

We Give Liberal Catholics High Blood Pressure

For the last two decades, traditional Catholicism has been ascendant, and now it's the dynamic force in the U.S. Catholic Church. Not surprisingly, greying liberal Catholics have been getting uptight and ticked off, and they've been lashing out.

For example, *Commonweal*, that elderly organ of liberal Catholicism with (according to Richard John Neuhaus) an "aging readership," recently devoted its entire back cover to an attempt to ridicule us. We are the NEW OXFORD REVIEW, a Catholic magazine of more recent vintage. The gist of the attack was that we're out of touch with "liberal post-Enlightenment culture" and are read by "ostriches."

Commonweal, straining hard to be satirical, asserted that the type of people who write for us include Ralph Cramden, Betty Crocker, and of course Rip Van Winkle; that *Road & Track* has named us "one of the ten top minivans in the American market"; and that "if the pope told Catholics they could only have sex standing on their heads every Tuesday," we'd "look forward to Tuesdays." Gads, is *Commonweal* suffering from dizzy spells, about to have a stroke?

Earlier, *Commonweal* published a letter from a homosexual claiming we "reek of fascism." Ah, that good ole "F" word, so serviceable in the salad days of the 60s!

The *National Catholic Reporter*, always on the

cutting edge of 60s nostalgia, has nonjudgmentally accused us of taking "cheap shots" and being a "poisoned dart," while letter writers in the *Reporter* have sensitively demonized us as "triumphalistic," "abusive," and "vicious."

America, the liberal Jesuit weekly, has deemed our point of view "ugly."

While Archbishop Rembert Weakland, *America's* #1 clerical critic of the Vatican, has called Mother Angelica "offensive," he has called *us* "extremely offensive"; His Excellency has also charged us with being "frivolous and caustic" (yes, both!).

We're delighted to be flailed at by the old warriors of liberal Catholicism. No magazine wants to be ignored — so, c'mon, hit us again!

Why are we so detested? Because we energetically support traditional Catholicism and a strong papacy, and take to task those who huff and puff against them. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, we're "influential." Obviously, we're *too* influential to ignore. But there's more: We're intellectually aggressive, and we've been confronting the liberals on their eggheaded turf — and, boy, are they up in arms!

Newsweek says we're "cheeky" (we are!). Find out what the fireworks are about by subscribing to our provocative monthly magazine! After all, you don't want to be an *ostrich*, do you?

