



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

News from around the world



An “America Civil Liberties Union” (ACLU) director equated al-Qaida terrorists with members of a Louisiana school board seeking to open their meetings with prayer.

Joe Cook of the ACLU of Louisiana spoke on camera with WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge, La., while staff and teachers of the Tangipahoa Parish district in New Orleans were at a seminar being informed of their free-speech rights by a member of the Alliance Defense Fund. Referring to the school board, Cook said, “They believe that they answer to a higher power, in my opinion. Which is the kind of thinking that you had with the people who flew the airplanes into the buildings in this country, and the people who did the kind of things in London.” Such is the perverted logic of the Christ-rejector and such a view is growing.

COLOGNE, Germany. Pope Benedict faces a tightrope walk with Protestants over pledges to improve relations when he returns to his German homeland this week for the first time since he became pontiff.

As Roman Catholics prepare for the World Youth Day that Benedict will attend in the Rhine-land city of Cologne and the media devote increasing attention to the event, Germany’s Protestant leaders have been grumbling. Some Protestants, in the land where Martin Luther began the Reformation in 1517 by nailing his doctrinal objections to the door of a Catholic church, want to remind the world that half of Germany’s “Christians” don’t follow the Vatican. Others feel slighted by the event’s organizers and by critical comments from some cardinals. To feel slighted at not being asked to partake in the Romish festivities would not have been the response of Martin Luther.

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS). The crucifix should be present in public and private places because this external symbol of God’s presence is a reminder of humanity’s shared God-given dignity, Pope Benedict XVI has said.

The modern world believed that by “putting God aside” and following man’s ideas and desires people could “become truly free,” but that did not happen, the pope said during his homily at Mass Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The pope’s comments came while he celebrated Mass at St. Thomas Church in Castel Gandolfo, where the papal summer residence is located south of Rome. “Only by exalting God’s greatness, just as Mary did in her hymn of praise, the Magnificat, can people become great,” the pope said in remarks apart from his prepared text. The crucifix is of pagan origin and has no place whatever in the religion of Christ. That which God would have people honour is His Word. “. . . thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name,” Psalms 138:2