

Chronicles

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Why Are Catholics Such Cowards?

The Vatican thunders against abortion, priestesses, same-sex "marriage," assisted suicide, illicit sex, consumerism, smutty sex education, defective theology, and more. But walk into your average parish. *Where's the beef?*

All we get are *crumbs*: balloons or clowns or liturgical dancers or banners with greeting-card sentiments, but always platitudinous homilies. We don't hear about the Church's teachings on abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, pre-marital sex, pornography, birth control, the indissolubility of marriage, Hell, etc. *Why not?* "Too controversial," whines the cowardly pastor. Pop psychology and feel-good "theology" are all the go. Shack-ups and homosexual partnerships are considered morally equivalent to Holy Matrimony, for Father Fluff doesn't refer to husbands and wives as husbands and wives anymore — now he calls them "partners," just like people in immoral unions, lest those living in sin feel "marginalized" or, well, sinful. Indeed, sin and repentance are passé, prompting one to wonder why Christ bothered to get crucified and why the martyrs chose death over compromising the Faith.

Wimpy clerics, deathly afraid of being Politically Incorrect, keep the full Catholic message from us. We're being robbed of our history, doctrine, moral resources, and intellectual heritage. No wonder many Catholics, who don't have a clue as to what Catholicism stands for, fall for anything our

decadent culture entices them with!

How long are clerics going to censor the Faith, bow down before the strange gods of an alien culture? We at the NEW OXFORD REVIEW, a monthly magazine edited by orthodox lay Catholics, say to the double-dealing men (men?) of the cloth: "Stop cheating us, and get with the Magisterium!"

We have an international audience, and we're published in infamous Berkeley, so we've seen fads and frauds galore. We know degeneracy when we see it. We aren't afraid to call a spade a spade. No wonder *Newsweek* calls us "cheeky." Orthodox Catholics in Berkeley? Yes! Damn the torpedoes!

Amazingly, we're also ecumenical in spirit — but we engage non-Catholics at the highest common denominator of faith, not the lowest. Many of the finest Catholic and non-Catholic thinkers have

appeared in our pages: Walker Percy, Christopher Lasch, Jean Bethke Elshtain, Peter Kreeft, John Lukacs, Sheldon Vanauken, Robert Coles, William Marra, James Hitchcock. No wonder the *Los Angeles Times* calls us "influential"!

If you're sick and tired of Catholicism-Lite, disgusted when clergymen, nuns, and theologians act like wind-up toys of the secularist media and the forces of neopaganism, we're for you. If you're a Catholic with guts, subscribe today!

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