

CHURCH CHAT

BY

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THERE'S GOTTA' BE MORE

I don't do thorough research on all the issues surrounding my column topics. Frankly, my life is too busy to keep up with everything. Besides, I'm only chatting, and when we chat, we say things that we think we know, or we know something about, but we express our opinion anyway. We chat.

Nevertheless, the topic of this column still has me scratching my head, even after I did do some research. What am I missing? I'm talking about Bishop William Morris from Australia and Fr. Roy Bourgeois, the Maryknoll priest. As you probably know, both of these men have publically stated that the Church should, at least, discuss the possibility of ordaining woman to the priesthood. Their stories are not the same in the details but, in one way or another, they are both getting kicked out because they support the ordination of women.

Kicking them out? Where is that coming from? And, here's my next question: why aren't we all getting kicked out? Or at least, all of us who support the ordination of women. That, by the way, is millions of Catholics, most likely hundreds of millions.

Ok, these two guys are clerics, and therefore more eligible for being fired from something. They have an official public position that, it appears, can arbitrarily and one-sidedly be taken away. I support the ordination of woman (have for forty years) but I don't think they can fire me from the 10th pew on the left side of the center aisle of my parish church at the 8:00am Sunday liturgy. Or, can they?

Anyway, why are the Vaticanistas picking on Bishop Morris and Fr. Bourgeois?

Maybe these two are chosen examples for the rest of us. Don't tread on this issue! If any of you do, we will punish you severely. No liturgical water-boarding here, we will move directly to condemnation, conviction, and execution. After all, the Pope fallibly declared that it is an infallible doctrine of the church that only men can be ordained validly. So, I guess the plan is to select two relatively unknown church leaders in different parts of the world and kick them out of their public position in order to warn the rest of us to get back into the proper thought-control line.

Doesn't seem to be working out that way, does it? These two clerics are now more well-known than they ever would have been and have become martyrs to the cause, galvanizing women ordination supporters and exposing the terrified desperation of the Vaticanistas.

There's gotta' be more to the story than that!

Perhaps these two men are being punished for other things, along with their advocacy for women's ordination. I don't know what the "other things" would be for Bishop Morris but I do know that Fr.

Bourgeois is also a courageous peace activist. Are these unnamed offenses the real reason they are being kicked out? If that's the case, I have a three year old grandson who knows how unfair that is.

And talk about cowards! To fire someone for unspecified "other reasons" while claiming it is because of women's ordination is Machiavellian malfeasance, to say the least. Makes me wonder if the dresses they wear interfere with their thinking.

Then, the context in which this prosecutorial fiasco takes place is infuriating. Known pedophiles and serial sexual predators get protection in order to prevent scandal, and Bishops are granted automatic and perpetual immunity from any consequences of any of their actions. I'm talking total immunity from everything! No accountability for sexual cover-ups, financial disasters (can you hear me, Cardinal Maida?), arbitrary, self-serving policy decisions, etc. etc. – except, of course, Bishop Morris.

They will have to kick me out of this thoroughly dysfunctional system (I remain for other reasons) but this vendetta against Morris and Bourgeois exposes the worst of the worst. That's why there's gotta' be more to this story, something I'm missing. Or, can they really be THAT vindictive, desperate, stupid, defensive, fearful and, as my mother used to say, bullheaded?

At this point, it looks like my mother is right once again.