

"The Catholic League has the courage to speak up candidly and forcefully for the Church when circumstances call for fighting the good fight. The League should be on every Catholic's short list of essential organizations to support."

— Most Rev. Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Denver

"I am privileged to support the Catholic League. The work of the Catholic League is invaluable and its accomplishments over the years are unparalleled."

— Most Rev. Edwin O'Brien
Archbishop of Baltimore

"The Catholic League has done much to ensure that the Church's positions are presented clearly and fairly. Too often those who do not understand the Church or Her teachings are the interpreters of the doctrines and events in the life of the Church. The work of the League is important in the mission of the Church which must teach the hard truths of the Gospel in season and out of season."

— Sean Cardinal O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Boston

"We are seeing the most violent attack on the Catholic Church in the media and public life since the days of the Ku Klux Klan. Every serious and committed Catholic needs to know what is going on and what to do about it. I consider membership in the Catholic League a must."

— Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.

The Evangelization Station
Hudson, Florida, USA
E-mail:
evangelization@earthlink.net
www.evangelizationstation.com

Pamphlet 392

Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

The Catholic League is the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization. Founded in 1973 by the late Father Virgil C. Blum, S.J., the Catholic League defends the right of Catholics – lay and clergy alike – to participate in American public life without defamation or discrimination.

Motivated by the letter and the spirit of the First Amendment, the Catholic League works to safeguard both the religious freedom rights and the free speech rights of Catholics whenever and wherever they are threatened.

Is the Catholic League Necessary?

Absolutely. Harvard professor Arthur Schlesinger, Sr. once observed that prejudice against the Catholic Church was "the deepest bias in the history of the American people." Yale professor Peter Viereck commented that "Catholic baiting is the anti-Semitism of the liberals."

And today's brand of anti-Catholicism is more virulent and more pervasive than ever before in American history. While it is true that Catholics as individuals have made progress in securing their rights, the degree of hostility exhibited against the Catholic Church is appalling. Quite simply, Catholic bashing has become a staple of American society.

What Does the Catholic League Do?

- When slanderous assaults are made against the Catholic Church, the Catholic League hits the newspapers, television, and radio talk shows defending the right of the Church to promote its teachings with as much verve as any other institution in society.

- When Catholics are the victims of a bigoted portrayal by the media, the Catholic League issues news releases bringing the matter to the attention of the public. It may also encourage a boycott of the program's sponsors.

- When Catholic students or employees are denied their rights in school or on the job, the Catholic League makes a formal response to the guilty parties; the league response may include litigation.

- When the religious freedom rights of any American are threatened, the Catholic League stands ready to fight for justice in the courts.

- When Catholics are slighted by public officials, the Catholic League calls press conferences alerting the public to the unacceptable behavior of their servants.

- When Catholic interests are unfairly represented by public policy initiatives, the Catholic League offers testimony before legislative bodies to set the record straight.

- When officials in government, the media and education need an informed perspective on Catholic civil rights issues, the Catholic League provides a quick and effective response.

The above list is hardly inclusive of all Catholic League activities, but it does provide some idea of what we do. In essence, the Catholic League monitors the

culture, acting as a watchdog agency and defender of the civil rights of all Catholics. Much of what we do is reported in our monthly journal. We also have chapter offices located in several areas of the country.

Who Funds the Catholic League?

You do! That's right — we're donor driven. Without your support, we don't exist.

We don't receive a dime from the Church. Nor should we: we are a lay organization. Sure, we have many clergy who are members and all are welcome to join – but our financial base comes from individuals, not the Church.

Why is this so important? Because as a lay Catholic organization we don't have to worry about violating church and state lines. Besides, we shouldn't ask the clergy to do our job; when the Church is attacked, so are its members, and that means you. That is why we must provide a response.

How Do I Join?

Go to:

<https://secure.catholic.org/cl/store/home.php?cat=250>

Either print the membership form and fill in the membership and payment information, then mail it back to the Catholic League, or, fill in the blanks on line and follow the instructions on the application to submit electronically.

(Please do not forget to include payment.)

We will send you *Catalyst*, the League's journal, and let you know of various league activities in your area.

By joining the Catholic League you become part of the most influential lay Catholic organization in the country. You are integral to our mission and our mission is integral to the mission of the Catholic Church.

They're talking about us . . .

"The Catholic League performs an invaluable service in defending the Faith. All too often, the Church and her faithful are misrepresented and even slandered in contemporary society. However, the Catholic League always stands ready, willing and able to challenge those who would malign us and our beliefs. Ever vigilant, the Catholic League does what other lay organizations hesitate to do — protect the religious and civil rights of Catholics according to the provisions of the United States Constitution. I am happy to assure the Catholic League of my support and esteem."

— Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York

"I encourage you to join the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights which defends not only the interests of Catholics, but of all victims of anti-religious bigotry."

— Roger Cardinal Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles