



Letters to the Editor

Pope's Point

In a recent issue is an article by Rebecca Terrell entitled "The Truth About the Catholic Clergy Abuse Scandal" (December 10, 2018 issue). A clarification is needed in an otherwise interesting article.

After referring to church history, she writes, "What a striking contrast to the current pontiff's response when queried about sodomitical priests in 2013. 'Who am I to judge?' he shrugged."

What the pope actually said was, "Who am I to judge *him*?" He had been speaking about a single case of a man who, despite his homosexual proclivities, was sincerely trying to extricate himself from it all. Unfortunately, the man would occasionally lapse into sin, much against his own desire. So the pope was saying that he would be slow to condemn such a man, and would be slow to pass judgment on the state of that man's soul.

Unfortunately so many media refused to print the last word of the pope, and so they have given the impression that the pope has no opinion on homosexuality!

Pope Francis faces enough troubles without also having to put up with media misquotations.

Father David Wechter
Houston, Minnesota

Fighting Climate Change?

Fourteen thousand years ago, we had the Laurentide Ice Sheet. Then 4,000 years ago, it finished melting, and we had the Great Lakes. To the best of my knowledge, during those 10,000 years, we did not have industry, automobiles, or other forms of pollution or man-made carbon-dioxide emitting activities other than a few campfires and some cooking stoves for the relatively sparse human population.

Shouldn't we reconsider anthropogenic global warming in the presence of thousands of years of climate change occurring naturally as the normal activity of our planet?

Climate change occurs over many thousands of years, not a degree or two over a few years. And due to faulty documentation and records, we are not even certain what temperature changes occurred during the industrial age. It's all guesswork and assumptions. Climate change is a part of our planet's ecology.

Here's an idea: Let's listen to science. Science has already shown that most climate legislation will produce minimal results, with a disproportionate cost. Too, modern developed nations are cleaner and less polluting than the primitive nations. And gas- and electricity-fueled devices are much cleaner than campfires, wood-burning cook stoves, and horse-drawn vehicles. Progress will continue in the lowering of pollution; we get better at it every year.

Does anyone really know what natural changes are in store for us during the next 10,000 years?

A bigger problem may be the solid wastes we produce, such as paper and plastic. We seem to be having a bigger impact on our oceans than our atmosphere. So why have we not placed most of our effort and laws into this area? Could it be that climate change is really about political control?

William F. Hineser, DPM



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Arvada, Colorado

Getting Schooled

A couple of days ago I was reconciling my checkbook. There was a discrepancy. For one of the check numbers, I had written down \$30, and the bank had \$36. Sure enough, when I finished reconciling, I was six dollars off.

I called the 800 number for my bank and asked if the image of that check could be brought up. The gentleman did bring it up, and he said that the zero after the three wasn't quite closed, so the employee thought it was a six. I asked what the written part for the check amount said. It said 30, spelled out.

He did admit that the check actually was for \$30. Then he said something interesting: "Some of our people don't read cursive, so they don't look at that part." (The teaching of cursive writing was dropped from our schools several years ago. Our new workforce is now handicapped with that loss.) I was stunned. When I worked in a bank, we were told that the written number (usually written in cursive) controlled. I am so surprised that that change has already made its way to the workplace!

Roberta Sutton

Evergreen, Colorado



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