

Republican

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The O'Hallorans should learn to forgive

I'm writing to say thanks for finally publishing a letter that voices what most Catholics and Protestants feel about the O'Hallorans' vendetta against Monsignor Jarmoluk. I don't know what the problem really is, but why should they be stirring up trouble in a parish they aren't even registered in? No, on second thought, we don't need this in ours either!

As far as I can see, all Monsignor Jarmoluk did was be cautious about a story he was told, and ask to see the child and the teacher it was told to.

He didn't assault the child, but it seems that the O'Hallorans think his actions were worse than Campobello's, or for that matter, all the bishops who had been sending pedophile priests off to another church, where it happened again and again.

I remember back in WWII people would say that a great way to avoid being drafted was to go to college, then the seminary. Could this be what started men, who had no vocation at all, to become priests? There were a few wars to follow and the story held.

I'd like to think that it had a large part in what resulted in the scandal a few years ago, resulting in decent priests being insulted for no reason at all except a black suit and Roman collar.

Twenty years ago I was in an Army chapel and heard an Army chaplain give a beautiful homily about love and, having been a priest for 20 years, all the remarks about "Where ya keeping her -- or him, Father?" He ended his sermon saying, "When you love someone with all of your heart, you want to give them your very best. Well, the life I chose is the best I could give to God."

The homily received a standing ovation! The chapel was packed so it resulted in one big wave of khaki uniforms. It was quite a scene.

I think most people have been like me and thought it would just go away, but it seems as though they won't let it. Perhaps the O'Hallorans should check their Bible -- if they happen to have one. There is this prayer commonly called "The Lord's Prayer," and smack dab in the middle is a request that God forgives us the way we forgive others. As a matter of fact, it was repeated over and over. Forgive -- "forgive seven times 70 times," "Forgive" the man it was told to after he denied knowing him three times, while he was being whipped at the stake.

According to Luke, Jesus died saying "Father forgive them." Seems like we were being encouraged to give, show mercy, all of the good things, but let God rule the world. I think he knows how!

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