

To the Editor July 20, 2020

About Organized Religion

“Science flies spaceships to the moon. Religion flies airplanes into buildings” — Victor John Stenger.
American particle physicist, atheist, author, philosopher, and religious skeptic.

Those raised as a Catholic, heard the repetitive lessons in their schools about Original Sin. This is a devious and shameful kind of guilt loaded onto unsuspecting innocent children. Being told that they have been born bad and thus need follow a lot of rules, and confess innocent sins repetitively. They are kept afraid, pious, and humble. Told they need to do a lot of things to correct their inherent inbred evil and bad behavior or they will go to Hell. (que the prayer book pictures of hapless wretched people burning in flames). Subjecting children to this treatment today would be called child abuse.

Those named Michael, (or John, James, Andrew) were linked to their namesake Saints. The Raphael painting, “Vanquishing Satan”, of St. Michael the Archangel hanging on the walls of the school and in the daily prayer books. In church of course, more of the sculptures that symbolize the victory of good over evil. They depicted a winged angel with spear, standing with arms and legs spread above a bound figure of the horned devil lying supine. No pressure for these kids to live up to that either.

Their enlightened religious educational goals were to shame and beat the clever and curious out of all, mostly by frustrated old women with cardboard foreheads, and belts of knotted clothesline. They try to replace these genetic birth traits with constant fear, contrition, and piety. This was an effective method of control before the ADD medicines used on kids in schools these days.

An unenlightened educational ideology was used to change biologically left-handed kids to use the right one. The left hand after all was the Devils hand, and that would just not do.

These Catholic educated schoolchildren were taught a St. Francis responsibility to the poor and less fortunate, but also a subtle type of racism with the collection of money for Pagan Babies, pictured as those not born in predominantly white America.

I will propose here that the Catholic religion was, and still is, a domestic terrorist group. It is run by Christian Supremacist Fascists. A disproportionate percentage of priests prey on children, the most vulnerable in our society. They do not suffer the consequences for their rapes and assaults, but are just moved from place to place and exposed to a fresh batch of victims. But meanwhile the children remain damaged for life. This happened for decades, and is still happening today.

In what other occupations would this be allowed or even tolerated?

What if television personalities and executives committed rapes and sexual assaults, would we just allow them to get away with this for decades? Wait, bad example. We did actually do this.

What if athletic coaches committed rape and sexual assaults on boys and girls and were allowed to get away with it for decades? Oops, another bad example. We did that one too.

What if television weathermen committed rape and sexual assaults and we passed them around from station to station. Surely that would be over the line, and we would put our foot down there.

Catholic Bishops engage in financial trickery to hide the wealth of dioceses to avoid large lawsuit payments because of this behavior, and are then moved to other cities and rewarded with promotions, and just maybe a shot at going to Rome becoming a Cardinal in the Mecca of wealth and corruption.

No doubt that the pomp and circumstance, songs and traditions are impressive and moving and can be inspiring and comforting at times like Christmas and Easter. Religion has also some positives by providing some advantages in establishing communities and in the preservation of cultural and ethnic heritages in this country. But so do the secular arts, music, sport, science, and many other creativity communities.

Religion inculcates people to live on beliefs, theories and speculation that were passed from generation to generation, and originated at a time when our species knew very little about the world around us. Without the knowledge of the sciences many of the questions and unexplainable event occurrences around us were attributed to the supernatural, a higher power or Gods. An afterlife was invented to blunt the reality of death, as were divine punishments and divine rewards. Organized religion was and is complicit in centuries of wars, crusades, and colonialism, which continue today. While in the Middle Ages these beliefs perhaps had some societal value, now it insulates people from the need to rely on knowledge and facts.

"Religion is the opium of the people" is one of the most frequently paraphrased statements of German philosopher and economist Karl Marx.?

Shia and Sunni Islam are the two major denominations of Islam. They chose sides following the death of the Islamic prophet Muhammad in AD 632. A dispute over succession to Islamic prophet Muhammad as a caliph of the Islamic community spread across various parts of the world. They have been killing each other, and others, over this dispute for almost 1400 years.

In this century however, religion represents a conscience choice not to think. It has an adverse effect on, and poisons political and social events and our society in many ways. Suicide bombers after all, belong to a faith based organization, as do the current residents of the Guantanamo Bay prison. So do the genital mutilation, open fraud televangelist/mega church communities, as well as the child rape community already mentioned. I believe that we have evolved beyond listening to men in pajamas espousing magical wish thinking, praying, and encouraging us to pray to imaginary friends and a Magical Jesus in a mythical place called Heaven.

*We satisfy our endless needs
And justify our bloody deeds
In the name of destiny
And in the name of God
Don Henley, The Last Resort*

After all, those who know if there is in fact an afterlife aren't talking, those who clearly don't know, seem to be talking a lot these days. You must emancipate yourself from these cults, and this pseudo masochism, to live a free and meaningful life. This will be the beginning of wisdom for you.

"The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weakness, the Bible a collection of honorable, but still purely primitive, legends which are nevertheless pretty childish. No interpretation, no matter how subtle, can change this for me." Albert Einstein

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD0B-X9Ljjs>