



Call To Action News

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Vatican threatens Fr. Roy Bourgeois with excommunication

By Nicole Sotelo, Call To Action

The Vatican has said that it will issue an excommunication against Maryknoll priest Fr. Roy Bourgeois unless he recants his support for women priests. Although the Vatican had originally given Bourgeois until mid-November to recant, they seem to have extended the period without notice to Bourgeois.

In an exclusive interview with Catholic News Agency, an official at the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith said that they would issue the excommunication after responding to letters sent in support of or denouncing Bourgeois. Bourgeois had been notified in October that he had 30 days to recant his support of women's ordination or be excommunicated. This measure was issued in response to Bourgeois' participation in the ordination of Janice Sevre-Duszynska in August 2008. The delay of excommunication for a male cleric contrasts with the supposed automatic excommunication for the women priests.

Women's Ordination Conference initiated a coalition with Catholics Speak

Out, Call To Action and Roman Catholic Womenpriests to support Bourgeois and the women's ordinations taking place. As a result, more than 5,000 Catholics have signed a petition in support of Bourgeois and hundreds of letters have been sent in his support to the Vatican and his Maryknoll superiors. Catholics Speak Out sponsored a sign-on letter in support of Bourgeois that was published in the National Catholic Reporter. Additionally, on December 12, the National Coalition of American Nuns issued a press release and sign-on letter with 113 nuns' signatures in support of Bourgeois and women's ordination. The coalition is now working to unite interfaith leaders to support Bourgeois and the Roman Catholic Womenpriest movement in order to pressure the Vatican on the issue.

If you have not already signed the petition, you can do so at: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/breakthesilence/index.html>



Fr. Roy Bourgeois has led a movement to close the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, GA, for the past 19 years

Please voice your support for the women priests and Bourgeois by writing to the following addresses:

Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC
Phone: (202) 333-7121

Pope Benedict XVI
00120 Via del Pellegrino
Citta del Vaticano, Europe
benedictxvi@vatican.va

Congregation for Doctrine of Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio, 11, 00193
Roma, Italy
Phone: 06.69.88.33.57; 06.69.88.34.13

Three-member Maryknoll Council:
mklcouncil@maryknoll.org
Superior General, John Sivalon:
jsivalon@maryknoll.org

Maryknoll Council
P.O. Box 303
Maryknoll, NY 10545

Please send copies of all letters to:
Bill Quigley - Attorney for Bourgeois
7214 St. Charles Avenue, Box 902
New Orleans, LA 70118
or email duprestars@yahoo.com

Suspected 'mastermind' of Sr. Dorothy Stang's murder charged

By Rich Heffern, NCR Staff Writer

A Brazilian rancher suspected of orchestrating the 2005 murder of Notre Dame de Namur Sr. Dorothy Stang, an American nun who spoke out against logging in the Amazon rain forest, will be charged in the killing and brought to trial following his arrest for land fraud, prosecutors said Dec. 28.

Federal police arrested the rancher, Regivaldo Galvão, on Dec. 26 at his home in the northern Amazon state of Pará. He was accused of trying to use forged titles to claim possession of the same public land that Stang was protecting when she was fatally shot in February 2005.

Felício Pontes, a federal prosecutor, said documents believed to have been forged that were seized from Galvão contradict his earlier statement that he had no connection to the nun or her killing.

The case attracted international attention from human-rights groups and cast scrutiny on Brazil's justice system, which has been plagued by corruption.

Galvão, along with four others, was arrested and charged in connection with the killing in 2005, but he was freed the next year after a series of appeals claiming he had no commercial interest in the land where

Stang, 73, was murdered. At that time he was considered to be the "mastermind" behind the killings. Three other men were convicted and sentenced to lengthy jail sentences.



Sr. Dorothy Stang dedicated her life to working with the poor and the environment

Pontes said that this second arrest of Galvão "shows that he had direct connection and interest in the lands that Sr. Dorothy died to protect."

Edson Cardoso, a state prosecutor, said he would seek to have Galvão tried for the nun's killing next month.

Stang, who was from Dayton, Ohio, spent 30 years trying to prevent ranchers from taking the land of poor Amazon settlers.

It's been estimated that over 800 have been murdered over the past 30 years for land-related reasons in the state of Pará. Her struggle and murder were detailed in the 2008 documentary "They Killed Sister Dorothy," narrated by actor Martin Sheen. Pontes said that film prompted his office to reinvestigate Galvão's existing land titles, which were mentioned by the suspect's lawyer during an interview in the documentary.

Sr. Jane Dwyer, who works in Anapú in Pará and lived with Stang for 10 years, wrote to her U.S. colleagues on Dec. 28: "Regivaldo swore that he would never again go to jail. He is there now, though no one knows for how long. May this journey toward a different world for the poor and abandoned continue." Members of the Ohio province of the Notre Dame de Namur sisters launched a Sr. Dorothy Stang Project, headquartered in Cincinnati, which raises funds to continue her work in Brazil and to provide information and educational aids.

Sr. Elizabeth Bowyer, project coordinator, told NCR Dec. 29: "There's a sense of release, that justice is finally being done. The men who actually did the killing are in jail, but we've felt that the real architects of her murder have never been brought to trial or indicted.

"It's not about retribution; it's about justice and truth-telling."

"This will mean so much to the people in Brazil beside whom Sr. Dorothy struggled. She loved them and died

for them. It's not about retribution; it's about justice and truth-telling."

Reprinted with permission from the National Catholic Reporter.

Call To Action posthumously awarded Sr. Dorothy Stang with its Leadership Award at the 2008 conference, and donated half of the collection to the Sister Dorothy Stang Fund. Since then, the United Nations has also posthumously awarded her its UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights that is given by the General Assembly to a select number of human rights activists and organizations every five years.

– Editor's Note

Bill Thompson: A career in service to Call To Action

In response to this time of great economic constraint, the most difficult of the decisions that Call To Action has had to make has been to eliminate the position of Publications Director as of December 2008. We are honored to have had Bill Thompson's energy and dedication throughout his 22 years of service and express our deep appreciation for his significant work.

Pat O'Connell
Transitional Executive Director



Bill Thompson joined Call To Action's staff in 1986, and committed himself to CTA's mission for 22 years

Bill Thompson has been a mainstay of Call To Action from the beginning. As an organizer for health consumers, he developed programming and grassroots advocacy. As an early member of the St. Giles Family Mass Community, an Oak Park lay-led parish community, he involved himself in liturgical roles and was a leader in their efforts for church reform. When the opportunity came to join the Call To Action staff in fall of 1986, he was excited to blend his passion for Church reform with a professional career of writing for CTA News, Spirituality/Justice Reprint, and (following 1990) ChurchWatch.

In the mid 1980's, Bill became an important member of the Call To Action Performing Arts

Ministry, created to dramatize the Bishops' powerful statements against first-strike nuclear weapons and their critique of the economy. The "traveling troupe," performed in parishes across the country, even receiving the World Communications Day Award from Chicago's Cardinal Bernardin in 1987.

Building on the foundation laid by Margaret and Bob McClory as first publications editors, Bill became responsible for all CTA publications. "Under Bill's direction, CTA publications have achieved the look and feel of truly professional publications," said Bob McClory. "He's also a hard worker, getting the information and getting it out on time for over 20 years." Under Bill's direc-

tion, the publications received awards three years in a row from the Catholic Press Association. Bill also wrote and influenced the design of the Annual Report, Conference Brochure and Conference Book.

From 1990-2008 Bill served as Coordinator for COR (Catholic Organizations for Renewal) convened by Call To Action. "Bill's skill at organizing, facilitating, and recording the work of this important collective of Catholic organizations is at the core of the group's success," said Lena Woltering, long-time FOSIL representative to COR.

The Chicago staff, now doubled-up, will continue Call To Action's award-winning publications, a hallmark of Bill's legacy to the organization, with an emphasis on new media. "Bill will really be missed," said Bob Heine-man, CTA's Resources Developer and Chapter Liaison. "His

gentle good humor, his grasp of contemporary theology and his enthusiasm for our mis-

"His enthusiasm for our mission has been an inspiration."

sion have been an inspiration to generations of CTA staff and membership."

The staff and board of Call To



Bill and wife Kerry dancing with daughter Grace at the 1995 Conference liturgy

Action thank Bill for his contributions to the movement's growth throughout the years, and wish him and his family the very best.

Opportunity and challenge: CTA moving into the future

October 1 marked the beginning of a new era for CTA, as co-founders Dan and Sheila Daley retired after three decades of inspired leadership. The CTA Board chose to use this period of transition as an opportunity for creative and strategic planning, and hired Pat O'Connell as Transitional Executive Director to provide leadership during this process. We sat down with Pat to ask her about this unique position and to get her perspective on the future of Call To Action:

How does a Transitional Executive Director differ from a regular Executive Director?

Transitional Directors have specialized training along with distinctive experience and expertise in transitional management that makes them uniquely qualified to help organizations make a healthy conversion to new leadership. Organizations that have chosen this model of transition invariably report a high level of satisfaction with the process and an ability to move forward confidently and successfully when they hire

new permanent leadership.

What is your own background?

My experience includes more than 25 years of senior nonprofit management in a variety of areas including community development,



Dan and Sheila Daley were honored for their service at the 2008 National Conference in Milwaukee

health care, the arts, and education. For the past eight years I have provided consulting services to nonprofits on a variety of capacity building issues: board development, strategic planning, resource development, and systems improvement.

How is the transition process coming along?

There were several challenges we had to tackle, particularly on finances. We've jumped in with both feet and with the help of generous members we are making progress. At the same time that we are working to ensure organizational stability, maintain program quality, and evaluate and improve systems, a special board committee has been moving ahead with the search process for new permanent leadership. They are building on the work done by the original search committee last year. That group, composed of representatives of all of the major stakeholders of CTA had identified the desired qualities and competencies of a new Executive Director, with a special emphasis on creating a diverse applicant pool. After the board committee finishes an initial screening and interview process, the final candidates will be presented to a broader constituency of CTA stakeholders for their input before a final candidate is chosen.

Will you be applying for the permanent Executive Director position?

By design, Transitional Directors cannot be candidates for a permanent Executive Director role. This allows them to make unbiased judgments about the organization, make tough decisions and freely express their opinions to the board and other stakeholders on the best course of action to move forward.

What are your impressions of CTA?

I have been so gratified by the warm welcome I have been given, and very impressed with the talent, dedication, and foresight of the CTA board, staff, and membership. Everyone has been supportive of my efforts, even when we've had to make some very hard decisions. Dan and Sheila Daley's vision and hard work have left an amazing legacy to build upon. The road ahead is definitely challenging and the current economy has caused us some struggles but our work is so vital to the future of our church. I am certain that CTA can transition to a creative new era, and I feel fortunate to play a role in the next several months to make it happen.

Human rights advocates sentenced to federal prison for nonviolent direct action to close the School of the Americas

COLUMBUS — On January 26, six human rights advocates appeared in a federal courthouse in Georgia and were found guilty of carrying the protest against the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC) onto the Fort Benning military base. The six were among the thousands who gathered on November 22 and 23, 2008 outside the gates of the base to demand a change in U.S. policy towards Latin America and the closure of the SOA/WHINSEC, and were arrested after peacefully crossing onto Fort Benning in memory of those killed by graduates of the institution.

The six made a compelling case in court for the closure of the school and creation of a culture of justice and peace, where there is no place for the SOA mindset that promotes military solutions to social and economic problems. Among those sentenced for their act of nonviolent civil disobedience were Father Luis Barrios, 56, from North Bergen, New Jersey, sentenced to 2 months in federal prison and \$250 fine, Theresa Cusimano, 40, Denver, Colorado, sentenced to 2 months in federal prison and \$500 fine, Kristin Holm, from Chicago, Illinois, sentenced to 2 months in federal prison and \$250 fine, Sr.



Call To Action NextGeneration members Kathleen Thomas (left), Mary Hannah Hess, and John Delaporte, at Fort Benning in November 2008

Diane Pinchot, OSU, 63, from Cleveland, Ohio, sentenced to 2 months in federal prison, Al Simmons, 64, from Richmond, Virginia, sentenced to 2 months in federal prison, and Louis Wolf, 68, from Washington, DC, sentenced to 6 months house arrest and \$1000 fine.

The SOA/WHINSEC, a military training facility for Latin American security personnel located at Fort Benning, Georgia, made headlines in 1996 when the Pentagon released training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execu-

tion. In spite of an aggressive international PR campaign

and lobbying efforts on behalf of WHINSEC, support for the institute continues to erode. With over thirty-five Representatives who voted to

continue funding the SOA/WHINSEC losing their seats in Congress on November 2008, human rights advocates have their sights set on pressuring the new Congress to permanently shut down the school in 2009. The last vote to defund the SOA/WHINSEC, in 2007, lost by a margin of only six votes.

For bios and updates about the sentences, visit the SOA Watch website at www.soaw.org, where you can also learn how to support the SOA 6 and their movement for peace and justice.

This article is based on excerpts of press releases from the SOA Watch website.



Father Jon Sobrino, SJ (left), Father Roy Bourgeois, MM, and Bishop Thomas Gumbleton at Fort Benning in November 2008

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Fax: 773-404-1610

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Call To Action (CTA) is a Catholic movement working for equality and justice in the Church and society. An independent national organization of over 25,000 people and 52 local chapters, CTA believes that the Spirit of God is at work in the whole church, not just in its appointed leaders. The entire Catholic Church has the obligation of responding to the needs of the world and taking initiative in programs of peace and justice. CTA promotes its vision of a progressive, engaged Catholicism through its acclaimed annual conferences, award-winning publications, extensive network of regional groups and joint programs with other Catholic renewal organizations.

Comments and contributions are always welcome and encouraged. We look forward to hearing from you!

Call To Action resumes search for new Executive Director

General Organizational Description:

Call To Action, a Catholic movement working for equality and justice in the Church and society is accepting applications for the full-time position of Executive Director. The Executive Director provides overall leadership, direction and administration of Call To Action (CTA) programs and special projects. CTA is a national organization of over 25,000 people and 52 local chapters that currently administers four major programs: JustChurch, Anti-racism Initiatives, NextGeneration and an annual Conference. See www.cta-usa.org for more information.

Position Description:

The Executive Director reports to a national Board and supervises a staff of 6 project/role-designated employees. Responsibilities include working with the Board to develop, implement and monitor a long-range plan for CTA; developing poli-

cies and procedures to guide the day-to-day operations of the organization; hiring/firing, evaluating and supervising all CTA staff; providing good public relations in the broader Catholic community and within the larger church reform community; and managing the fiscal performance of the organization, including preparation of the annual operating budget and development of an effective fundraising program.

Leadership Criteria / Qualities:

The new Call To Action Executive Director will be selected based on the following:

- The ability to embrace CTA's mission, agenda and programs.
- The ability to support Catholic church reform, particularly as such reform pertains to social justice issues.
- The ability, experience and enthusiasm to engage and lead in financial planning, fund-raising and required development work.

- Management and organizing skills to successfully represent CTA to the membership and to the public and to oversee staff operations, particularly financial management.

- Significant work experience deemed to be transferable to the requirements of this position.

- Enthusiastic support for anti-racism and nonviolent action strategies.

Application Process:

Interested candidates should electronically submit their resume and a cover letter relating their experience and skills to the position description and leadership criteria. The application and any questions about the information described above should be submitted electronically to Tamar Yager at ctayager@gmail.com, with the subject heading "CTA Executive Director Search." Submissions will be accepted through the month of February 2009.

Women and the Word campaign makes history

By FutureChurch Staff

The greatest number of women ever participated as auditors and biblical experts at last October's synod on the Word, thanks to the CTA-supported Women and the Word campaign spearheaded by FutureChurch. Also, for the first time in history, synod bishops "recognized and encouraged" the ministry of women of the Word, and most surprisingly, discussed the need to restore women's stories to the Lectionary.

For two years leading up to the synod, Call To Action chapters and members circulated electronic and paper postcards asking church leaders and synod delegates to include female experts, give greater attention to Jesus' and St. Paul's inclusive practice, expand preaching opportunities for women and restore deleted biblical women to Lectionary texts. Nearly 20,000 postcards were finally sent.

Two female synod experts assured FutureChurch's Sr. Chris Schenk that, were it not for the Women and the Word initiative, they would not have been one of six women experts and 19 women auditors invited. Likewise, the synod discussion of women in the Lectionary and a proposition addressing "Women and the Ministry of the Word" would never have occurred were it not for the enthusiastic support of CTA'ers and people over the world who joined FutureChurch in asking for these specialized conversations.

Also influential were the packets of materials containing lists of women biblical scholars and extensive documentation of "amnesia in the Lectionary" about biblical women leaders sent to 25 English-speaking



Chris Schenk of FutureChurch spoke on the World Synod of Bishops at CTA's 2008 National Conference

bishop delegates from the U.S. the U.K., Ireland, Australia, the Philippines, Canada, India and Africa. This comprehensive resource seeded the

"...for the first time in history, synod bishops recognized and encouraged the ministry of the women of the Word..."

discussion of the hidden women of the Lectionary that Schenk was told took place in "a number" of the twelve small groups where the main work of the synod was accomplished.

Packets were also sent to Archbishop Nicola Eterovic, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, Cardinal William J. Levada at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who was one of the synod presiders, and Pope Benedict XVI.

Sr. Chris Schenk and FutureChurch board members Fr. Gerry Bechard and Ms. Rita Houlihan met or communicated personally via telephone and email with six synod bishop-delegates, including Ireland's Cardinal Sean Brady. The campaign generated substantive media interviews with John Allen of the National Catholic Reporter, Robert Mickens of The Tablet, Vatican Radio, Religion News Service and Spanish and Italian print media. Schenk emailed daily reports from Rome during the month of October.

What's next? Two new resources, Women in the Ministry of Paul and Holy Women of Holy Week are now available. They are designed to help parishes learn about and celebrate women leaders in Paul's ministry and to increase awareness of Jesus faithful women disciples who accompanied him through death, burial and Resurrection.

Also, on June 13, 2009, a daylong conference on Women and the Word: Bridging the Gap will be held at Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. Featured speakers include Dr. Elizabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and a panel of pastoral ministers

To view next steps in the campaign, download resources, register for the conference or read the daily reports and the actual text of the propositions relating to the synod campaign, visit www.futurechurch.org.

Getting Around 

Supporters of parishes facing closure arrested

NEW ORLEANS — Under threat of parish closure, parishioners at two Roman Catholic Churches in New Orleans had been holding vigil since the summer. On January 7 the diocese asked the police to arrest the vigilers, some of whom were taken away in handcuffs, effectively ending their protest. The Boston-based National Council of Parishes has been assisting in the vigils.

Church vandalized following Bishop support of Prop. 8

SAN FRANCISCO — Most Holy Redeemer, a Catholic Church in San Francisco, was vandalized on Sunday, January 4. Some have speculated that the vandalism happened in response to Bishop Niederauer's support of Prop. 8, a ballot initiative passed in November that denies civil marriage rights to same-gender couples. Bishop Niederauer, former bishop of Salt Lake City, was also considered responsible for encouraging Mormon leaders to pledge significant support, which resulted in \$22 million in financial backing to pass Prop. 8. Niederauer's name was included among the graffiti on the church, along with the question: "Where is the love?"

Vatican demands theologian to cease teaching and writing

ROME — Theologian Roger Haight, SJ has been in communication with his Jesuit order and the Vatican with regards to a recent Vatican request that he cease teaching and publishing. The move comes as a result of the Vatican's perception that his writings do not adhere to Catholic teaching. Haight originally came under investigation after the 2005 publication of his book, Jesus, Symbol of God. Haight says that he was attempting to translate traditional Christology into a postmodern understanding. In a current interview, it is said he intends to comply with the outcome of the Vatican discussions.

OP/ED CONTRIBUTION

Bishops must promote equality for women in society

Everywhere I turn there are articles and discussions concerning abortion. Bishops among others complain about it. Abortions have been around almost since the beginning of time and criminalizing the procedure will not prevent them. Criminalizing the procedure will just force women into unsafe practices. I was appalled at Senator McCain's statement about women on national television, that pregnancy was not a health hazard and women were just making it up. He obviously has not been paying attention to statistics about how many women die each year caused by child birth.

Poverty, ignorance, violence against women, lack of affordable health care and the status of women in the society are five contributing factors. One would think this society continues to believe the Fathers of the church are still teaching that women are misbegotten males and are ensouled much later than males. If the Bishops really want to reduce the number of abortions they would immediately look at the teaching forbidding contraception

and realize it has nothing to do with concerns for the family, but is one more way to control women.

I tried to join the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at the church I attend. The first meeting a woman, no less, asked whether women with more than one child be asked if all the children had the same father and should a woman with several children by different fathers be given any assistance. This question indicated to me that the intent of the Society was not to take care of children who had already been born but was merely another way to keep women under control.

No one seems to connect the abuse of women to the fact that so many of young women who are killed are pregnant or have broken off a relationship with a male friend. No one seems to connect child abuse to ignorance and poverty. In many instances the child is abused by the male friend, or a baby sitter while the mother is at work.

I am accused of being pro-abortion because I think the mother's health

is the prime consideration. I know of no one who promotes abortion as a way of birth control but I have known women with several children who found themselves pregnant with no way to support another child and no prospect of any assistance from anyone.

If the Bishops really want to prevent abortion they will need to convince the society after all these centuries to start valuing women as fully human. They must be paid a living wage (equal pay for equal work). Men need to be assured that abuse of a woman is a crime with consequences. Every one should know that the law requires anyone who has knowledge of child abuse is obliged to report it. That means even Bishops.

I have lived a very long time and I know of instances where women have gone to the priest for assistance and none was available. If this were a truly Christian country, as some claim, there would be less abuse.

Darlene Clements is a Call To Action member living in San Antonio.

Write on

We are on our way!

Dear Call To Action,

I do believe we are on our road to an American Catholic Church. Rome really is not in touch with the realities of the world of our creator, or our evolving Spirit in the world, or the people of the world.

God bless you for all the energy that you are spending on behalf of God's people. Thank you and all those who are working with you.

I am still very much interested in the women who aspire to be priests. I know they have heard the call. They are very much needed by the people of God. These women cry out to be recognized and accepted by Rome, but that will never happen. Anyhow, think about it, would these women swear faithfulness and obedience to a pope? I think not. I certainly would not! My commitment and faithfulness is to Jesus Christ who never heard of or thought of a pope. We will have plenty of *ministries* for women and men in the very near future and we all shall have to be involved in this.

Your sister in Christ,
Margaret Barry

A Spiral of Silence

The Bishops are not discussing real problems with Ratzinger; (having been appointed as yes-men)...

Priests dare not discuss the real problems they face with their Bishops; (fearing the loss of their parish or their pension)...

Pewsitting parishioners do not express their real needs to their priests; (instead often just leaving)...

...resulting in a Sinful Spiral of Silence.

That which we do not confront we will never change.

Love,

John Chuchman

BOOK REVIEW

An Irish Tragedy: How Sex Abuse by Irish Priests Helped Cripple the Catholic Church

by Joe Rigert, Crossland Press, 2008 — Reviewed by Thomas Doyle

Joe Rigert is an investigative journalist with an uncanny ability to ask the right questions and a tireless capacity to find the answers. With *An Irish Tragedy* he has moved into territory not yet explored by those seeking answers, namely the ethnic component to clergy abuse. The Irish clergy are natural subject of inquiry. I must admit that I underestimated and undervalued the causal relationship between the Irish Catholic culture and the fact that a significant number of clergy abusers in the U.S. are either Irish immigrants or of Irish descent. The author did much more than simply provide a well-documented exposition of sexual abuse by Irish priests in the U.S. He went to Ireland to look at the roots and in doing so he became immersed in the Irish expression of Catholicism, especially the rather bizarre brand of sexual morality.

An Irish Tragedy is an apt title for this book because it describes precisely the end result of the continuum of excessive and superstitious piety, toxic clerical control and a twisted sexual morality which has all converged into too many cases of sexual abuse of minors and deceitful cover-up by bishops.

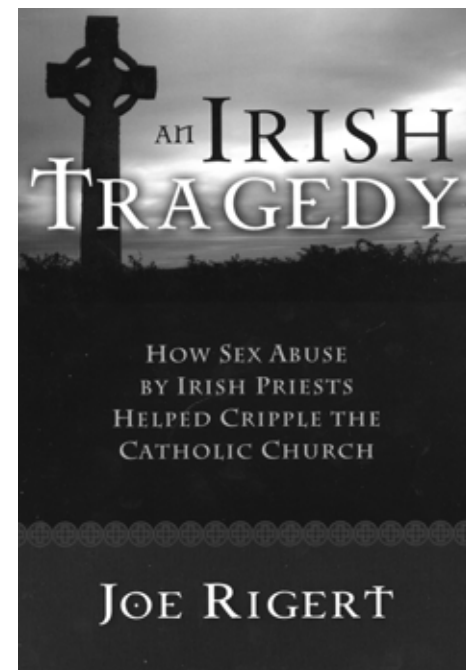
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“...an invaluable resource...”

Sex abuse by Catholic clergy is not limited to a “church” problem. It is a deeply rooted, complex flaw in society in general because the results impact so many aspects of our daily lives. Many have arrived at the conclusion that expecting the official Roman Catholic Church to accomplish anything like a basic change of attitude marked by an honest recognition of the problem followed by concrete and realistic steps to help bind the wounds and reduce the chances of future abuse is completely futile. It is left to writers like Joe Rigert to probe deeply into the dark, mysterious and malignant shadows of the Church to find more answers.

This book is foundational to comprehending the breadth of sexual abuse, the rank duplicity of the hierarchy from the popes on down and the deep roots the causality has in our culture, both religious and secular. *An Irish Tragedy* will have a long shelf life because it will remain an invaluable resource for those who are compelled to probe deeply in order to find the answers to the “whys.” The answers are pivotal as we strive to move past the institutionalized dishonesty of the

anything like a basic change of attitude marked by an honest recognition of the problem followed by concrete and realistic steps to help bind the wounds and reduce the chances of future abuse is completely futile. It is left to writers like Joe Rigert to probe deeply into the dark, mysterious and malignant shadows of the Church to find more answers.



Catholic Church in order to create a religious environment where children and the vulnerable are safe, not only from dysfunctional clerics but from a dysfunctional Church.

Originally published in *Voice of the Faithful's* newsletter "In the Vineyard," November 2008.

Thomas Doyle, a Dominican priest, canon lawyer and author, is an international authority on clergy sex abuse. He has testified in hundreds of legal cases on behalf of abuse survivors.

Calendar of Upcoming Events in 2009

February 22: Sacramento, CA
St. Mark's Methodist Church, 2-4PM in the Fireside Room.
Topic: Homelessness, Rev. Don Fado will lead a discussion. www.saccta.org, graycall@volcano.net, or 916-847-7092

March 5: Notre Dame, IN
Saint Mary's College, O'Grady Center, 7 PM. Fr. Marek Bozek speaks: "Joseph the Dreamer". Info at 574-233-7057 or nanis@centerfor-hospice.org

March 8: Palm Springs, CA
Building a CTA Community
Info: 760-861-2622 or leusch-rudolph@greencafe.com

March 13-16: Washington, DC
Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice. CTA is annual co-sponsor/participant with Natl. Council of Churches, NETWORK, Pax Christi, dozens of denominations, religious congregations. Includes lobby day on Capitol Hill. Info at info@advocacydays.org or bob@cta-usa.org

March 26: Pittsburgh, PA
St. Paul and the Women of His Letters - Rev. Bonnie Thurston. PA/CTA Annual Spring Conference. Kearns Spirituality Center, North Hills, Pittsburgh. Info at haryorlando@comcast.net

March 28: Arlington, TX
Third Annual Dallas - Ft. Worth Lay Council: "The Challenge of Being Catholic Now," Voices For Renewal. Contact 817-861-9311, or kbrou01@msn.com

March 28: Kansas City, MO
Jeannine Gramick: "New Wineskins: Renewing the Church through Faith Journeys". Contact: topicstogo@gmail.com

March 29: Sacramento, CA
St. Mark's Methodist Church, 2-4PM in the Fireside Room.
Bishop Shelby Spong, DVD from CTA's National Conference. www.saccta.org, graycall@volcano.net, or 916-847-7092

April 1: Fairfield, CT
Fairfield University. Sr. Chris Schenk

to speak on Women of the Word: Synod 2008. For more info contact jcollen@mail.fairfield.edu

April 10: Chicago, IL
Good Friday Walk for Justice, 8th Day Center, 9th Station, "Executed, Justice in the Church" presented by Call To Action. Info: bob@cta-usa.org

April 16: Columbus, OH
Women Officeholders in the Early Church: Sr. Chris Schenk at CTA Columbus. Info: panders1@columbus.rr.com

April 2009:
Everyone at the Table "Extend the Table dinners." A chance for CTA members to invite friends and family to give financial support to CTA. We'll share with them the vision of Vatican II; the mission of Call To Action. Let's extend the CTA table! Info: www.cta-usa.org.

Apr 18: Madison, WI
Presentation by Bob McClory and discussion of parts of his book "As it was in the Beginning". Info at www.ctamadison.org.

April 26: Sacramento, CA
St. Mark's Methodist Church, 2-4PM in the Fireside Room.
DVD "Vows of Silence" about F. Marcial Mariel who founded the Legionaries of Christ. Info: www.saccta.org, graycall@volcano.net, or 916-847-7092

April 29: Cleveland, OH
FutureChurch Open Mic night. Sweetwater Landing 7-9 p.m. Topic related to justice in the Catholic Church. Free and open to the public. For info contact: Emily@futurechurch.org

April 29: Notre Dame, IN
CTA member Art Frericks will receive the Fr. Louis Putz Award for Justice from the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association. Info: bob@cta-usa.org

May 1: Princeton, NJ
First Friday Day of Recollection. Sr. Chris Schenk to speak on Women of the Word: Women's Leadership in the Early Church. mheffrn@aol.com

May 1-2: Syracuse/Liverpool, NY
Upstate NY CTA Statewide

Conference: It's A Question of Conscience with Fr. Roy Bourgeois and Dr. Mary Hunt. LeMoyné Manor; Info: nys.cta@verizon.net or Mike Toner at 716-636-1533

May 1-3: Toledo, OH
Next Steps: Developing Catholic Lesbian/Gay Ministry. Frank DeBernardo. Info: 301-277-5674 or director@newwaysministry.org.

May 20: Madison, WI
Stephen Boehrer on "The Purple Culture". Visit www.ctamadison.org and www.stephenboehrer.com

May 31: Sacramento, CA
St. Mark's Methodist Church, 2-4PM in the Fireside Room. DVD "The Narrow Path" by John Dear. www.saccta.org, graycall@volcano.net, or 916-847-7092

June 2009: Chicago, IL
First ever Lay Synod in Chicago: "People of God; Following the Spirit" Terry Houk: 773-339-8724

June 2009:
Everyone at the Table Home and Garden Parties. In the beauty of summer, celebrate Vatican II and the CTA mission outdoors with family, friends and a special speaker. More details to come at www.cta-usa.org.

June 13: Los Angeles, CA
Women and the Word: Bridging the Gap with Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and a panel of pastoral ministers. Daylong conference sponsored by FutureChurch staff and Women of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties. For info contact: Chris@futurechurch.org

July 25: Belleville, IL
Sr. Chris Schenk to speak to Fellowship of Southern Illinois Laity on the topic working for justice for women in the Catholic Church. For info contact: Mick Gibbar at mmgibbar@charter.net

October 8: Ohio
FutureChurch Annual Benefit Dinner featuring Fr. Thomas Reese, SJ, author of *Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organization of the Catholic Church*. www.futurechurch.org

Nov 6-8: Milwaukee, WI
Call To Action Annual Conference Save the date! www.cta-usa.org for more information.

Unclenching our fists: From protest to collaboration

The day before I started college I met a Sister of Providence who was just weeks away from serving her prison sentence for "crossing the line" at the School of the Americas protest. Just barely 18 and wide-eyed, I was taken aback by this vowed woman religious, her story and the egregious crimes that our country had helped to commit. So, that year in November, I traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., with 11 Sisters of Providence.

That trip to Georgia, as it is for many, was the dawn of my commitment to activism. Since then, I have attended protests, signed petitions, lobbied members of Congress, joined Facebook groups and prayed at vigils. In the face of the Bush administration, there was plenty to protest - from the Global Gag Rule to the war in Iraq to torture to justice for immigrants and so on. Indeed, we had reason to protest. The past administration broke our trust, starting with the election in 2000.

When Barack Obama was elected president last November, there was much to celebrate for those who have spent the past eight years protesting. However, this joy has been met with the slightest hint of hesitancy. And from what I have seen, we might be having a hard time coming down from protest mode.

Take, for example, when President Obama chose Pastor Rick Warren to give the invocation at his inauguration. Within seconds

that his choice was announced, I was invited to join a Facebook group and boycott the inauguration. Certainly, I was dis-

is an exercise called "The Two Hands of Nonviolence." They explain that there are four re-

sponses to violence: avoiding

violence — depicted by bending over and covering your ears; accommodating violence — depicted by extending your arms in front of you with your palms facing up; counter-violence — depicted by extending your arms straight in front of you with your palms facing out; and active nonviolence — depicted by extending one arm in front of you with your palm out. The guide explains:

"...perhaps this new beginning in our country provides us with the opportunity to come together for a cause..."

As President Obama imparted to those viewed as America's adversaries during his inaugural address, "...we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." Perhaps that goes for us activists as well. Perhaps we need to unclench our proverbial fist and discover new ways to engage our government. Certainly, it will not be the easiest road — nonviolence never is — but it will be the most sustaining path to take on our journey to change.

Kate Childs Graham writes for ReligionDispatches.org and YoungAdultCatholics-Blog.com. She also serves on the Women's Ordination Conference board of directors and the Call To Action NextGen Leadership Team.

Originally published in National Catholic Reporter's Young Voices Series, 1/29/09. To sign up to receive this new series of columns via email, please visit www.ncronline.org and click the "Young Voices" box.



Kate Childs Graham (left) stands with others in nonviolent protest demanding the closure of the School of the Americas.

mayed — to put it lightly — that President Obama would select a speaker who was so outspoken in his heterosexism. On the other hand, I couldn't help but think that our jump to protest was too hasty, too familiar. Couldn't there be another way to engage this issue?

Without doubt, it is easier for people to come together against someone or something. And, I must admit, that it was almost as stirring when the crowds at the inauguration booed the past president as when they cheered President Obama. However, perhaps this new beginning in our country provides us with the opportunity to come together for a cause. Perhaps this is the time to learn how to collaborate instead of protest.

In Pace e Bene's Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living, there

is an exercise called "The Two Hands of Nonviolence." They explain that there are four responses to violence: avoiding violence — depicted by bending over and covering your ears; accommodating violence — depicted by extending your arms in front of you with your palms facing up; counter-violence — depicted by extending your arms straight in front of you with your palms facing out; and active nonviolence — depicted by extending one arm in front of you with your palm out. The guide explains:

"Active nonviolence is...like saying to a person: On the one hand (symbolized by the hand that is our in front of me), I will not cooperate with your violence of injustice...On the other hand (symbolized by the hand that is open), I am open to you as a human being."

For a good part of the past eight years, in order to cope and survive, we have too often stood with both of our arms in front of us, palms facing out. The day before the inauguration, several groups held a rally at Dupont Circle in which one had the opportunity to throw a shoe at an inflatable caricature of former President George W. Bush. We have been on the defense; and at times, we have forgotten to be open to the humanity of our

Save the date! CTA National Conference: Nov. 6-8, 2009 Everyone at the Table: Rejoicing as People of God!

This year Call To Action wishes to deeply explore the transformation that we, as a community still growing in faith and understanding, need to embrace in order to fully open our hearts and minds to differences in religion and denomination, culture, race, gender and sexual identity, and political ideology. As we learn to understand and embrace our differences, so too we will begin to discover and celebrate our common humanity.

Please visit www.cta-usa.org for more information.





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50th Anniversary of Vatican II

January 25, 2009 marked the 50th Anniversary of Pope John XXIII's announcement of Vatican II. Young Adult FaithSharing Communion (see photos) met across the country with members from Call To Action, FutureChurch and WOC. They gathered for dinner and a teleconference with Sr. Patricia Crowley, OSB to celebrate the impact of Vatican II in the lives of the generation following the Second Council. Call To Action also announced a year-long series of celebrations in honor of Vatican II and the mission of Call To Action, including an announcement of the theme of this year's conference based on the mission of Vatican II: "Everyone at the Table: Rejoicing as People of God!"

Save the dates below!

April - Everyone at the Table Dinners across the country. A chance for CTA members to invite friends and family to dinner and to share with them the vision of Vatican II; the mission of Call To Action.

June - Everyone at the Table House and Garden Parties. In the beauty of summer, celebrate Vatican II and the Call To Action mission outdoors with family, friends and a special speaker. More details to come.

November 6 - 8 - Call To Action's Annual Conference in Milwaukee: **Everyone at the Table: Rejoicing as People of God!**



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