

PREYING BISHOPS PRAYING FOR THEIR VICTIMS

THEY WERE EXPENDABLE.



So why the murder abetting silence of the U.S. Catholic Bishops over these past sixteen years while the U.S. government has been engaged in continuous homicidal violence in the Middle East? Why the total failure to even properly and effectively communicate to ordinary Catholic boys and girls, men and women the teaching of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies of the Nonviolent Jesus in the Gospels and/or even the teaching of the traditional norms of Catholic Just War Theory and the moral imperative that these norms be applied *strictly*, if one is to avoid becoming a murderer in military garb?

The reason for the sixteen years of obstinate and obscene murder-supporting silence by the U.S. Bishops, individually and collectively, is the long-established one-hand-washes-the-other- deal that exists between the U.S. Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Government.

The Government and its military say to the Catholic Bishops, "*Give us without objection and with your blessing your Catholic teenage boys and girls and your Catholic young men and women for our wars and we will see to it that your barns (coffers) are personally and institutionally filled to overflowing with government, military and corporate mammon and support.*" To which the Catholic Bishops, according to time-honored custom, say, "Amen," "So be it."

The Catholic Bishops accomplish their end of the deal primarily by employing the long-established *modus operandi* used universally to exploit and manipulate people, systematic indoctrination into ignorance. Knowledge is power. Power is the capacity to produce change. Knowledge is a power that can produce change. Those who want things to stay as they are, who do not want change, have as a major tool the calculated, systematic process of withholding knowledge, that is, have as an instrument for sustaining the status quo that serves them, indoctrination into non-awareness, indoctrination into ignorance.

The English word ignorance is derived from the Latin word *ignorare*, 'not to know,' 'ignore.' The twofold ignorance into which the U.S. Catholic Bishops indoctrinate U.S. Catholics *en masse* is the same twofold ignorance into which Catholic Bishops have indoctrinated Catholics *en masse* for sixteen centuries. Firstly, it is the ignorance of the historical fact that the Jesus of the Gospels is Nonviolent and teaches by word and deed unto death a Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies as the Way those He chooses (disciples) should imitate, teach and obey. Secondly, it is the ignorance of even the norms, *ad*

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bellam and *in bello*, of their own violence justifying substitute for Jesus' teaching of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies, namely, Catholic Just War Theory.

If the Bishops of the U.S. Catholic Church had taught, especially to young people, the factual truth about the Nonviolent Jesus of the Gospels and His Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies, with the same vigor and intensity as they have taught about the evil of abortion, how many young Catholic men and women would have gone to the Middle East to kill and maim people over the last sixteen years? If the Bishops of the U.S. Catholic Church had taught with the same vigor and intensity as they have taught about abortion, especially to young people, the *ad bellam* and *in bello* standards of Catholic Just War Theory, and that the moral consequences of not adhering *strictly* to these standards are the same moral consequences as procuring an abortion, how many young Catholic men and women would have gone to the Middle East to kill and maim people over the last sixteen years?

Sanity and a modicum of spiritual care for the Catholic young people of a diocese or nation would seem to make it a moral imperative for every Catholic Bishop(s) in the U.S. to thoroughly teach from grammar school onward the factual truth regarding the Nonviolent Jesus of the Gospel and His Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies, as well as, to thoroughly teach the only moral exception to Jesus' teaching available to Catholics, that is, Catholic Just War Theory strictly adhered to. But the Catholic bishops of the U.S. do neither. At best a Catholic Bishop(s) will give mere lip service to the Catholic Just War Theory and maybe a passing nod to the Nonviolent Jesus of the Gospels and His Way of Nonviolent Love of all under all circumstances. But that is about it. How often in your parish Church have you heard the pastor give a Sunday homily on the Nonviolent Jesus of the Gospels and His Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies or even on the standards of the traditional Catholic Just War Theory?

Yet, Catholics in the U.S. live in a secular political society and under a government that for decades spends more money on wars and the preparation for wars than any society or government in the history of humanity. It annually pays scientifically gifted people in universities billions of dollars to enhance arsenals of weapons that are already the most destructive weapons ever invented by human beings. It spends billions more on propaganda and public relations gimmicks to entice young people into the moonshine of the glories and nobility of war. There is almost no area of a young person's life and mind in the U.S. that is not daily subjected to expensive, hard core military propaganda. U.S. mass media of every sort is saturated to the point of mental and emotional, moral and spiritual suffocation with the most sophisticated military propaganda and public relations ploys that money can buy.

In this atmosphere all the U.S. Catholic Bishops do for the souls and minds and bodies of their Catholic children and young people is give occasional lip service to the general, non-specific notion of Catholic Just War Theory and possibly a momentary nod to the Nonviolent Jesus and His Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies. However, for the last sixteen years while the U.S. has been actively engaged in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, etc., they have not even done that, leaving tens of thousands of Catholic teenagers and young men and women to sign-up for and enter into the mass slaughter of war with little to no moral guidance regarding the precepts and principles to which a Catholic must adhere in relation to the phenomena of war if he or she is to avoid engaging in intrinsically grave evil, i.e., murder.

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If a Bishop, as the teacher in a diocese and as the person who decides what will and what will not be taught in the various institutions of his diocese, refuses to teach what Jesus in the Gospels teaches in relation to a grave moral problem in his society or in his diocese at the present moment in time, e.g. war, and if he will not even seriously and properly teach what his institutional Church teaches regarding that problem to the people it most immediately impacts, i.e. Catholic teenagers and young Catholic men and women, is he by his chosen silence participating in a dereliction of episcopal duty that amounts to active cooperation with evil and complicity in the evil of murder? If a Christian bishop serves in a society that lives under a perpetual war economy and if over the last seven decades that society has been in major declared and undeclared wars in each of those decades, plus hundreds of clandestine homicidal military actions around the globe, does not that Bishop engage in grave evil if he does not properly and thoroughly inform the consciousnesses and consciences of those in his spiritual and moral care of the only standards they can employ in evaluating whether they can, before God, morally participate in the military or whether they can, before God, morally participate in this war at this time under these conditions?

What an exercise in hypocrisy and in shameless audacity is it for a Bishop (or priest, or deacon, or minister) to say to a Christian family who is burying a son or daughter who was in the military and who was killed in a war, *"I'll pray for your child,"* when if the child had been taught by the Bishop (priest, deacon or minister) the teaching of Jesus or even the teaching of the institutional Church regarding violence, war and enmity as completely and as thoroughly as he or she had been taught the Church's teaching on abortion, he or she never would have entered the military or never would have participated in this particular war in which he or she was destroyed as they tried to destroy others?

However, by withholding from the now dead young person—via various tactics and strategies—a comprehensive knowledge of the Nonviolent Jesus of the Gospels and His Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies, as well as, a comprehensive knowledge of the standards of Catholic Just War Theory, the Bishops fulfilled their part of the one-hand-washes-the-other deal with the government. But, simultaneously they sell out the young people of their Church who were placed in their spiritual and moral care. Yes, they thereby insure the survival, indeed even the enhancement, of the institutional Church's earthly power, wealth and privileges. And, when the young Catholic men and women come back from war in body-bags or with their minds and bodies mangled their Bishop's response will always be, *"You're in my prayers."*

The Bishops response will never be,
"Forgive me for I have betrayed you. I intentionally denied you the moral knowledge that you had a right to and that I had a divine commission to impart to you. I misused your trust in me as your Bishop in order to make a good deal for the institutional Church with the government. Your spiritual, moral, mental and bodily well-being were secondary to the well-being of the institutional Church—a well-being maintained by staying in the good graces of the government by giving it unrestrained access to young Catholic cannon fodder. To me, you were expendable. Forgive me."

-Emmanuel Charles McCarthy