



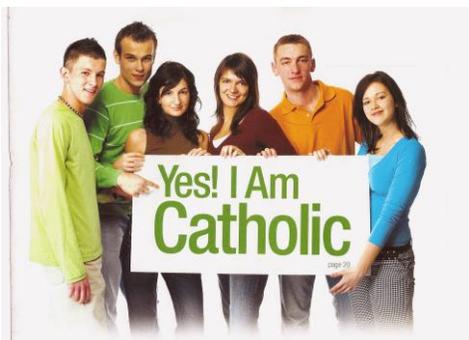
DIGNITY / FORT LAUDERDALE

THE WORD AUGUST 2012

Serving the Roman Catholic GLBT Community, its families & friends in Broward County since 1986

On July 25, 2012, Terry Gross on the National Public Radio station on her show, Fresh Air, interviewed Bishop Leonard Blair, Bishop of Toledo, OH. Here is an excerpt of the interview with a quote from article by Psychologist Kathy Gallagher as printed in the July 17, 2012 edition of the National Catholic Reporter. These viewpoints offer, I believe, an important insight as to why the Dignity message and ministry is not greeted by some with great enthusiasm.

BLAIR: And this raises another important point, I think; that no one is questioning the compassionate, pastoral care that has to be given to people - for example, people who have a homosexual inclination. And I think sometimes, there's a disservice done when it's made to sound as if the church condemns homosexuals. And that is not the case. The bishops in the United States have written a guide for pastoral care of people with a homosexual inclination. So we want to extend that care to everyone, and we want to treat everyone with dignity and respect. But that's very different than insisting, then, on the claims of a gay lifestyle or gay culture, and trying to undermine the institution of marriage. And that's something where I think Catholics would reasonably expect that a leadership group of women religious would, you know, subscribe to that, and want to be part of that effort.



Upcoming Events:

Every Sunday 7:00 PM..... Liturgy
Aug 4th 8 PM ...Theater Night: Late Nite Catechism
Aug 11th 8 PMTheater Night: The Best Man
Aug 18th 5:30 PMDinner & Movie Night

GROSS: But a growing number of people in the United States find gay marriage to be not only a perfectly acceptable thing, but a positive direction to head in because it gives equality and equality of marriage to homosexuals. It's one of the things where a lot of people think the church is actually out of step.

BLAIR: Well, you bring up a very important point; that yes, there are a lot of people who don't agree with the Catholic Church about these moral teachings and moral issues. But we would expect that a group of religious Sisters who are Catholic nuns, would accept the teaching of their church. And I might add that this is not a teaching that we just dreamt up in recent years. It's been the - from time immemorial, the God-given nature of human sexuality and marriage.

GROSS: I think some people think that, you know, that the church is actually being very hypocritical about certain issues like homosexuality and gay marriage, and trying to prevent nuns from questioning any church positions on sexuality while at the same time, many people think there was so much neglect and cover-up within the church of the priest sex-abuse scandal, with abusive priests sometimes just being moved to a different parish.

I want to read you something from the National Catholic Reporter. This is an article by Kathy Gallagher - I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing her name correctly - from July

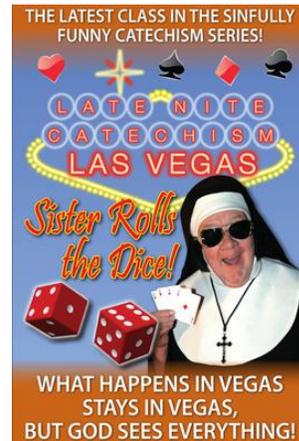
17th of this year. For nearly eight years, she worked as a psychologist at a treatment center for priests and religious, and she worked with a number of men who had committed sexual abuse. She writes: In the past 10 years, the church has taken steps toward responding to the tragedy of sexual abuse in the church at the individual level, including responding to allegations more quickly, involving law enforcement, and developing child protection policies. However, the church has not yet been willing or able to examine its own role as an institution in concealing and enabling decades of abuse. The bishops have not taken collective responsibility for their actions (and inactions) and for the enormous pain they have caused. As much as the abuse itself, it is this failure by the hierarchy to acknowledge and accept their responsibility that has angered and disillusioned so many current and now-former Catholics. Too much pain is still unacknowledged and unworked. The church hierarchy seems to be stuck and they are blaming and lashing out. They have started a fight with LCWR and the women religious. In the doctrinal assessment, they have accused the women of the church of betraying the core values of the church, of causing scandal and leading the faithful astray, and of not being sufficiently trustworthy to reform themselves. They have ordered the women to be closely supervised. These accusations seem more rightly to belong to the sexual abuse scandal rather than to the actions of LCWR. It was the bishops who, by protecting sexual abusers, betrayed core values of the church and caused scandal to the faithful. It is the institutional church that appears not to be able to reform itself and to be in need of outside supervision.

This fight with LCWR is a distraction from the work the bishops still need to do in order to bring about genuine healing in the church.



LATE NITE CATECHISM: LAS VEGAS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH AT 8:00PM

“Late Nite Catechism Las Vegas: Sister Rolls the Dice” will be playing at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts during the weekend of August 3rd – Aug 5th. The chapter plans to attend the August 4th performance at 8 PM.



This is the latest class in the sinfully funny Catechism series. The Naples News calls it "sharp, witty and spectacularly brilliant" and says: "Anyone from Buddhists to Zoroastrians will enjoy attending this 'Late Nite Catechism'." The convent needs a new roof, so the order has decided that Sister (with her extensive gambling experience running the Church Bingo for the last 25 years) will organize a Las Vegas night! Sister will tackle topics ranging from Magicians and Show Girls to live animal acts and the dangers of drive-through marriage chapels. Don't forget: "What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas", but God sees everything!

Tickets are \$35. If you plan to attend, please contact George at 954-465-3317 by Sunday July 29th

“THE BEST MAN” WITH TED DVORACHEK
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH AT 8:00 P.M.

Ted Dvorchek, a friend of the chapter, will be performing in the Pembroke Pines Theater of the Performing Arts’ production of Gore Vidal’s “The Best Man”. The show will be performed at Katz Theater is located at 17195 Sheridan Street in Pembroke Pines on Friday, Saturday and Sundays from July 20th to August 12th with Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 PM.

Dignity/ Fort Lauderdale Inc Membership Form

Suggested Dues: \$50.00

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