

# Los Pequeños Pepper

*Newsletter of Los Pequeños de Cristo*



*“Not to oppose error is to approve it;  
and not to defend truth is to suppress it.”  
- Pope St. Felix III*

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## **Jesus Christ, the Bearer of the Water of Life**

*New Vatican document explains incompatibility of New Age and Christianity*

By Stephanie Block

Several dicasteries of the Holy See have released a provisional report concerning the New Age movement. The Vatican document, “Jesus Christ the Bearer of the Water of Life: A Christian Reflection on the ‘New Age,’” was written in response to the attraction some Christians have for the various practices and principles of New Age thought.

The document also seeks to explain how the New Age movement differs from the Christian faith:

*An adequate Christian discernment of New Age thought and practice cannot fail to recognize that, like second and third century gnosticism, it represents something of a compendium of positions that the Church has identified as heterodox. John Paul II warns with regard to the “return of ancient gnostic ideas under the guise of the so-called New Age: We cannot delude ourselves that this will lead toward a renewal of religion. It is only a new way of practicing gnosticism – that attitude of the spirit that, in the name of a profound knowledge of God, results in distorting His Word and replacing it with purely human words.” (1.4)*

What is particularly useful about “Jesus Christ the Bearer of the Water of Life” is that it specifically identifies many of the heterodox practices and principles prevalent in contemporary society. For example, in the section “A Select Glossary” of New Age terms, one can read:

*Enneagram: (from the Greek *ennéa* = nine + *gramma* = sign) the name refers to a diagram composed of a circle with nine points on its circumference, connected within the circle by a triangle and a hexangle. It was originally used for divination, but has become known as the symbol for a system of personality typology consisting of nine standard character types. It became popular after the publication of Helen Palmer's book *The Enneagram*, but she recognizes her indebtedness to the Russian esoteric thinker and practitioner G.I. Gurdjieff, the Chilean psychologist Claudio Naranjo and author Oscar Ichazo, founder of Arica. The origin of the enneagram remains shrouded in mystery, but some maintain that it comes from Sufi mysticism.*

Elsewhere the report says:

*Gnosticism never completely abandoned the realm of Christianity. Instead, it has always existed side by side with Christianity, sometimes taking the shape of a philosophical movement, but more often assuming the characteristics of a religion or a para-religion in distinct, if not declared, conflict with all that is essentially Christian.” An example of this can be seen in the enneagram, the nine-type tool for character analysis, which when used as a means of spiritual growth introduces an ambiguity in the doctrine and the life of the Christian faith. (1.5)*

## HOW TO RESPOND

How is the Church to respond to New Age thought? There are a number of suggestions given by this insightful document. One obvious measure is the development of strong apologetic skills among the faithful.

A section, “New Age and the Christian Faith in Contrast,” offers questions that clarify several common New Age errors – and provides responses to them. These questions include:

- Is God a being with whom we have a relationship or something to be used or a force to be harnessed?
- Is there just one Jesus Christ, or are there thousands of Christs?
- Do we save ourselves or is salvation a free gift from God?
- Are we tempted to deny sin or do we accept that there is such a thing?
- Are we encouraged to reject or accept suffering and death?

The responses are fairly succinct and useful for explaining the differences between Catholic thought and New Age thought. For instance, the question on prayer and meditation asks us to examine if are we talking to ourselves or to God. Part of the response offered is that:

*New Age practices are not really prayer, in that they are generally a question of introspection or fusion with cosmic energy, as opposed to the double orientation of Christian prayer, which involves introspection but is essentially also a meeting with God. Far from being a merely human effort, Christian mysticism is essentially a dialogue which "implies an attitude of conversion, a flight from 'self' to the 'you' of God...The Christian, even when he is alone and prays in secret, he is conscious that he always prays for the good of the Church in union with Christ, in the Holy Spirit and together with all the saints".*

Elsewhere, along the same lines, the point is made:

*Many people are convinced that there is no harm in 'borrowing' from the wisdom of the East, but the example of Transcendental Meditation (TM) should make Christians cautious about the prospect of committing themselves unknowingly to another religion (in this case, Hinduism), despite what TM's promoters claim about its religious neutrality. There is no problem with learning how to meditate, but the object or content of the exercise clearly determines whether it relates to the God revealed by Jesus Christ, to some other revelation, or simply to the hidden depths of the self. (6.2)*

"Jesus Christ, the Bearer of the Water of Life" also suggests making use of opportunities for genuine dialogue "which will never seek to blur distinctions in a fusion of all religious traditions." Further, solid catechesis, particularly use of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and making "the most of the riches of the Christian spiritual heritage" (6.2) are obvious tools for evangelizing. The "experience of meeting the stranger who offers us the water of life is a key to the way Christians can and should engage in dialogue with anyone who does not know Jesus." (5) †

## **Albuquerque's Center for the New Age**

*The Center for Action and Contemplation has done it all!*

Fr. Richard Rohr, according to the December *People of God* and the Archdiocese's Youth and Young Adult Ministry Homepage, will be a keynote speaker at the 2003 National Young Adult Conference, hosted by the Archdiocese in June. Rohr is the founder and director of the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) located in Albuquerque and listed as a "ministry" in the 2003 Official Directory of the Archdiocese.

Among other things:

- CAC has hosted "Elements of Magic in the Reclaiming Tradition" in 2001. The prominent Wiccan, Starhawk, conducted the classes. Advertisements promised that the "spiral dance" would be featured.
- CAC promotes meditative use of the labyrinth as "a way of learning through movement and praying instead of through thinking." Among the un-thought messages a labyrinth walker might learn, according to CAC literature, is that "life is not about 'doing it right.'"
- CAC regularly hosts instruction in the elements of Zen practice, such as the March 2001 retreat with Dr. Ruben Habito.
- CAC regularly hosts Enneagram workshops. Rev. Richard Rohr is one of the foremost pioneers and promoters of the New Age Enneagram.

In addition:

- In 1996, Fr. Rohr performed a "blessing" at CAC over a "same-sex union."
- In 2001, CAC participated in the Albuquerque Gay Pride Parade. Other participants carried banners reading: "Pagan Pride" and "We all come from the Goddess."
- CAC sponsored the Vatican-silenced Jeannine Gramick in May 2001. Gramick holds the position that homosexuality is normal and should be accepted by society.
- In 1997, CAC hosted "Coming Out, Coming Home: A Place in the Church for Lesbians and Gays" at which Biblical injunctions *against* homosexual activity were deconstructed and Bible 'blessings' *supportive* of active, "gay" relationships were posited.

- CAC's July-September 2001 publication, *Radical Grace*, argued for a "gay" liberation theology.

CAC has also hosted numerous Call to Action speakers, such as the retreat with Edwina Gately in July 2001. Call to Action believes that the Church ought to be restructured democratically, that women must be ordained to the priesthood, that its positions on morality – such as contraception and homosexuality – need to be revised, and that it has no right to uphold doctrinal positions. †

## **Tomb or Tabernacle: *Where* is the Body of Christ?**

By Marie P. Loehr © 2003

*They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.*  
- John 20:13

It is not enough for modern academics, theologians, and some bishops around the country to denigrate the Blessed Sacrament, reducing it in their teaching to no more than a symbol of the faith of the gathered community, simply a meal, and adoration of the Real Presence as magic and superstition. They ignore or deny *who* the Body of Christ is. This affects *where* they want to reveal or to hide the Body of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

There has been an ongoing debate for some years now about where to place the tabernacle, containing the Real Presence, in each church. Those of us who are older grew up knowing that the tabernacle was always enthroned on the main altar of the church. After Vatican II, it was still enthroned behind the main altar. Therefore, it was prominent and visible to those entering the church for Mass or "a visit to the Blessed Sacrament." In recent years, however, liturgists and church restoration experts insist that this distracts the laity from their focus on the Mass itself, the Eucharist as meal, and our attention to the parish and civic community.

As a result, when travelling around the country now, we can never be sure where the tabernacle will be found, if at all, when we enter a given Catholic church. One church in Little Rock secludes the Blessed Sacrament in an elaborate chapel to one side of the altar. A large parish in Dallas has hidden its chapel near the entrance to the church, in back. A church in upstate New York tucks its tabernacle into a small side altar. At least one parish in Phoenix has no visible tabernacle at all.

One local church had its tabernacle on a side wall of the church, outside the sanctuary, unadorned, and awkward to use during Mass. Another church, since remodeled, once had its tabernacle behind bars, side altar and all. This viewer wanted to cry like Batman's Robin, "holy Christ in a cage!" and leap, clinging, to the bars, rattling them like inmates in a Jimmy Cagney prison flick. "Jesus in jail" sums up the current attitude of some of our chief priests and their warden cohorts. Like the chief priests in Matthew's gospel, they fear the Body of Christ and want to make sure it's properly confined, hidden, buried.

Yet, the tabernacle takes its name from the great tent of the Israelites in Sinai. Our tabernacle was always central in the church, following the Israelite placement, on God's instructions, for their tabernacle tent. This tent was placed in the center of the Israelite camp, visible to all the tribes [Numbers 2:2]. This tent contained the Holy of Holies in its first liturgical form. Inside the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant and the showbread. Over the Ark hovered the seraphim of God. Over the tabernacle tent stood the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day--the shekinah of Yahweh, God-with-us, that both revealed and concealed His presence among the Chosen People. The tabernacle that both reveals and conceals the Blessed Sacrament is an image of that original tabernacle.

In the first chapter of John's Gospel we read "and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us." The actual translation reads "and the Word became flesh, and pitched his tent among us." John identifies the body of

Christ, His human flesh, with the tabernacle of the Chosen People--the place of the presence of God-with-us. This reveals that John is not speaking of the Greek "Logos" only. He is referring to the Word of the Torah, the foreshadowing of Christ. Tabernacle means tent. It is the Latin translation of the Greek and Hebrew for tent. It is also the root of our "tavern," a place where people gather for intoxicating drink and conviviality--a place of "comfort, light, and peace" for many. It is not an entirely inappropriate connection!

The tabernacle, "the place where Your glory dwells," is central to Jewish worship space, even now. The scrolls of the Torah, the written Word of God, are kept in the equivalent of our tabernacle. When this tabernacle is opened, all eyes are focussed on it--and on the presence of God revealed in the Word, the Torah scrolls. Yet we who have the fulfillment and fullness of that word in the Body of Christ Himself must wrestle with so-called experts who have less understanding of this reality than many non-Catholics.

The tabernacle itself is sign and symbol of the human flesh of Christ. As the Blessed Sacrament is contained in the tabernacle, so the Divinity of the only-begotten Son of God is contained in the tabernacle tent of the human flesh of Jesus Christ.

Seal Him in a rocky tomb. Bury Him in a hidden chapel. He can only be sealed away, buried for so long. He always rises again, triumphant. Certain religious are always burying Christ. But wherever they hide Him, we can find Him--if all else fails--in the living, purified tabernacle of our own hearts. If He is removed from our central altars, we will give Him a central altar in our minds, hearts, and souls. For Paul says, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" Christ Himself says, "I am with you always." When there are no other tabernacles left on the altars of the world, we may visit Him, adore Him, rejoice in Him always in the tabernacle of our own hearts and souls.

Let us ask Him to replace our cold hearts of stone with His burning Heart of sacred flesh. Let us be a living tabernacle in our flesh for His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity--now and forever. †

## Pharmacists for Life, Unite!

*Planned Parenthood has big plans.*

By Manuel Rodriguez, RPh

I recently attended a presentation that was sponsored by the New Mexico Pharmaceutical Association, a provider of Continuing Education for pharmacists. The presenter was Dr. Koster MD of Planned Parenthood.

Dr. Koster told the pharmacists that they would soon be *prescribing*, in addition to dispensing, emergency contraception pills, popularly called the "Morning After Pill." In the one and one-half hours of presentation that followed, she described the latest assault on human life being waged by Planned Parenthood. In the months to come, Planned Parenthood wants pharmacists to have unlimited authority to prescribe these abortifacient drugs in every state across our nation. Washington State has led the way and other states are poised to follow suit.

When this happens, thousands of pharmacies across the land, many are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, will become the dispensers of death for mothers seeking to kill their babies in the womb.

Pharmacists for Life is developing its counterattack against this new threat to human life. We know that the pharmacy industry in our state – as everywhere – is very conscious of public opinion. We are preparing to picket pharmacies in much the same way as we picket abortion mills. Our pro-life pharmacists are organising and alerting pro-life groups everywhere for all out effort to stop Planned Parenthood.

Pro-life groups in every state in the nation, facing similar situations, will meet in the weeks to come. This is the time to organise and get prepared – before the new regulations go into effect.

We propose that all pharmacists receive a letter (pharmacists addresses can be obtained in computer disk form or in print, for a fee, from states' Board of Pharmacy) that clearly explains the new threat to life. It will also explain the pro-life community's willingness to assist pharmacists in resisting this atrocity and will, in turn, invite their participation.†

*For further information write Manuel Rodriguez, Life League of New Mexico, P.O. Box 905, Belen, New Mexico, 87002, [www.demontford@netzero.net](mailto:www.demontford@netzero.net), or contact the American Life League.*

## Not Archdiocesan-Related

*Los Pequeños is an independent lay association.*

Los Pequeños de Cristo and its monthly newsletter, *The Pepper*, are grateful to the Archdiocesan paper, *The People of God*, for pointing out that our organization is in no way affiliated with the Archdiocese. While our members are Catholics who are passionately committed to a defense of the Church's Magisterium and Teachings, the organization operates outside of any Church structure. This has been an important point for us, as can be read in our organizational brochures.

Why do we operate in this way? To understand our position, take the example of the *People of God*. As an Archdiocesan paper, it does not, and cannot, function in a critical or investigative capacity. It must advertise and support the activities of those who officially represent the Archdiocese – its priests and religious, its religious education coordinators, and its recognized ministries. These individuals and bodies are acquainted with one another, working together and frequently involved in one another's ministerial efforts.

What happens, then, when a group listed in the 2003 Official Catholic Directory of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe comes to the *People of God* with its plans for upcoming programs – such as Enneagram workshops, training in Zen meditation, or sponsorship of a Call to Action speaker? The *People of God* carries an enthusiastic account or, at the very least, an ad. It could hardly do otherwise.

*The Pepper* has no such constraints. We are at liberty to examine what is being said and done and written around the Archdiocese and we are free to ask, when appropriate, if these things are Catholic or if they foster the faith.

The *answers* to such questions, to which *Los Pequeños* gives complete assent, don't lie with *Los Pequeños*, of course. They are to be found in Vatican teachings, such as "Jesus Christ, the Bearer of the Water of Life," in the words of the Holy Father, and in the prudent judgements of the bishops who are in union with him. †

## Interview with New Mexico Senator William Sharer

*(Excerpted)*

By Stephanie Block

*SB: Tell me a little about yourself, Senator. I know that you're Catholic and you mentioned that you've home schooled two children...*

WS: About myself - I have been married to Beth for nearly 22 years. We have two children: Amanda and Sean. Currently both of them are working as Catholic youth ministers. To me this is absolutely amazing. With so many children and young adults engaged in self destructive and immoral behavior, we feel extraordinarily blessed that our children are actually living and working their faith.

Beth and I met while we were attending New Mexico State University. We're both native New Mexicans. She was working toward a nursing degree when we met. We married several months later and she dropped out of school to follow me around the world. I was an officer in the US Army....

We moved back to New Mexico in 1995 to work at Credit Bureau of Farmington. We purchased the company in 2000 and I was elected to the New Mexico State Senate the same year. That's my life in a nutshell!

*SB: You've introduced some pro-life legislation recently. Tell me about SJR 8.*

WS: SJR 8 is a proposed change to the New Mexico Constitution. It amends Article II, Sec 18. Currently the constitution states, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law;..." SJR 8 adds "Human life begins at the moment of fertilization and continues until natural death..." This makes the entire sentence read, "Human life begins at the moment of fertilization and continues until natural death, and no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

In New Mexico we execute 15 people *every day* in 'for profit death centers'. Clearly, not a single one of these executed people were afforded "due process of law" before we deprived them of life. Of course, the defense of these executions is in the lie of "privacy." Simply because I do not have a right to know whether you are pregnant or not has been interpreted to mean that you can kill your child. Obviously, privacy does not extend to the killing of a born person. Therefore, I am simply attempting to clarify that *all* people are protected by our constitution....

I have no illusions that this bill will pass even the first committee. There is a strong death-for-profit contingent in the state senate. Planned Parenthood ... does a very good job of recruiting and funding death-for-profit candidates. Unfortunately, there is no organization that funds or helps the pro-life candidates with such fervor.

With all that said, I believe it is important to take the fight back to the public square. I don't really think we can eliminate the slaughter of 15 New Mexicans per day by changing the law. We need to change hearts first. If we can get people to look into their hearts with honesty, they'll see that they are not undergoing some benign surgery to cure a disease – they're killing children. Once they come to this truth, they will stop this atrocity themselves.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court, with its arbitrary decisions in *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton*, has removed the voice of the people from the abortion issue. Our best hope of getting the democratic process re-involved is to have an overwhelming ground swell of opposition to these killings. We must make abortion a wrong recognized by society before we can make it illegal. Every time someone asks me about this bill, I have one more chance to tell the truth to the world.

I believe that now is as good a time as any to make this push. With the advancements in technology, it is very difficult to view an ultrasound of a baby in the womb and not recognize that you are seeing a baby. In the last few years we have seen pictures of babies undergoing surgery while still unborn. These images are graphic proof that unborn people are people.

*SB: Are you getting support from the New Mexico Catholic Conference? Why or why not do you think this is the case?*

WS: No. I don't really know why this is. I didn't ask for their support or the support of anyone else for that matter. However, others have found me....

*SB: Have you received any strong, negative responses yet? What sort of a battle do you anticipate?*

WS: Last time I introduced this bill I received anonymous calls at home, late at night. These calls were filled with profanity and wild ravings about my lack of concern about women's rights.

Officially, the Attorney General prepared an opinion that refers to *Roe v Wade* and simply states that such a bill would violate the US Constitution. Most of my opponents seem to believe that is all they need to do. "This legislation violates a women's right to privacy as protected by the Constitution of the United States." Not dealing in facts seems to be the only effort to defeat this bill....

***SB: How do you, personally, respond to fellow politicians who claim to be Catholic but support pro-choice positions?***

WS: Several times over the past two years I've challenged Catholics during floor debates. I ask specific questions about our faith and how they reconcile their actions with it. On one occasion, I copied a prayer for the unborn that is read at most Knights of Columbus meetings. I sent a copy of the prayer to a senator that proudly stood and declared that he was a Knight, yet was attempting to defeat the bill for parental notification before a minor child gets an abortion. He ignored the prayer and voted to allow girls to kill their babies without their parents' knowledge. There was nothing in the bill that prevented the abortion; it just said parents must be informed prior to the execution.

Since reading Bishop William Weigand's comment to California Governor Gray Davis, I believe I will simply quote him in the future. He stated: "I have to say clearly that anyone, politician or otherwise, who thinks it is acceptable for a Catholic to be pro-abortion is in very great error, puts his or her soul at risk, and is not in good standing with the Church. Such a person should have the integrity to acknowledge this and choose of his own volition to abstain from receiving Holy Communion until he has a change of heart...."

***SB: Thank you so much, Senator, for your time. Good luck at the legislature! ✚***

## Restoring the Ember Days

*A new use for an old tradition*

By Manuel Rodriguez

On behalf of the Life League of New Mexico, I want to invite the pro-life community to join us in a special prayer for the preborn. We are all seeking to celebrate life in more meaningful ways, appreciating God's first gift to us as we enter this world, expressing our gratitude to Him and our love for every person, especially the unborn.

Wishing to find some special way to institute a new prayer of reparation for the horror and sorrow of abortion, we came across some material describing the Church's longstanding tradition of celebrating Ember Days. The more we thought about it, the more excited we became.

Ember days began in pagan Rome as a time to worship the mythical deities of the Roman Empire. On designated weeks, corresponding to the four seasons of the year, celebrations and festivities were held with licentiousness and drunkenness throughout the Empire.

The early Church would never think of taking part in such orgies and human degradations. It did, however, recognize that people's legitimate needs provided an opportunity to pay tribute to the true God with an outpouring of gratitude and love for His mercy and compassion. Three days in particular, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, were associated with fasting and prayer and were set aside, one week in each season, to seek God's blessings on the fields, to pray for the priesthood, ***and to pray for pregnant women and the birth of their children.*** What could be more appropriate for us!

The year's first Ember Days come after the first Sunday of Lent, corresponding to the coming of spring and the end of the long cold winter. This year they fall in the second week of March, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

The second Ember Week of the year comes during the Pentecost octave, this summer falling in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>.

In September, Ember Week is celebrated in the week following the Exaltation of the Cross – on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. This is deeply meaningful, reminding us that blessings are often the fruit of great sacrifice.

The winter Ember Days come after the third Sunday of Advent, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Life League of New Mexico will be celebrating each of the three Ember Days, every season, at the Catholic Knights of America Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. with prayers before the Blessed Sacrament to the UNBORN JESUS in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The prayer service will include prayers of petition by and for and in unity with the pro-life community throughout the world. This prayer service will end with a meditation from John Saward's book "Redeemer in the Womb." The service is an hour and a half and will be followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at about 10:30 a.m.

When enough people come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament on their knees, the abortion clinic at Planned Parenthood across the street will close its doors and abortion will itself die in our great city of Albuquerque. This is the prediction of Our Blessed Mother; it is her promise and it will be our miracle. We pray also that contraception in our midst will be done away with and that all forms of chemical abortions cease.

Join us! ✚

*Phone (505) 864-2222 for more information.*

## **Tough Times to be a Pro-abortion Catholic Politician**

*It's getting uncomfortable for Catholic pro-choice politicians.*

In California, the unabashedly pro-abortion Governor Gray Davis was indirectly indicted by the following remarks of Sacramento Bishop William K. Weigand. "As your bishop, I have to say clearly that anyone - politician or otherwise - who thinks it is acceptable for a Catholic to be pro-abortion is in very great error, puts his or her soul at risk, and is not in good standing with the church. Such a person should have the integrity to acknowledge this and choose of his own volition to abstain from receiving Holy Communion until he has a change of heart...I'm saying you can't be a Catholic in good standing and hold that point of view. The governor's position is very public and contrary."

On January 16, the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith specifically addressed a Catholic's role in political life in its document, "The Participation of Catholics in Political Life." The document called politicians and voters to be "morally coherent" and not lead "parallel lives" between one's personal and public life. "Living and acting in conformity with one's own conscience on questions of politics is not slavish acceptance of positions alien to politics or some kind of confessionism," the document said. It is, "rather the way in which Christians offer their concrete contribution so that, through political life, society will become more just and more consistent with the dignity of the human person" (No. 6).

Catholic laity are instructed that "a well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law that contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals." Church opposition to abortion, euthanasia and same-sex marriage was not up for negotiation. The pope reaffirmed to Roman Catholic politicians that when they take positions opposing "the basic right to life from conception to natural death" they are outside the doctrine of faith.

The new year also saw the launching of the American Life League *Crusade to Defend Our Catholic Church*, including a campaign to put pressure on what it calls "The Deadly Dozen:" 12 U.S. senators who are both Catholic and support legalized abortion. Among the 12 are Senators Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, and John Kerry, D-Mass., a Democratic candidate for president. "For 2,000 years, the Catholic Church has steadfastly defended the sanctity of all human life," said American Life League president Judie Brown. "The simple fact is you cannot actively support abortion and be a faithful Catholic. You can't have it both ways. The Church's teachings on this matter are very clear."

Isn't it time to make some New Mexico politicians squirm? ✚