

Michael Novak Catholics Want Pope To Support War

by William F. Wertz, Jr.

In an example of absolute imperial arrogance, Michael Novak of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) in Washington flew to Rome, at the behest of U.S. Vatican Ambassador Jim Nicholson, with the announced intention to meet with Pope John Paul II, to convince the Pope to support the pre-emptive war doctrine of Novak and fellow Utopians in and around the Bush Administration. It should come as no surprise that the Pope rejected this obscene overture from Novak, who thus exposed himself as the Donald Rumsfeld of the Catholic Church.

But what is behind Michael Novak and his sidekick at the AEI, George Weigel, the nationally syndicated columnist whose columns have appeared in the *Arlington Catholic Herald* in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, rejecting the “just war” teaching of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas to which the Pope adheres? Weigel and Novak simultaneously advocate the anti-Christian, Bogomil economic policies of Adam Smith. Novak, Weigel, and Rev. Richard John Neuhaus have systematically attempted to hijack such papal encyclicals as *Centesimus Annus* and portray them as endorsing the “free trade,” Thatcherite policies of the Mont Pelerin Society and the International Monetary Fund.

As *EIR* has reported (see *EIR*, April 19, 2002, “Schools’ Plot: Who’s Snuffing Your Neighbor’s Kittens?”), the Arlington Diocese of the Catholic Church has been taken over by a fascist, “Carlist” cabal centered on Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, and St. Catherine of Siena parish in Great Falls. While claiming to be super-orthodox Catholics who are close to the Pope (Weigel, for example, authored a papal biography), this clique is actively organizing against John Paul II. Michael Novak’s connection to this cabal dates back to the 1970s, when a number of his articles were published in the Buckley family’s *Triumph* magazine.

Now, a scandal has broken out in the diocese, of which only a few distorted elements have surfaced in the media, but which gives, so to speak, a bottoms-up view of the true nature of this problem. In a sworn deposition taken on July 24, 2002 in the case of *Jim Lambert v. Bishop Paul Loverde*, Arlington Diocese priest Father James Haley alleges that many of the priests previously exposed by *EIR* as associated with the Christendom College-St. Catherine of Siena fascist-Carlist cult—which ran an operation against associates of Lyndon

LaRouche through one Fernando Quijano—are part of a widespread homosexual clique in positions of power within the diocese.

As *EIR* has documented, this faction, associated with William F. Buckley, Jr.’s brother-in-law L. Brent Bozell and Warren Carroll, the founder of Christendom College, is virtually an heretical, *Sede vacante* grouping. It directly opposes the Christianity of Pope John Paul II and such leading collaborators of the Pope as the late Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, author of *The Spiritual Exercises of John Paul II: Testimony of Hope* (see *Fidelio*, Spring 2001). These Carlists, under the super-orthodox pose, are actually neo-liberals in the tradition of the British pseudo-philosopher Jeremy Bentham’s “In Defense of Pederasty.” Perhaps the documented sexual perversion of Robert Hanssen—the former FBI agent convicted of spying for the Soviets and a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena along with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and FBI Director Louis Freeh—was not just Hanssen’s personal aberration, but rather a reflection of a broader problem, which has not yet been rooted out. Also of note, is the fact that the Arlington Diocese is one of only two in the United States which do not allow girls to be altar servers, as permitted by the Vatican, beginning in 1994.

Without endorsing the group supporting Father James Haley, “The Roman Catholic Faithful,” which itself takes a narrow-minded and doctrinaire view of Church problems, Haley’s allegations must be taken seriously, given that he has made them under oath. Lending credibility to his sworn allegations is the fact that charges Haley made to Arlington Bishop Loverde against three priests in the diocese—Revs. Verrecchia, Erbacher and Hamilton—have proven to be accurate. Loverde failed to act on those allegations.

Father Haley’s Allegations

Haley, ordained in 1987, first reported in 1992 that Father James Verrecchia, pastor at All Saints in Manassas, was having an affair with a married woman in the parish, and simultaneously possessed a collection of homosexual pornographic pictures. All Saints was the parish where Christendom College founder William Carroll’s wife Anne had established the “private Catholic” Seton High School. Verrecchia was also under the influence of a so-called prophet by the name of Mark Brandt, who claimed to have visions of the Virgin Mary. Haley reported this to Loverde, but when Verrecchia, in response, slandered Haley to the Bishop, Loverde failed to take action against Verrecchia, who later impregnated the woman and left the priesthood to marry her. The Bishop, on the advice of Father Rippy—the diocesan chancellor and a friend of Verrecchia’s—in July 1999 cancelled Haley’s prospective appointment as pastor of Our Lady of Hope in Potomac Falls, and transferred him “temporarily” to St. Lawrence parish.

The pastor there, Father William Erbacher, showed Father Haley a picture book of St. Lawrence and pointed out to him

what he referred to as the “boys of the previous pastor, Father McAfee.” Father Franklyn McAfee is now the pastor at St. Catherine of Siena—where Hanssen, Freeh, and Scalia attended. According to Haley, Erbacher said that McAfee was in the practice of giving altar boys \$500-1,000 in cash to continue serving into post-pubescence. Haley further said that according to Erbacher, McAfee took many of these boys to his beach house. Haley reports that according to Erbacher, Father Jerome Fasano, McAfee’s predecessor at St. Catherine’s, also took the altar boys to his beach home.

In his deposition, Haley stated that Father Rippy, Father Danny Spychala, now Assistant Chaplain at Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church with residence at Saint Ambrose Rectory in Annandale, Father Erbacher, and Father Bill Saunders all seemed to be homosexuals. Saunders was formerly the president of the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College, is now the pastor of Our Lady of Hope parish, and was recently made Dean of the Deanery in western Fairfax County, inclusive of St. Catherine of Siena, and Loudoun County, by Bishop Loverde. Saunders also writes a weekly column in the *Arlington Catholic Herald* entitled “Know Your Faith.”

Father Rippy, who was replaced as diocesan chancellor in 1999, and is now at Our Lady of Lourdes in Arlington, is alleged by Haley to have travelled, together with Father Erbacher, to Las Vegas on several occasions.

Finally, while at St. Lawrence, Haley went to Bishop Loverde with evidence that Father Erbacher was stealing funds from the collections and was engaged in homosexual pornography. As in the case of Father Verrecchia, Erbacher was in possession of a large collection of homosexual material. Erbacher was later removed for embezzling funds.

The Bishop’s Pattern of Inaction

Once more, the Bishop failed to act on the charges and instead transferred Haley, this time to St. Mary’s in Fredericksburg—where, once again, the priest there, Father Dan Hamilton, was charged by Haley with being involved in homosexual activity. Hamilton resigned as pastor of the parish in September 2002.

When Haley responded to a subpoena in a lawsuit brought by Jim Lambert—whose ex-wife married former Father Verrecchia—Haley was asked by Bishop Loverde to resign from the priesthood. He has since been stripped of all priestly duties.

In his deposition, Haley also makes a number of allegations against Bishop Loverde personally to explain Loverde’s refusal to take timely action in the cases of homosexuality reported to him.

In addition, according to The Roman Catholic Faithful, “After Loverde became bishop of Arlington, the diocese received an application for the priesthood from a man who admitted to having been in a same-sex relationship for ten years. Father Gould recommended against accepting the man

into the seminary program. Father Gould was overruled by Bishop Loverde. Subsequently, Father Gould was removed from his position of Vocations Director.”

However, clearly a problem existed in the Arlington Diocese prior to Loverde’s becoming Bishop. There was one case in the Arlington Diocese in the 1990s, under the late Bishop John Keating, of a priest who committed suicide after being accused of homosexual activity, and another case of a priest suspected of homosexuality, who died under mysterious circumstances. In August 1992, the chancellor of the diocese for 13 years, William Reinecke, was found on the grounds of Holy Cross Abbey near Berryville, shot dead, an apparent suicide. After Reinecke’s death, a young man came forward alleging that he had previously confronted Monsignor Reinecke with charges of sexual molestation.

The Roman Catholic Faithful also reported that “In 1995, Father Keith Ramey, pastor of Queen of Apostles Parish in Alexandria, was found dead in his bathtub with a bag over his head. He had been taking sleeping pills, although it was unclear if this was a suicide or whether Father Ramey was engaged in some other activity. Ramey was well known as a rather flamboyant homosexual.” His associate pastor was Father William Saunders, the Christendom College graduate school president. When Father Saunders started a new parish in Potomac Falls, Bishop Loverde replaced him at Queen of Apostles with Father Salvator Ciullo, who was later discovered to have stolen large amounts of parish money.

The Answer

If humanity is to survive, one must identify the cause of the decadence which clearly afflicts not only the Arlington, Virginia diocese of the Catholic Church, but society in general. The source is the shift over the last 35 years from a “producer” society, which emphasizes the fact that man, by virtue of his capacity for cognition, is created in the living image of God, the Creator, to a “consumer” society, in which man is regarded as merely a pleasure-seeking animal. It is the toleration and advocacy of the bestial, imperial philosophy and policies of Aristotle, Jeremy Bentham, William James, and Adam Smith that underlies today’s consumer society.

There are those with a missionary disposition, like Pope John Paul II and the late Cardinal Van Thuan, who oppose this decadence, in that they address the spiritual aspect of man, which is to say the cognitive quality, that distinguishes man from the beast. They do this through spiritual exercises using the method of Plato’s Socratic dialogues. Unfortunately, the number of those fighting the current decadence with such methods is few.

Therefore, as Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized, “the answer lies in those of us who have a devotion to the concept of spiritual exercises, and it is upon us—whether we’re in the clergy or not—on whom the rescue of civilization depends for our role as leaders.”