

Faults logic about unions

To the editor:

Regarding Father McBrien's article "Anti-union stores should be boycotted" (Dec. 12).

It's astounding that a "learned priest" supposedly performing as a teacher of the faith should subject people to "knee jerk logic" as he did in this article.

The Pope proclaimed that workers have a right to organize — not an obligation to organize — because in some countries it's against the law to have workers' unions. This does not mean that U.S. companies like Wal-Mart who don't have unions are oppressive companies and should be boycotted.

People have a right to free speech. This doesn't mean that you have an obligation to listen. You have a God-given right not to listen if you freely choose to do so. This same logic can be legitimately applied to workers' rights to seek union representation. They have a right to seek a union but this right does not carry with it an obligation on the part of the company to endorse a union. Companies who don't have unions are not evil companies as this article implies. In the U.S., company employees are free to vote on whether or not they want a union. Furthermore the U.S. has very powerful laws which protect workers' rights to organize. Calling for a boycott is doing a grave disservice to unions, to companies, to our legal system and to the American people. It implies that if you shop at Wal-Mart you are a "bad Catholic."

Father McBrien has a right to call for boycotting, but as a Catholic leader and educator he should be held accountable for distorting the Pope's promulgations in order to foster his agenda.

He has done this in other articles, which come across

as a protector of the faith by using distortions of logic applied to Catholic teaching. The really sad thing is that he must know what he is doing but does it anyway.

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Fairport

Debates view of EWTN

To the editor:

Your Nov. 21 issue (letter to the editor) "EWTN is out of date" is a sweeping unsubstantiated indictment. The letter consists of four paragraphs of which 98 percent dealt with non-EWTN related issues. It's like excerpting a sentence out of a well-written world-class book.

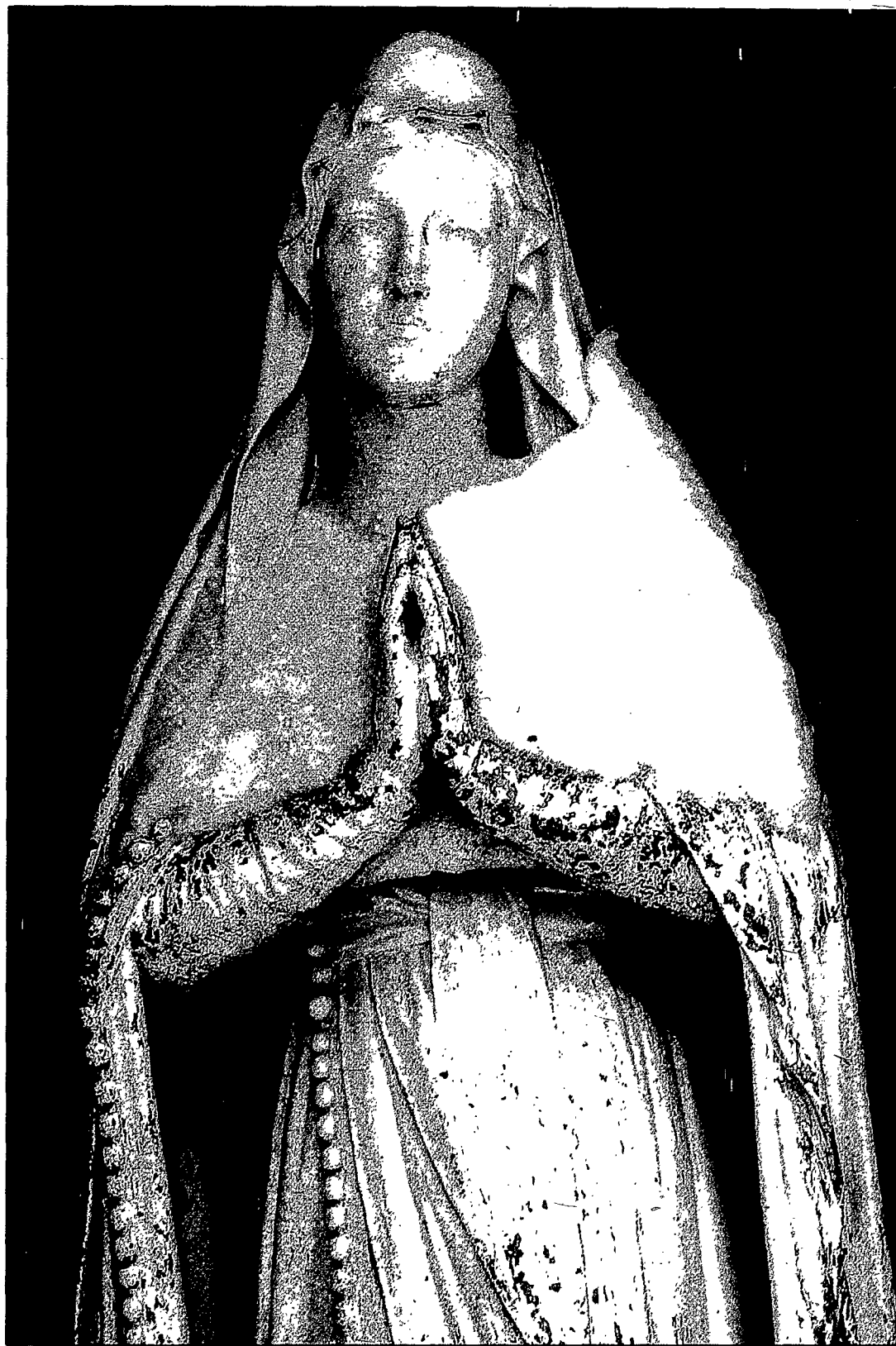
Consider (I'm paraphrasing): when you sing you pray; kids participate in guitar Masses; Latin responses are a thrill; we sing a cappella; heard songs twice in 40 years; was brought up to follow the missal; finally ending with Did you? Would you? EWTN is out of date.

What? By what logic or standard?

Consider: EWTN is world class; EWTN programs world-class Catholic venue that appeals to children, teens, adults and shut-ins, etc. 24/7. EWTN provides millions of audiovisual Catholic impressions daily via daily Masses, educational/entertaining homilies, Vatican/Papal related incomparable religious-based programs, WYD, etc.

Our secularistic media, local and worldwide, serve up billions of Godless audiovisual anti-family value impressions 24/7. They taint the hearts and minds of our innocent youth. EWTN is a quantum leap ahead, not behind! EWTN is a rush of fresh air at our fingertips that counters our polluted cyberspace locally and worldwide.

John Zabkar
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Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

This statue of Mary on the grounds of the diocesan Pastoral Center wears a stole and crown of snow Jan. 6.

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Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions expressed.

Letters must not exceed 300 words. Anonymous letters and the use of pseudonyms are unacceptable. We reserve the right to edit letters for legal and other concerns. With respect to errors in submitted text, we will correct spelling only.

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