholics who might be interested. You may also want to share your thoughts with the diocese by e-mailing Bishop Pilla at bishop@dioceseofcleveland.org and with a cc to his staff at rtayek@dioceseofcleveland.org and ljurcak@dioceseofcleveland.org .]

An Open Letter to Bishop Pilla

Dear Bishop Pilla,

The March 1, 2004 Washington Times reports:

Eighty-one percent of sex crimes committed against children by Roman Catholic priests during the past 52 years were homosexual men preying on boys, according to a comprehensive study released yesterday on the church's sex abuse crisis.

A chart reflecting this fact was strangely missing from your recent letter to the Diocese of Cleveland. [A good one is available here from Catholic World News.](#)

Not long ago, a Cleveland Detective recorded the following conversation at a "gay bar" with Father McBride, a homosexual priest who recently plead guilty to abusing a minor:

"Back in the 1960s, would you have ever come to a place like this?" Burkhart asked. "I mean, in this town, where you were working?"

"Probably not, no," McBride said. "Realistically, in 1960, no."

"And in certain places it looks like the seminary on Saturday night now," Burkhart joked.

"Yeah, that really is how it is," McBride said.

They compared notes on seeing clergy in gay bars. Then Burkhart stammered as he asked McBride a personal question: "So, whenever you had sex . . . were you bound to go to confession and confess it before you said Mass, or . . .?"

"Well, you were supposed to, yes," McBride said.

"Do you think all these priests do?"

"No," McBride said. "I think they changed their minds and decided it's not a sin."

[\(Read the complete story of Father McBride here. \)](#)

Clearly, the abuse crisis does not stem from any teaching of the Church; but rather, the crisis is a direct result of dissenting priests deciding that sins are no longer sins.

As you know, The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states:

Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity,¹⁴¹ tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."¹⁴² They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

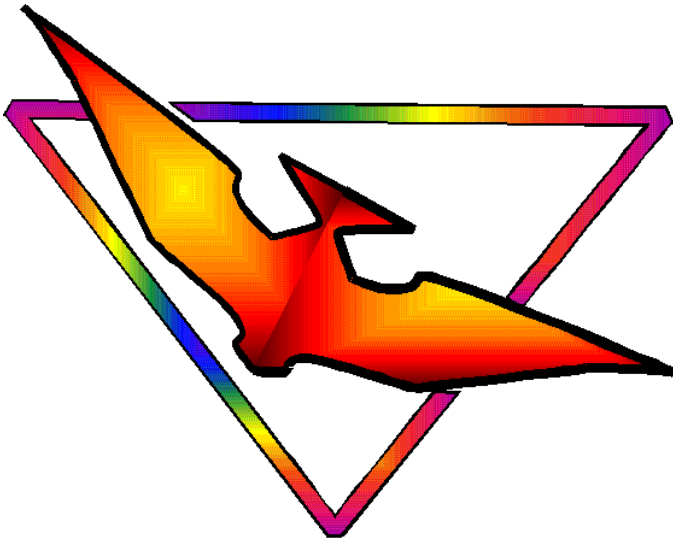
As you also know, in addition to homosexual acts being a grave depravity, **Pride** is one of the Seven Deadly Sins.

[So why is there a Rainbow Gay **Pride** Banner flying on the Diocese of Cleveland website?](#)

http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/gayandlesbianfamilyministry/contact_us/index.htm

How could a Catholic Diocese possibly be **PROUD** of a "grave depravity"? The Rainbow Gay Pride Banner on your website is an abomination, particularly in light of the hundreds of innocent boys who have been homosexually molested by gay priests in your diocese.

[And by the way, what the heck is this thing and why is it on your website?](#)



<http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/gayandlesbianfamilyministry/images/glfmlogo.gif>

Married men and women are sometimes tempted to covet thy neighbor's wife. Can we expect an **Adulterer Pride** symbol next on your website for those who are tempted to cheat on their spouse?

The continued presence of the Gay Flag on the Diocese of Cleveland website sends a clear message to everyone that you still are not serious about addressing the problems that caused hundreds of boys to be homosexually molested by diocesan priests.

Bishop Pilla, TEAR DOWN THAT FLAG!

posted by Brother Solanus : 2:08 PM

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