

NY Times Celebrates the Stripping of Freedom



“‘Emergencies’ have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded.”-Friedrich August von Hayek

This sickens me.

The New York Times, a former newspaper, is celebrating Americans being relieved of the burden of freedom. Check out this story about the vaccine mandates:

When Tyson, one of the world’s largest meatpacking companies, announced in early August that all of its 120,000 workers would need to be vaccinated against the coronavirus or lose their jobs, Diana Eike was angry. Eike, an administrative coordinator at the company, had resisted the vaccine, and not for religious or political reasons like many others here in her home state. “It was just something personal,” she said.

Now, Eike is fully vaccinated, and she is relieved that Tyson made the decision for her. The company, she said, “took the burden off of me making the choice.”

Ah, relieved of all that pesky freedom. Must be nice.

As Voltaire said, “It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere.”

Freedom is clearly not something that can be handed down. It can only exist when it is fought for, grasped, and held firmly.

“Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

We have now seen generations of Americans who refuse to grow up. They think freedom just exists or it surrounds us like oxygen. When freedom is believed to be free, it perishes. Freedom must be earned and we just don't seem to be interested in earning anything anymore.

If you seek freedom you must fight. If you seek to be relieved of the burden of freedom, those willing to do that will find you. Just sit back. They will come. In fact, they are here already.

Pope Francis Encourages Communist Groups as “Veritable Invisible Army”

VATICAN CITY (The Lepanto Institute) — The Lepanto Institute released a new video report exposing the celebration and promotion of militant communists in a Vatican event initiated by Pope Francis. The report focuses on the organizations and speakers that were celebrated in a video produced by the Vatican for the fourth annual World Meeting of Popular Movements (WMPM).

According to the WMPM website, the purpose of the meeting “is to create an ‘encounter’ between Church leadership and grassroots organizations working to address the ‘economy of exclusion and inequality’ by working for structural changes that promote social, economic and racial justice.” But many of the organizations participating in the meeting are self-avowed militant communists.

The Lepanto Institute also exposed the Vatican’s inclusion of Luca Casarini, who heads the organization called *Mediterranea Saving Humans*. Casarini is a long-time Marxist agitator and activist who once headed the *Tute Bianche* movement, which infamously engaged in violent clashes with Italian police during the G8 summit in 2001. During that clash, Casarini (whose Facebook page is littered with communist organizations) issued a “declaration of war” against G8 participants.

Other organizations given a spotlight in the Vatican’s video exposed by the Lepanto Institute for openly working toward communist revolution are StreetNet International and Slum Dwellers International.

“Perhaps the most shocking thing we discovered in producing this report is Pope Francis’ admission to having examined the documents and speeches of these individuals and organizations, while he sings their praises and encourages them to continue on,” said Hichborn.

In a video speech to the participants in the WMPM, Pope Francis praised them as a “veritable invisible army” with “the future of humanity in great measure in [their] own hands.” Addressing the question of what these self-professed Marxists should be doing, Pope Francis said that “some

concrete measures that may allow for significant changes,” are “present in your documents, in your speeches, and I have taken them very much into account; I have reflected on them and consulted specialists.”

Responding to Pope Francis’ speech, Hichborn said, “By admitting that he reviewed their documents and speeches, Pope Francis removed all plausible deniability that he knew these organizations are acolytes of Karl Marx, working toward Communist revolution. We also reviewed their documents and speeches, and it is clear even to the casual observer that they are Communists. It is both shocking and horrifying for the man sitting on the Chair of Peter to encourage organizations working for Communist revolution to follow their own ideas for ‘significant change.’”

Special report: Why Catholics leave; why Catholics stay

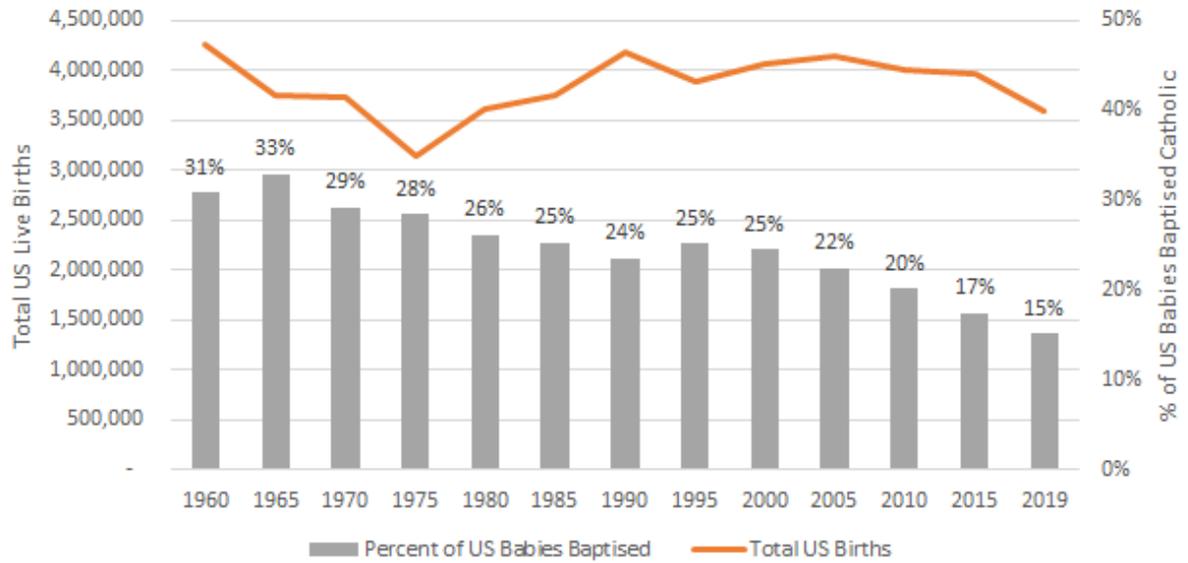
The Pillar Survey on Religious Attitudes and Practice

Of course, asking questions about the future of the Catholic Church should begin by recognizing some stark demographic trends — which *The Pillar* examined using data available from CARA, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

Comparing the number of infant baptisms performed by Catholic parishes to the number of live births in the US, as recorded by the CDC, paints a similar picture. In 1960, 31% of the children born in the United States were baptized Catholic. By 2019, that number was down to 15%.

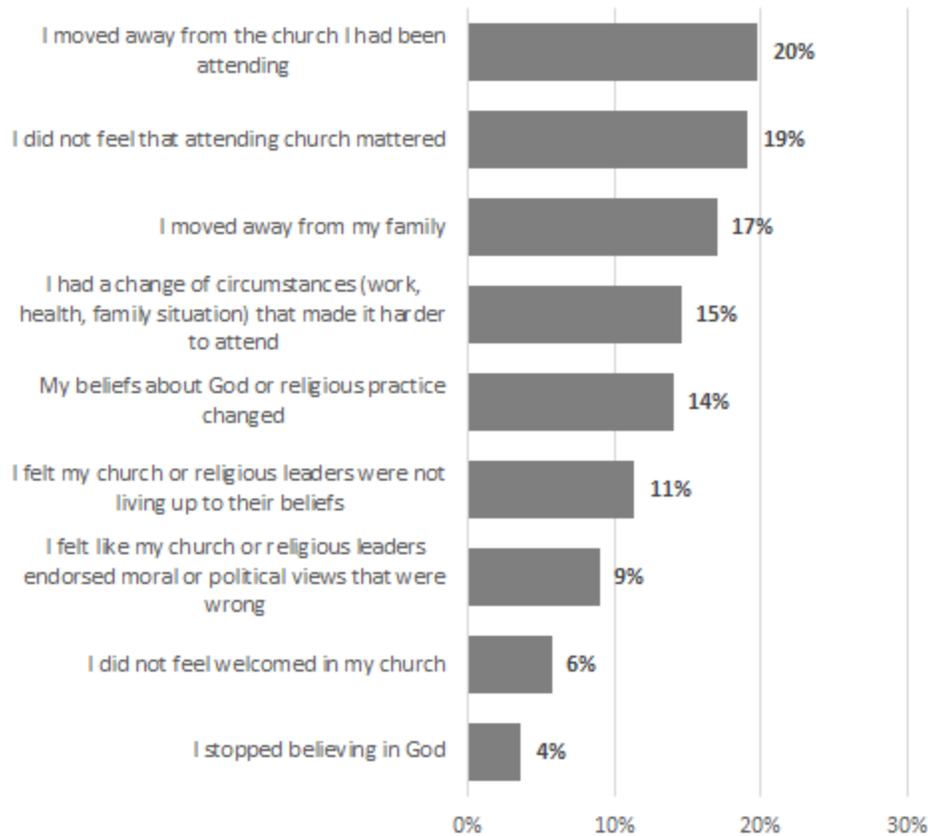
It seems a fairly clear conclusion that if only 15% of children in the US are baptized as Catholic, the Church can not expect to be 24% of the U.S. population in the near future, at least without an unforeseen conversion trend.

United States Births vs Catholic Baptisms



Source: US live birth data from CDC; Catholic baptisms per year from Official Catholic Directory via CARA

Reasons why Catholics stopped going to church



Survey conducted among US adults
Sept 28 to Oct 25, 2021
PillarCatholic.com

This points to two different paths which the Church must follow in order to minister to all of the baptized. At a practical level, the Church must find ways to reach out to those who become estranged from the Church for prosaic reasons like moving far from home or far from family. At the more theological level, however, the Church must also find ways to evangelize those whose beliefs or personal relationships might lead to longer-term disaffiliation.