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Anti-Catholic Posters Popping Up

Would You Believe: Vatican Owns 3 Major TV Networks?

By NC News Service

Posters warning of "Vatican ownership and manipulation" of major U.S. media have been appearing on buildings, telephone poles and bus stops in several U.S. cities.

The posters say that the Vatican secretly owns Time, Newsweek, People and Life magazines, ABC, CBS, and NBC, the Hearst newspaper chain, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, as well as local newspapers, television and radio stations.

Catholic newspaper editors reported seeing the posters in Nashville and Clarksville, Tenn.; Evansville, Ind.; St. Louis, Springfield and Cape Girardeau, Mo.; New Orleans, Louisville, Ky.; Tulsa, Okla.; Atlanta; Des Moines, Iowa; Charlotte, N.C.; and Jackson, Miss.

The posters claim that "the Vatican uses these magazines to exalt and exonerate themselves (sic) from crimes that they have done and are currently doing" and uses the media "to smear and malign who they will secretly."

No one has claimed responsibility for hanging the posters.

In Evansville the signs were posted only on vacant buildings, but in Springfield several were glued onto the windows of the Knights of Columbus building and in Des Moines they were pasted onto the windows and door of the chancery and the front doors of the cathedral.

The posters were first noticed early in the morning Feb. 12 in Des Moines and were put up as late as March 9 on the doors of the Catholic Center in Charlotte.

Father Stephen Bauer, associate pastor at Holy Family Church in St. Louis, was the first to report seeing posters in that city, where they were hanging on buildings, at bus stops and at a shopping center.

"Somebody is getting around pretty well and doing a lot of work against the Lord," Father Bauer told the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper.

The priest said he pointed out the signs to parishioners and was disturbed by their lack of concern.

The charges may seem comical to some people because they are so patently false, he said, "but like anything else if it's said often enough, some people may start believing it."

The people who put it up there obviously take it literally."

Father Bauer said Catholics need to be alert to these kinds of attacks on the church. "We just can't tolerate it anymore than any other faith should."

In Nashville the poster was seen in a store owned by the Tony and Susan Alamo Christian Foundation. According to the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Nashville Diocese, a clerk at the store said "a traveling Christian group came through town and asked to put up the posters."

Terry White, a foundation volunteer, told the Message, newspaper of the Diocese of Evansville, that the foundation bases its beliefs on the fundamentals of the Bible. She also said that the foundation has traveling missionaries, but denied any connection between the group and the posters.

Later Ms. White was quoted in the March 11 edition of the Evansville Sunday Courier and Press, a daily, as saying, "Did you know that People, Newsweek, Time and Life magazine are secretly owned by the Vatican? We have documented proof of this. The Vatican uses these publications to tell lies and smear religious leaders in our nation."

Ms. White declined to comment when contacted by NC News.

The posters were first seen in Clarksville on Feb. 24, said Father William McKenzie, associate pastor of the city's Immaculate Conception Church.

Father McKenzie said that the day before the posters appeared, a caller identifying himself as "the beast" threatened to destroy the church.

Clarksville police were investigating the matter in cooperation with Nashville police and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

"We suspect that this rash of posters is another manifestation of the new wave of sectarian anti-Catholicism which has swept the country since 1979," said Orlan Love, director of publications for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights in Milwaukee.

Anti-Catholic incidents "have more than doubled in the last six months," Love said, and could be related to media

Warning!

People Newsweek TIME LIFE magazines are secretly owned by The Vatican!

The Vatican uses these magazines to exalt and exonerate themselves from crimes that they have done and are currently doing. The Vatican also uses these magazines to smear and malign who they will secretly. The Vatican also owns NBC, CBS, and ABC, William Randolph Hearst Newspaper Chain, The New York Times, and many other local newspapers, Los Angeles Times, TV, and radio stations.

Watch Out!!

coverage of U.S.-Vatican relations.

He also said that the league has noted a "growing trend" of anti-Catholic statements by radio and television evangelists.

Angry Archbishop

O'Connor 'Outraged' at Implication

New York (NC) -- Archbishop John J. O'Connor said March 13 he was "outraged" at inferences in a New York Times editorial that his comparison of abortion to Hitler's holocaust was anti-Semitic or was meant to compare women who had abortions with Nazis.

The March 13 Times editorial, titled "Hitler and Abortion," urged "a change in tone" by the new archbishop,

whose installation as head of the New York Archdiocese was set for March 19. Archbishop O'Connor had been bishop of Scranton, Pa.

The Times editorial quoted comments Archbishop O'Connor made March 11 in an interview with television station WNBC.

"I always compare the killing of 4,000 babies a day in the United States, unborn babies, with the holocaust..." the editorial

quoted Archbishop O'Connor as saying. "Now Hitler tried to solve a problem, the Jewish question. So kill them, shove them into ovens, burn them. Well, we claim that unborn babies are a problem, so kill them. To me it really is precisely the same."

The Times editorial said the archbishop's remarks implied "that Hitler had a problem called the 'Jewish question,' and that only his remedy was evil."

The editorial also said the remarks implied that women who have abortions practice Nazi genocide and that "public figures who personally oppose abortion but resist imposing their theology on others are hypocrites and, indeed, sponsors of Hitlerian murder."

In a news article appearing a day after the editorial, Archbishop O'Connor told the Times it was "most unfortunate" that his remarks were construed to mean that "in some way I was implying that the Jews were a problem."

"That is a terribly unfair implication or inference," he added. "As I have publicly preached and written, I consider the holocaust one of the most outrageous events in the

history of mankind."

The archbishop said that any implications of anti-Semitism were "grossly unfair. I simply will not accept that."

The archbishop also said that he "never, never for a moment" meant to compare women who have had abortions with Nazis.

According to a transcript from the television interview the archbishop said, "I try not to indict anyone. I certainly do not condemn, by any stretch of the imagination, nor does the church, the poor, young, confused girl who, not knowing which way to turn, has an abortion, or the family that supports her in doing so. I think objectively it is gravely sinful. A human life has been taken. But I don't condemn the individual who acts out of confusion and desperation."

On the editorial's implication regarding public officials the archbishop told the Times reporter he was not accusing anyone of being hypocritical, but "I do not understand the logic" of those officials.

According to the transcript the archbishop said, "I have absolutely no tolerance, I

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Bishop to Say Marian 'Act' On March 24

(Following is the text of a diocesan release issued last week.)

On Feb. 3, 1984, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops received a request from Pope John Paul II that dioceses throughout the world join him in "An Act of Entrusting to Our Lady," the text of which the pope will deliver on the feast of the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

In his letter, the pope indicated that he chose this feast because "the solemnity of the annunciation, which in the course of the liturgical year recalls the beginning of the work of the Redemption in the history of humanity, seemed to be a particularly appropriate time."

Pope John Paul indicated that prayer is our greatest strength as a Church and as a community. In particular, he stressed that prayer to our Blessed Mother allows each person to renew his or her awareness of the need for change and renewal in the face of on-going world crises. "I am profoundly convinced," said the holy father, "that the repetition of this act in the course of the Jubilee Year of the Redemption corresponds to the expectations of many human hearts, which wish to renew to the Virgin Mary the testimony of their devotion and to entrust to her their sorrows at the many different ills of the present time, their fears of the menaces that brood over the future, their preoccupations for peace and justice in the individual nations and in the whole world."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will offer this act with members of the Hispanic community who will be joining him at 12:30 p.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester. The bishop will be at St. Francis as one of the scheduled stops of his "Crossroads II" Lenten-Easter journey.

He has also sent copies of the act to all parishes and invited each parish to offer this prayer on the feast of the

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