

We Are NOT Owned by The Catholic Church

Nor are we owned by any diocese or religious order. You won't find us listed in *The Official Catholic Directory*.

We are the NEW OXFORD REVIEW, an orthodox Catholic magazine run by laymen. We never thought it would be a point of honor to note that we are not owned by the Catholic Church. But with all the priestly sex scandals and cover-ups and hush-hush pay-offs, it's a relief not to suffer any guilt by association.

We're not the house organ of any bishop or religious order. We don't tell you that all is basically hunky-dory in the Church.

We don't ignore reality. We've commented with stern disapproval on priestly homosexuality and sex scandals on many occasions, going at least as far back as our April 1991 issue.

We're not a public-relations sheet for the Church's bureaucracy. It's because we're fiercely loyal to the Holy Catholic Church, the Bride of Christ, that we hold the institutional Church to the highest standards of accountability in doctrine, morals, and discipline. Where the institution is messing up, the best tonic is the truth.

It's a blessing that the mighty secular media have blown the cover off the moral rot in the priesthood. Of course the media have their own agenda, often anti-

Catholic. But then, God writes straight with crooked lines.

And there's a lot more rot in the Church that needs to be exposed — liturgical abuse, architectural abuse (the wrecking of once beautiful churches), silence from the pulpit on the great moral issues of our times (such as abortion), and dissent and heresy in seminaries and Catholic schools and Catholic institutions of higher learning.

But we won't have the secular media in our corner on these issues.

This is where the NEW OXFORD REVIEW comes in. Not being members of the "clerical club," we gladly speak our minds. Yes, it's been ingrained in Catholics to defer to the clerics and nuns. But Bishop Bubbles is testifying before a grand jury, Fr. Funkdiddle is in jail, and Sister Snakebite has run off with Forklift Florence. That leaves a discredited hierarchy, a disheartened priesthood, a depleted convent —

and you and the Pope. But the Pope can't micromanage the Church all by himself. Vatican II called for the discipling and empowering of the laity. Well, the time is NOW. It's time for us laity to roll up our sleeves and save our beloved Church. Subscribe to the monthly NEW OXFORD REVIEW, and find out how.

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