

*"The Ignatius of History: Look What They Have Done to Him."*



By: Christopher J. Bakes

**I**n 1970 I began a 50-plus year association with the Jesuits, a passage that includes my three separate graduations from Jesuit schools and my oversight of the opening of a brand-new Jesuit school in Sacramento, Cristo Rey High School, which the Jesuits co-sponsor with the Sisters of Mercy.

Have you met St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits? I wager not. You've probably met the pallid Ignatius who is so pliable that he can today be transformed into anything.

The Ignatius of history was a stalwart of Christianity and particularly Catholic Christianity. The Ignatius of history has been forgotten by the Ignatius of today. The Ignatius of today has become a

mannequin, used by some to advance secular radicalism having nothing whatever to do with the Ignatius of history.

The Ignatius of history was about the salvation of souls, the evangelization of the world, and the purification of Catholicism against the great heresies of his time. The Ignatius of history was a leading light of the Counter-Reformation. He was most definitely not a "Renaissance Man," either in style or substance. In his personal conversion experience from lusty, combative officer soldier in the Army of Spain, to contemplative near mystic, he developed what he had not had: an interior life. And he did this through intense contemplation of the Trinity, the Eucharist, and Mary. He went from history's fighting soldier, to someone with a masterful insight into the internal journeys that take us to affective and intense appreciation for the presence of God. He demanded this purity from his followers, members of the Society soon to be known as the Jesuits.

Ignatius, today's mannequin, is none of these things, and least of all

a Catholic evangelist. But mannequins are not real. They are costumed.

So are the schools today of the Jesuit Order. They are costumed as Catholic schools, but they are not Catholic. They have embraced a Marxist-rooted radicalism, partaking in the dismantling of our nation and inciting the young and old to confusion and wandering. While much of this is done under the artifice of “anti-racism,” it is more far-reaching than that and reaches every aspect of our national and personal beings. Dismantling gender, contrary to the most explicit proclamations of the Vatican. Inquiring of young male teens in classroom settings about their sexual orientation and gender identity, or teaching that being Christian or male or “able” is privileged and oppressive.

In the darker reaches of these teachings, stealth is the rule: say nothing about these teachings to parents, donors and alumni, but do impose them on the vulnerable young in the secrecy of the classroom, and then complain loudly when parents inquire. Had it not been for the exposés distance

learning provided, parents would never have learned what was actually going on in the classroom. And all of this in face of the most explicit provisions of Canon Law that allow we as faithful Catholics to characterize all of this as grave error that misleads the faithful.

Grave error that misleads the faithful. Let that roll around your brain. The successors to the great Ignatius now plundering the minds of the young, distorting their world, and forming in them doubt and uncertainty, even about their gender – while proclaiming in their public literature that they are standing with tradition by educating “Men for Others.” Men. Obviously the teachings they attempt to hide cannot be reconciled with the promotional literature presented to parents, donors, and alumni. This is all a far fall indeed for those who claim to be the successors of Ignatius.

It is now cult-like hysteria.

Last week the Loyola High School (Los Angeles) baseball team ate at Burger King enroute to their game against St. Francis of Pasadena (a Franciscan school). They got their free Burger King crowns and used

them as cheering props at the game.

St. Francis of Pasadena complained.

Why?

Because obviously this was racist.

The apologies descended on the worlds of Loyola and St. Francis like an ugly plague. The Jesuit president of Loyola proclaimed his players racist and insensitive, and that Loyola was deeply ashamed. For its part, we can inspect the St. Francis website to see the bleak direction that school has taken, flavoring its public messaging with charges that the nation is racist, and that St. Francis of Pasadena would prioritize the need to have conversations where all of this national rot would be exposed.

Have they forgotten that we honor THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST? The GOOD News? Ignatius and Francis of Assisi would be aghast that the Christian messages of salvation and triumph over death are being manipulated into accusation, angst and despair, and the deconstruction of national and individual psyches, all under the banners of their holy names.

The New Testament contains 54 specific warnings against false teachings. The New Testament contains all manner of commands about the singularity of the Body of Christ. It says nothing about the need to tear it into rags, strips and remnants, the people unjoined, detached, separated and alone.

In an age where the young are rejecting faith, hope and certainly the Church, this is the lure to bring them back? Make-up personal and national horrors and accuse them? Factionalize them? Sow angst? Sow confusion? Attack the young with false accusations and made-up pathologies? And what effect will all this have on the mental health of the vulnerable young who are presented with this bleak, accusatory and despairing messaging? For those of us dumbstruck by the generation of scandal brought to us by far too many wayward priests, we have the absolute right today to insist on the most faithful orthodoxy and the purest of teachings -- these are the perfect penance for scandal. It warps the notion of penance to scandalize again, this time through

ugly manipulations of the minds of the young.

My working-class parents struggled mightily to provide for us. They struggled particularly to send us to Catholic schools, from kindergarten through university. It was their singular life priority to ensure that we their children would continue to practice the Catholic faith they bequeathed us, certainly as spiritual warriors.

We have been Catholic for centuries, I remind the kids in my life.

Indeed we have been, and I as a Catholic layperson have post-Vatican II parity with the ordained. As the great bishop Fulton J. Sheen prophesied mid-century, it will soon be the laity upholding the structures and teachings of the Church.

Here I am, Lord.

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*The last of the old. The first of the new.*