

This newsletter is the sole responsibility of Allen Polk Hemphill, and does not reflect the views of anyone but Allen. Allen can be contacted, and (free) electronic subscriptions are available at allen@allenhemphill.com
May be quoted with proper attribution.

"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

June 2, 2002



Archbishop Coverup

Can someone tell me what the hell is going on with the Priest-molestation mess?

If the molesters were teachers, and the cover-up was being done by Principals, both would be hauled off to jail in handcuffs, with video tape at six!

The Archdioceses of Boston, New York, and Los Angeles are all involved in long-term cover-up and even facilitation of the molestation by continuing to place KNOWN molesters back in sensitive positions.

The LA Diocese has hired a well-known "Master of Disaster" PR firm to spin the situation, but this situation has passed the PR possibilities. We are talking about hundreds of Priests, thousands of victims, and still the few Priests who have been arrested are former, retired, a defrocked Priests.

Despite the hundreds of millions of dollars already paid to victims, and the proof that these crimes were indeed committed, the Bishops who protected the Priests – and authorized the payments – refuse to even resign, much less get hauled away in handcuffs to face a Judge. The civil cases mount in the hundreds while the criminal cases are measured in single digits.

I can understand that District Attorneys who must face elections are reluctant to antagonize Catholic voters, but I submit that most Catholics are as embarrassed by these

Commentary

continuous revelations as are the great majority of non-Catholics. Priests, Bishops and Archbishops are NOT above the law, and indeed there is no outward claim that they are. Still, they are treated as if they are.

I suspect that many cases are being developed through Grand Jury subpoenas, but I doubt that a corporate officer, or a school Principal, or an electrician would get that consideration. And certainly, no school Principal or corporate officer or electrician could use company money to hire a PR firm to spin the un-spinnable.

This mess is NOT going away. New victims are coming forth daily, but I strongly suspect we will never hear from more than a few small percent of the actual victims.

Meanwhile, more bad news continues from a Church reacting by circling the wagons. Trying to look to the future without acknowledging the past, the Catholic Church is nothing but harmed by articles in Catholic magazines, edited in the Vatican, that float the idea that the Church hierarchy has the right to refuse to turn over information to civil authorities. That article, written by a top Canon Lawyer might have been little more than a “trial balloon” but it was made of lead and only served to make the American public shake their collective heads.

The hiring of a well-known PR firm by the LA Archdiocese is not a good move. Attorneys and PR specialists are not the answer. Complete transparency of the subject is the answer. The longer this boil festers, the longer this poison remains in the system and the longer the body of the Catholic Church will take to heal from this disaster.

Taking a page from President Clinton, the Catholic Church has decided that “deny, deny, deny, deflect, deflect, deflect” has worked for the former President and can work for them. They are wrong...President Clinton escaped jail but marginalized his personal support – and the Catholic Church cannot stand on the sand of a marginalized constituency.



Dolphin Realty

Allen P. Hemphill

Real Estate Broker

15817 Bernardo Center Dr, #
111, San Diego, Ca 92127
RB Office (858) 487-4750
Home Office (760) 749-2654

www.allenhemphill.com
allen@allenhemphill.com