



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The wickedness within professing Christendom

Priest jailed for abuse of children

A former member of Christian Brothers, a Roman Catholic religious order which runs a number of schools throughout Ireland, has been jailed for two years for sexually abusing three children from the same family. Brendan John Halpin, 54, from Dermot Hill Grove in west Belfast, pleaded guilty to a string of offences which took place between 1975 and 1981. The Teer family gave up their right to anonymity so that Halpin could be publicly identified. Two sisters and their brother, who are now aged in their 30s, were abused by Halpin after he befriended the family.

Sentencing him to two years in prison, with another two years on probation, the judge, Lord Justice McCollum, said he was taking into account Halpin's guilty plea and the apology he had made to the family. The court heard that the abuse against the family came to light last January when the older sister and her brother lodged a complaint with the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The woman, who was 12 when the abuse began in 1975, described how Halpin repeatedly took her back to his room. The victim was said to be "powerless to resist him" until their relationship ended when she was 22. Halpin also subjected her younger sister to a similar ordeal from the age of 11.

In 1976 he then widened his abuse to the girls' younger brother after becoming friendly with the family. This continued until 1981 when, at the age of 13, the boy was taken into foster care.

Outside court, one of those Halpin abused from the age of eight spoke of his "disgust" that lawyers for the accused had asked that reporting restrictions be placed. "We made a decision in recent weeks to waive our anonymity," the man, now 33, said. He also said he felt the sentence, which included two years probation and a period attending a clinic following Halpin's release was too lenient.

Priest banned from naked calendar

A calendar featuring a naked priest has been shelved at the request of the Bishop of Galway, who branded the stunt "inappropriate". "Father" Olan Rynn, 27, was pictured wearing only his clerical collar and covering his modesty with a Bible, for the calendar, to raise money for cancer and cerebral palsy research.

Although Rynn spoke to his bishop before posing, Dr James McLoughlin said he was "surprised and dismayed" when he later discovered the curate would disrobe for the occasion. The bishop said in a statement that he did not appreciate the type of calendar which was envisaged and, thinking it to be a straightforward fund-raising project, he gave Rynn permission to participate.

The bishop said: "On reading a report in a local newspaper, I was surprised and dismayed to discover what the actual content of the calendar was going to be. As it is clearly inap-



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

appropriate for a priest to appear in such a calendar, I immediately approached the promoters of the project to discuss the matter with them." The promoters agreed to withdraw the photograph of Rynn from the calendar.

On Sunday an apology from the curate, currently away on holiday, was being read at all masses in his Salthill parish. The bishop stressed that Fr Rynn was "a valued priest of the diocese and is in good standing with me".

Church wedding for Canadian perverts

Two same-sex couples have exchanged wedding vows in a Toronto church after possibly finding a loophole in Canadian law that could make them the first legally married homosexual couples in the country. A packed church rang with cheers during the ceremony.

The couples, one pair of women and one pair of men, posted banns in the Christian tradition, which under one reading of provincial law allows marriage without a licence.

The province of Ontario is unlikely to recognise the unions as marriage because it defines marriage as taking place between a man and a woman. But the Governor-General of Canada, the Queen's representative who is legally head of state, has sent a telegram congratulating the couples. The marriages took place at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, a church known for its support of sodomy.

The church was full to bursting as Kevin Bourassa, 42, "married" Joe Varnell, 31. Elaine Vautour, 43, "married" Anne Vautour, 38, who had earlier changed her surname to Elaine's.

Anne Vautour told the BBC she thought politicians who opposed the marriages could be in for a surprise. "I think what they're going to find is a lot of Canadian people are ready for this and [opposing] this could cost them votes", she said.

There was a small demonstration outside the church during the ceremony.

Such accounts of the corruptions within Christendom as those printed above could be multiplied each month. While we find it distasteful to have to report such, I believe it is necessary in these ecumenical days, when so-called Protestant church leaders are seeking to build the one-world church through union with Rome, to highlight the nature of the "church" they are constructing.

I also publicise such incidents in the hope that Roman Catholics will see the character of the organisation to which they belong and upon whose instructions they are depending to get them to heaven.

How can such churches, which are constantly exposed as the harbourers of such sexual deviants, be the guardians of God's truth and the means of leading the world from sin to holiness and God?

The Roman Catholic/Ecumenical conglomerate has to be the devil's greatest fraud upon the earth today!! -- *The Editor*.