

# We're "Catholicism's Intellectual Prizefighter," says Karl Keating

The Catholic Church is at the crossroads. The dissenters, heretics, and neo-Modernists are, with the full backing of the secularists who shape Western culture, now amassing their forces to destroy Catholicism as we've known it and as it's been known for centuries, millennia.

Symptomatic of the assault is a recent book by Catholic writer Garry Wills, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, with the telling title *Papal Sin: Structures of Deceit*. Wills rejects Papal Infallibility, the Apostolic Succession, Transubstantiation, the Immaculate Conception, and the Church's teaching on contraception, abortion, homosexuality, the all-male priesthood, etc.

Will Mr. Wills get the de-Catholicized church he — and so many others — want? Many expect he will. Tad Szulc, author of a major biography of Pope John Paul II, wrote in the *Washington Post* that Wills's book is "a significant contribution to the understanding of the process of change, already *inevitably* underway" in the Church (italics added).

Yes, it *is* the common wisdom that the Spirit of the Age is irresistible and that orthodox Catholicism will inevitably collapse.

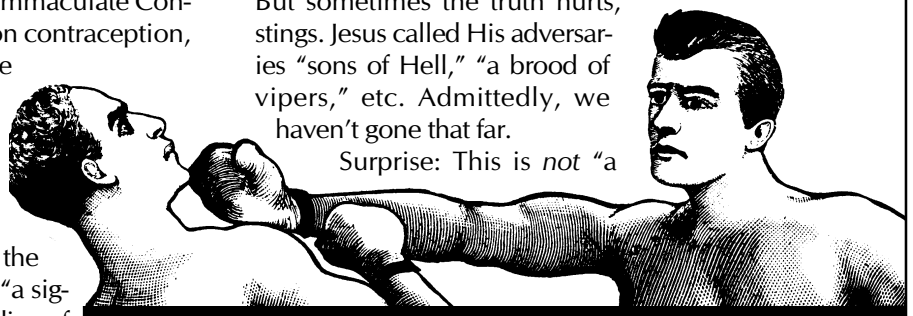
Dear readers, it's intimidating to be told — not just in this case, but over and over again — that you will inevitably be tossed on the trash heap of history. But we must *not* be intimidated. Marx predicted that Christians would land on the trash heap, that according to the "Laws of History" the triumph of atheistic Communism was "inevitable." But it didn't work out that way. One reason it didn't was because both ordinary and extraordinary people (from Solzhenitsyn to the Polish Pope) co-operated with grace and resisted, doggedly resisted — resisted when it seemed there was no point in further resistance.

"To everything there is a season," says the Book of Ecclesiastes, "a time to weep and a time to laugh...a

time to keep silence and a time to speak...a time of war and a time of peace."

This is a time to speak, a time for war — a war of wits. We at the NEW OXFORD REVIEW, a militantly Catholic monthly magazine, stand with the Church of the Ages in resisting the Spirit of the Age. While we've been denounced by the hypersensitive as "mean-spirited," we haven't been accused of lying. We tell the truth as charitably as we can — given all the provocations. But sometimes the truth hurts, stings. Jesus called His adversaries "sons of Hell," "a brood of vipers," etc. Admittedly, we haven't gone that far.

Surprise: This is *not* "a



time to weep," it's "a time to laugh." Oh yes, it can be dark out there. Malcolm Muggeridge predicted that liberalism — which he brilliantly characterized as "a solvent rather than a precipitate, a sedative rather than a stimulant, a slough rather than a precipice" — will bring down "the darkness on our civilization." But then, as Chesterton said, "The men who are signed with the cross of Christ go gaily in the dark." Moreover, the Catholic sun *still* shines here and there, and, as Hilaire Belloc observed, "Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, there's music and laughter and good red wine." So we at the NEW OXFORD REVIEW not only resist, we sing and laugh. And that's what really infuriates our adversaries. Whenever possible, we lace our punches with humor, satire, parody, even sarcasm. Why? Because the heretics, dissenters, and secularists — the Sister Snakebites, Fr. Bozos, and Prof. Pooh-Bahs — really *need* to be laughed at. So join us in the mirthful Catholic sun by subscribing!

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