



Scandals Put Catholic Church In the Cross-Hairs

Challenge for CDL: Defend against attacks while repudiating the indefensible

No question, many prelates' decisions about priest sex abuse over the years were no match for the gravity of this evil. Even well intentioned action, based on settled science of the day that said therapy works, failed to stem a tide of cases. Still, much of the blowback is richly deserved.

The current "priest sexual abuse" scandal however, derives almost entirely from last year's passage of the Child Victims Act. The law provides a three-year statute of limitations waiver on the filing of sexual abuse claims.

Is justice better served with the waiver? Limitations date back to early Roman law and are a basic part of US law. The intent is to preserve justice by preventing fraudulent and stale claims from arising after all factual evidence has been lost or obscured by time, defective memory, death, or disappearance of witnesses. The accused, whether priests or the bishops to whom they promised obedience, also have a right to justice, due process, and equal protection of the law.

Instead, the Child Victims Act's limitations waiver has compressed 50 years of sexual abuse cases, most of which occurred 15 or more years ago, into "breaking news." This the public sees as an epidemic of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. Many of the accused, alive and deceased, are tried and convicted by the press, long before a judge can rule for millions of dollars in reparations.

What can Catholic Defense League do?

It is discouraging that the media would be so complicit in the measured release of stories, media feeding frenzy, and even deliberately misleading presentation of the facts. But then again, a large part of CDL's history involved defending against attacks by "telling the rest of the story."

A glaring example of deliberately misleading presentation of the facts, pointed out by Bill Donohue, is attorney Jeff Anderson's intentionally editing video of an exchange he had with Bishop Carlson so as to convince the public that

Carlson didn't know it was against the law for an adult to have sex with a child. Reporters just repeated what they heard.



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In this over-heated environment the Catholic Defense League tries to provide perspective. Yet how is perspective to be found when—as always—"even one case is too many"?

Consider, for one example, a no-finger-pointing data-driven quality control protocol called Six Sigma. This protocol, which "strives for near perfection" in any process, can provide a frame of reference.

Scandals to page 2

David Strom Joins Catholic Defense League Board



We are pleased to welcome David Strom as the newest member of the Catholic Defense League Board.

David brings unique skills in media and strategic communications. He has been deeply involved in Minnesota public affairs for nearly 20 years, and is practiced in defending causes in the media for almost as long. He has appeared on television many times, has hosted a radio show, has written for numerous publications, and has political experience.

David's expertise couldn't have come at a better time. Catholics today face more and more challenges to the expression of our faith in the public square, and increasing threats to our freedom to practice our religion.

Months before he was elected, David began writing about CDL issues, talking on radio programs, and helping with press releases. His recent Opinion piece in the Pioneer Press, "David Strom: Catholic guilt?" was a compelling analysis of the dilemma CDL faces in defending the Church made so vulnerable by scandal.

More importantly, David is deeply committed to our faith, and as a recent convert (he converted in 2008), has

thought through the meaning and value of the Catholic faith and church.

The Catholic Defense League works hard to be an authentic voice of the laity defending our faith. We are confident that David will help advance that cause.

David Strom's bio includes:
Senior Policy Fellow, Center of the American Experiment
President, Taxpayers League of MN
President, MN Free Market Institute
Host, the David Strom Show
Instructor at Carleton and at St Thomas B.A., Carleton and M.A., Duke

Join us! Help defend the Church, our faith, and religious freedom.

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Defend the Faith AND Leave a Legacy

Remember the Catholic Defense League if you are writing or updating your will or trust. Your bequest will help protect the religious and civil rights of your children and grandchildren. Your gift or bequest will serve as a fitting memorial to your defense of our faith and Church.

If you want information about planned giving, or thinking about a significant gift, please call 651-788-7896, or email to mail@cdlnm.org.

Scandals from page 1

Achieving Six Sigma is defined as having less than 3.4 defects per million occurrences or opportunities, or being six standard deviations from the mean.

In 2013 there were 39,600 priests in the US. That same year there were 10 substantiated reports of Catholic clergy abuse of minor children in the US. Counting an entire year of priest-youth relations as only a single occurrence would be the most conservative measure possible. In fact, priests have many opportunities where abuse could conceivably occur. For 2013, a Six Sigma calculation yields only 1.67 defects.

That's still more than "even one case is too many." But is any other institution with similar opportunities for sexual abuse even close to this?

That is why CDL's mission also includes protecting religious freedom and supporting the voice of Catholic laity in the public square.

It doesn't matter. Not to those for whom the Catholic Church is "Public Enemy #1" in the culture wars for its unwavering moral authority and opposition to contraception, abortion, homosexual "marriage," divorce, promiscuity, etc.

CDL recognizes how extensive these cultural wars have become, and how our increasingly secular culture is a growing force against religious virtue. That is why CDL's mission also includes protecting religious freedom and supporting the voice of the Catholic laity in the public square.

What can Catholics do?

It has been suggested that living authentically Catholic lives (living our faith out loud) would address "problems in the Church." But it would also be the foundation for defending the Church, protecting religious freedom, and having a voice in the public square. As Archbishop Charles Chaput stated, "Unless we live our faith not just in our private behaviors but also in our public actions, including political involvement, we're living a lie. We're lying to ourselves, because we're not really serious about our faith unless we have the zeal and the courage to witness to it. And we're also cheating our fellow citizens. In a democracy, the best gift any of us can give to our country is the public witness of our convictions."

If we as Catholics buy into the agenda of our secular—and aggressively libertine—culture, and allow ourselves to be exiled from the public square, Catholics' retreat to the catacombs will also be richly deserved.

You Are a Vital Part of Our Mission

According to the catechism of the Catholic Church, "It is necessary that all members of society ... help, through the means of social communication, in the formation and diffusion of sound public opinion." CCC 2495.

That is why we must respond to the "plague, ... which systematically falsifies the truth, exercises political control of opinion through the media, manipulates defendants and witnesses at public trials, and ... represses everything they consider thought crimes." CCC 2499.

The Catholic Defense League is committed to defending the Church against attacks, protecting religious liberty, and engaging the voice of Catholic laity in the public square.

But it simply isn't possible without the financial support of our members.

Can you help? Will you use the enclosed envelope or visit cdlnm.org and make a gift to the Catholic Defense League?

We operate on a shoestring and amplify your support by engaging volunteer effort wherever we can. Anything you give, whatever amount, will help.

And whether or not you contribute, please pray for the Catholic Defense League and for success in its mission. Thank you for your support.

Kelly Rowe, Esq., President

CDL Website Goes To WOW (for an upgrade)

We're feeling some of that already, having started work with Well Optimized Web.

WOW (welloptimizedweb.com) is a professional web design service by Becky Caneday in Taylors Falls, MN. She has the expertise to make websites functional and user friendly.

Obviously, we would like to have everything finished behind the scenes before an attention-getting rollout. However, the most cost-effective approach is to bootstrap our way into the big(ger) leagues. We will (must) improve cdlmm.org incrementally as funds become available.

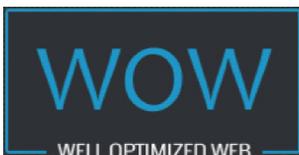
It is imperative that CDL bring its website presence up to date. It is the most important medium for advocacy and communication—after email that's earned a place in your inbox.

With your support we we can:

- Improve access to content. More content is underway with the recent launch of CDL's Editorial/Blog team.
- Set up and monitor a feedback function: This helps us tune the site for user needs and preferences.
- Make it a device responsive site. This year mobile has (or will have, depending on the research) overtaken PC Internet usage in the U.S.
- Be optimized for search. We want to be noticed rather than overlooked by search technology.

Check out cdlmm.org, a work in progress. Sign up for email updates (more informative than breathless.)

Your gift helps CDL be a resource for all who defend the Church, protect religious freedom, and bring Catholics into the public square.



Save the Date! CDL Annual Dinner and Fundraiser

Monday, September 29
Saint John the Baptist
New Brighton

Defender of the Year:



Michele Lentz

Michele is being recognized for her initiative, perseverance, and courage in organizing the Child Protection League and CPL Action. They were launched in response to the Safe and Supportive Schools Act, also known as the “anti-bullying” bill.

Its passage created a new state bureaucracy that uses the public education system to promote politically correct attitudes on human sexuality and “alternative lifestyles.” It has no safeguards against a hostile environment for children and families of traditional values.

Michele Lentz is State Coordinator for Child Protection League Action. Her political experience includes public relations, campaign management, speech writing, and legislative assistant to a State Senator. Her business background includes 20 years in sales and marketing.

Keynote Speaker: Raymond de Souza

Good or Evil: Who Decides?

Raymond De Souza will explain the Natural law, the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and how to best defend the Faith in our everyday life.



De Souza is Director of Evangelization & Apologetics for the Diocese of Winona.

He has over 25 years experience speaking in defense of Catholic social teaching and apologetics. This includes work in radio, television, and seminars for religious education programs in parishes, schools, and lay organizations on five continents. His work includes three series on EWTN.

De Souza also edited and republished “Defense of the Seven Sacraments” by King Henry VIII. (<http://keysofpeter.org/book/>) Ironically, before his schism from Rome, Henry was an accomplished theologian and staunch defender of the Catholic Faith. In raising the standard of Catholic orthodoxy, he provides a prescription that applies to the false ecumenism, de-Christianization, and anti-Catholicism of today.

Will you help sponsor CDL's main event of the year? Our Annual Dinner draws attention to the issues addressed by CDL, informs with our keynote speaker, and inspires with the example set by the Catholic Defender of the Year.

Sponsors help ensure these outcomes and attendance, including seminarians. Categories include \$1,500 -Defender, \$1,000 -Guardian, \$750 -Advocate, and \$100 -Partner. Go to cdlmm.org, call 651-766-7896 or email mail@cdlmm.org for details.

Overcoming Threats To Religious Liberty

The Catholic Defense League is committed to defending the Church against attacks, protecting religious liberty, and engaging the voice of Catholic laity in the public square. Today, attacks are compounded by threats to religious liberty and the freedom to practice our faith.

HHS “contraception” mandate

A Supreme Court ruling is coming in the next few days that could redefine the

limits of religious freedom in the United States. If it backs the Health and Human Services “contraception” mandate (and abortifacients that come with it,) Catholics will be forced to choose whether or not to compromise their faith.

If the HHS Mandate is supported by the Supreme Court, there is nothing to stop
Threats to page 4

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Threats from page 3

Overcoming Threats and Restoration of Catholicism

them from mandating tax-payer funded abortion. Without out grace and conviction, Catholics may choose a go-along-to-get-along alternative. But this is so corrosive to maintaining, let alone growing, in the faith. It's the road to losing their faith. Fallen away and forever silent.

The new 'Anti-Bullying' law

The real aim of the “anti-bullying” law is not the prevention or punishment of bullying—the “safe” part of the law. Rather, it hijacks the bureaucracy of public education to compel children to adopt politically correct attitudes on human sexuality and alternative family structures. The result will be marginalization of people with traditional religious and moral views of marriage, family, and sexuality. This agenda will easily fuel persecution of Catholics, clergy, and the Church.

CDL worked hard, along with the Child Protection League, to protect Minnesota families from this law.

'Anti-discrimination' tool for coercion

Forced endorsement from individuals, schools, and business creates burdensome spiritual and ethical dilemmas. The result will be marginalization of people with traditional religious and moral views.

In the past, nondiscrimination laws often included religious and conscience protections. Such protections are highly unlikely in the polarized environment of the same-sex “marriage” issue.

Bolstered by a highly charged political correctness, non-discrimination laws will be rigidly enforced, superceding any competing public policy interests—and America’s long-standing support for freedom of religion.

Catholics Growing in the Faith

Research at the Mary Foundation estimated that a shockingly low percentage of Catholics in the United States believe and practice what the Church teaches as

He finds a countervailing force in the growing number of devout Catholics.

the Church herself teaches it. This tiny minority itself is a small part of the twenty percent of baptized Catholics who still regularly attend Sunday Mass.

We may never know how much the decline in Catholics living authentically Catholic lives has contributed to the existence these and other threats.

You can made a difference

In spite of all this, Bud McFarlane wrote a short booklet “Bright Future for the Church in America.” He finds a countervailing force in the growing number of orthodox, committed Catholics. What better time to join CDL in its in the mission than now to enhance the environment for this reinvigoration of Catholicism!