

A Rebuttal to Those Hurtful Ads in This Publication

You've no doubt seen those rabble-rousing ads for the *New Oxford Review* (NOR) in this publication — ads bragging about how the NOR is such a *militantly* orthodox Catholic magazine that it gives "greying" liberal Catholics "high blood pressure," ads that mock "Fr. Flapdoodle" and "Sister Snakebite" at "St. Bozo's Parish." Etc.

Those ads are presumably supposed to be satirical, but they're actually insensitive, judgmental, bigoted, mean-spirited, and hurtful. Satire and religion just don't mix, as those ads prove so well.

And then there's the NOR itself, which, like its ads, rants about "the crisis" in the Church. What crisis? This alarmism is just a convenient excuse employed by the NOR to attack those it labels as "dissenters," "neo-Modernists," "heretics," and "depraved priests." We ask: Does the NOR want to incite people to commit Hate Crimes? Sadly, the NOR just doesn't understand that the Catholic church is wonderfully pluralistic, that God loves all God's children just as they are, and that the gospel is about inclusiveness, compassion, and blessing diversity.

The NOR specializes in jolting its readers — getting them all excited and revved up. This is a direct assault on the mission of most well-established Catholic publications, which is to keep Catholics calm, to encourage them to go with the flow of the modern world and outgrow their hang-ups, and to gently move them to affirm people with differing lifestyles and beliefs.

Then there's the physical appearance of the NOR. You'll notice that, in its ads, the NOR never shows you its cover. Aha! We've reproduced the cover here, showing you what the NOR wants to hide. See how simplistic and unappealing it is! And the NOR's paper isn't glossy, the graphics are old-fashioned, and inside there's no color. Why, the NOR is still living in the era of black-and-white movies. This is embarrassing — it gives the

impression that Catholics just stepped off the boat from Krakow or Kilkenny!

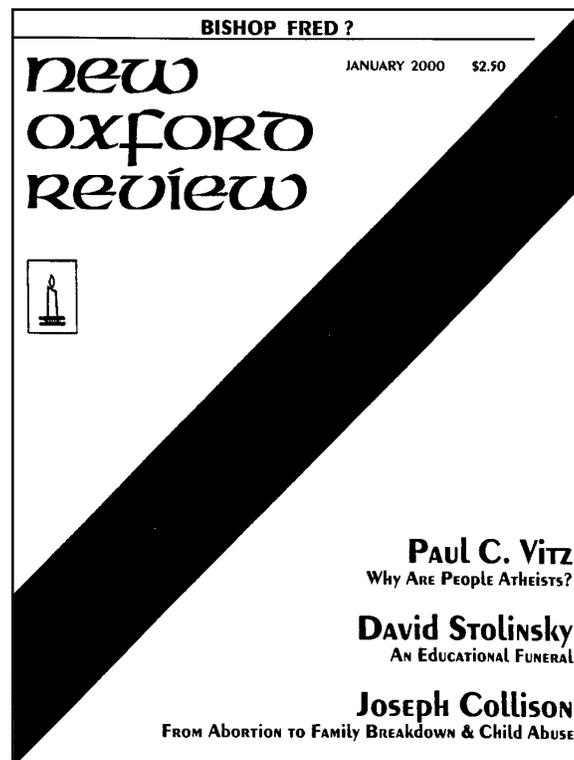
Then there's the suspicious way the NOR is priced. For a monthly magazine, its prices are absurdly low. For new subscribers it charges \$14 for a year (\$23 for 2 years), and it even has a hokey 1930s-style proletarian discount for the unemployed, retired people, and students, charging them only \$12 a year. But the seeming populists at the NOR are really cut-throat capitalists: These prices constitute unfair competition with conventional Catholic magazines.

And the NOR charges a whopping \$24 a year for people outside the U.S., and payment must be drawn in U.S. Dollars, which is a crushing hardship on our sisters, brothers, and intersex friends working in sweatshops in the Developing World. It's this exploitative imperialistic policy that enables the NOR to offer such criminally low prices to residents of the U.S. (Note that the "Oxford" in *New Oxford Review* signals its hegemonic Eurocentric designs.)

We urge you to contact any publication (including this one) that carries the NOR's intolerant ads, demanding that they be banned. We also urge you to write the NOR, letting them know that this is America,

land of the free, and that there's no place for their heterosexist, phallogocentric, patriarchalist, ultramontanist rag here. Tell them that if they love Rome so much, they should move there. Write to: Complaints Dept., *New Oxford Review*, 1069 Kains Ave., Berkeley CA 94706. Don't be fooled by the respectable Berkeley address — the NOR is headquartered in Berkeley so no one will ever suspect them of being part of the Vast Right-Wing Catholic Conspiracy.

If you want to find out for yourself how close-minded the NOR really is, don't bother. Just trust us. Whatever you do, don't subscribe to the NOR — that would only encourage them!



Sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee to Expose
the Vast Right-Wing Catholic Conspiracy

© 2000 New Oxford Review Inc.)