

NEWS AND COMMENTARY

NPR: Biden's Presidency An 'Opportunity' For Those Who Seek To Change Catholic Stance On Abortion

By Paul Bois

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Mindy Schauer/Digital First Media/Orange County Register via Getty Images

The taxpayer-funded National Public Radio (NPR) joined the chorus of media outlets arguing that President Joe Biden's position as a liberal Catholic could be a force to change the church's position on important issues like abortion.

Published Saturday, [the article](#) by Sara McCammon found that liberal Catholics in America may have finally found their mascot in Joe Biden.



“For those who would like to see the church take a more permissive stance on issues including abortion, Biden’s election is an opportunity,” wrote McCammon.

“Polling suggests a majority of American Catholics support abortion rights in most or all cases and oppose overturning Roe v. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide. According to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights, most Catholic women say they’ve used contraception at some point, which the church also opposes,” she added.

Jamie Manson, president of Catholics for Choice – a group disavowed by the USCCB – expressed hope that Biden’s presidency will lead to greater dialogue between church officials and lay members who believe differently.

“There are many issues in which Catholics are dissenting from the bishops and seeing that these are complex moral issues, whether it’s same-sex marriage,

whether it's contraception, or whether it's abortion," she said.

Manson also predicted that the Biden presidency and the Supreme Court will be battling over religious freedom regarding "conscience exemptions."

"What I hope one of the impacts on policy will be is to say, 'Listen, that is not what religious freedom is about; religious freedom is about no one being oppressed or having their civil rights lost because of individual religious beliefs,' " Manson said.

Just last year, a Catholic priest in South Carolina reportedly denied the former vice president the sacrament of Holy Communion because of his public abortion views, signaling to Biden that he was not in line with Church teaching on the issue.

"Sadly, this past Sunday, I had to refuse Holy Communion to former Vice President Joe Biden," Father Robert E. Morey of Saint Anthony Catholic Church told reporters. "Holy Communion signifies we are one with God, each other, and the Church. Our actions should reflect that. Any public figure who advocates for abortion places himself or herself outside of Church teaching."

This past June, after the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice John Roberts, struck down a Louisiana law requiring doctors who provide abortions to have admitting privileges at a local hospital, Biden spoke out about abortion.

"Women's health care rights have been under attack as states across the country have passed extreme laws restricting women's constitutional right to choice under any circumstance," Biden said in a statement. "Today the U.S.

Supreme Court reaffirmed that states cannot put in place laws that unduly burden a women's right to make her own health care decision with her doctor."

Writing in First Things, former Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput argued that Joe Biden should be denied Holy Communion so long as he continues to publicly support abortion.

"Public figures who identify as 'Catholic' give scandal to the faithful when receiving Communion by creating the impression that the moral laws of the Church are optional," wrote Chaput. "And bishops give similar scandal by not speaking up publicly about the issue and danger of sacrilege."

"Those bishops who publicly indicate in advance that they will undertake their own dialogue with President-elect Joseph Biden and allow him Communion effectively undermine the work of the task force established at the November bishops' conference meeting to deal *precisely* with this and related issues," he continued. "This gives scandal to their brother bishops and priests, and to the many Catholics who struggle to stay faithful to Church teaching. It does damage to the bishops' conference, to the meaning of collegiality, and to the fruitfulness of the conference's advocacy work with the incoming administration."

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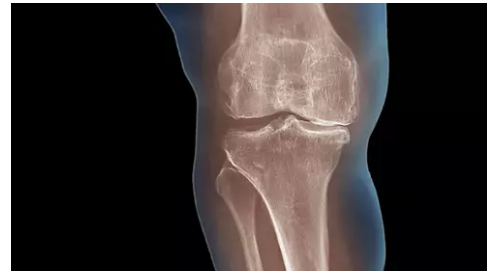
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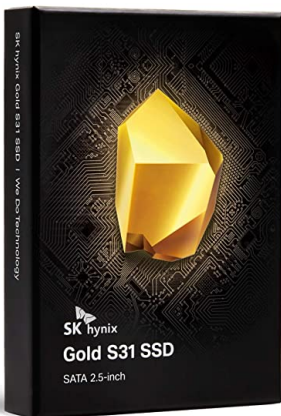
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SerenityNowH...

That would be like saying liberal...



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akre

Uhh, have there been any significant...



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 5



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2

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cafokimoto0655

38 minutes ago

Wait a minute. I need some clarification. Pastors are not supposed to use their pulpits to influence politics, but politicians are supposed to use their office to influence religion? How does the first fall under "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" but the second doesn't? I'm old and slow. Can someone explain this seeming disparity to me?

Reply 👍 11 🗨

rmiketurn4263 > cafokimoto0655

12 minutes ago

Because the liberals are all about political power - that's what they worship and expect you to as well.

And anything that gets in the way of it must be banned.

Reply 👍 🗨

jamesmatise9725 > cafokimoto0655

18 minutes ago

It falls under the "NPR wants to elevate Biden to liberal sainthood using Planned Parenthood's PR firm and the Soros-funded heretical group Catholics for Choice" rule.

Reply 👍 🗨

snowflakegeneration9620

52 minutes ago

There's no such thing as a liberal Catholic. If you don't subscribe to the tenets of the Catholic Church that makes you a non Catholic or may be Jesus believing Christian but not Catholic. If you

can pick and choose the aspects of a religion you want to follow and reject other aspects then you're not a follower of said religion.

Reply  20 

Bright ideas  **us** reply **snowflakegeneration9620**

38 minutes ago

Until the Pope decided to back gay "marriage" and abortion. Catholics do tend to put the word of the pope before the word of God.

Reply   2

↩ Show 1 more reply

prodigy2202210 > **snowflakegeneration9620**

45 minutes ago

The Catholic Church is unique in that there is one interpretation of scripture and tradition, it's not like protestant churches where your personal interpretation is just as valid as someone else's. If you don't believe in the Church's interpretation, you're just a protestant.

Reply  5 

craig.tj5909

37 minutes ago

I'm not Catholic but I don't think I'm alone in believing that people and churches of all faith need to step up and stop being so passive about beliefs and ideology. This vanilla religious climate we are in has contributed to the decline of morality in this country. I hope the Catholic Church doesn't bend on this stance. The media will definitely paint a bad picture of the church if they don't, but it's up to us to not buy into it. Keep the faith.

Reply  11 

↩ Show 3 previous replies

Jail Birdie > **craig.tj5909**

11 minutes ago

Wouldn't it be wild if Biden became the first president to be ex-communicated? But the current pope seems to be very happy with President Biden...oh well *(Edited)*

Reply  1 

cric0412 > **craig.tj5909**

11 minutes ago

All the REAL Catholic Bishops and Cardinals that are speaking out against Biden in his blasphemous and heretical views are being censured by the Mainstream Media and fake neo-Marxist anti-God/anti-Christ "liberal Bishops and Cardinals" who currently poison the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Normally when people say Satan is in the Church that's mostly a derogatory term to demonize Catholics; however, in this since when I (a Catholic) say that Satan is in the Church, it's to emphasize that many people with Ecclesiastical Authority are butchering the dogma and doctrine of the church from the inside out and are distorting the Christian message!

Reply  

CaptPhil1958

50 minutes ago

Biden has stated that he is personally against abortion but politically supported women's rights. I would love for someone to ask him the question directly.

Reply  6 

movingforward550010

55 minutes ago

So now the President will be given the power to change what the Bible says and means. That's just great.

Reply  7 

rmiketurn4263 > movingforward550010

11 minutes ago

That's how wonderful and holy and perfect the Democrats are and why you should never doubt them, despite all of their imperfections and illegalities.

Reply  

orasf8183 > movingforward550010

48 minutes ago

He's not the first. They all try. He's just another corrupt politician using his "faith" as an accessory.

Reply  2 

↩ Show 1 more reply

pplstriker321314

20 minutes ago

After 2,000+ years, finally the left has found its knight in shining armor in the person of 78 year old, cognitively declining, Lunch Bucket Joe Plugs Biden to liberate the Catholic Church from all those antiquated beliefs that that Nazorean Guy left behind. Bahahah!

For anybody concerned that Joe Biden will move the needle one way or another as far as Catholic Church doctrine goes - sleep easy. He won't. It doesn't work that way. Will he influence Catholics who don't know anything or very little about Church teaching and who have never bothered to pick up a catechism or read works from some of the great apologists? That's another story.

Reply  3 

dardenfew3cavalcade9211

41 minutes ago

The Church of Rome is over 2,000 years old. It has seen good times and bad. It has seen Saints and anti-Christ. It has seen global war, pestilence, depressions and loss of faith. She is ancient, weathered, and wise. The Church will survive Biden* with her principles intact.

Reply  2 

jimmy.guzman3983 > dardenfew3cavalcade9211

29 minutes ago

It she will not survive the Pope

Reply   1

killbill1106

58 minutes ago

Democrats aren't happy with changing America, they now have to change churches too...

Reply  5 

kimmelllee1646 > killbill1106

52 minutes ago

To be fair look at the majority of American churches reactions to COVID. In my state instead of listening to the word of God it is all about the word of the governor. Churches are already listening to what the Dems say and not even thinking about it. There are so many people in this country who don't think for themselves.

Reply  3 

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LA Finch

46 minutes ago

He and Pelosi should be excommunicated. That should get the Church's point across. And put paid to this giddy "we can force everyone to our viewpoint" nonsense the Left seems to be spouting.

Reply  5 

Mr. Plinkett > LA Finch

34 minutes ago

If only we had a pope with the guts to actually do it.

Reply  

Hexensohn

15 minutes ago

Very weird for the people who are so insistent on the notion of separation of church and state to be salivating over the government influencing the course of the Catholic Church. Also, I doubt Biden has much control over his own bowels, let alone the direction of the Catholic perspective on abortion.

Reply  2 

Rogen80

52 minutes ago

Kings and Emperors have tried in the past.

Sorry Joe; you're not God.

Reply  3 

waldronjm4790

39 minutes ago

Liberal Catholic is an oxymoron. No such animal. Pro abortion is an anti life which is and always will be a mortal sin. A serious offense against the law of God and humanity. Biden and Pelosi should

be excommunicated to set an example. Too bad we don't have a legitimate Pope

Reply  4 

gswolff633815 

15 minutes ago

Why would anyone think that the Church would reconsider its beliefs because of Joe Biden? Biden's moral compass is completely out of whack.

Reply  3 

philpark3949 

21 minutes ago

There's just one little problem. You can't be a Catholic in good standing and support abortion. So only those who identified as Catholic and who aren't pro choice are Catholics. So 100% of Catholics are against abortion and I don't need a survey to tell me that. If you're pro choice, you can't be Catholic.

Reply  1 

cric0412 > philpark3949 

17 minutes ago

A-MEN 🙌

Reply  

mattmounsey4793 

54 minutes ago

Dems will be eating babies on pizza by the time this guy leaves office.

Reply  6 

roostir1455 

23 minutes ago

There's a basic misunderstanding here. Religion isn't like politics where the policies change with the will of the people. If Jesus said we shouldn't kill each other, there's really no way around that. We can't un-ring that bell no matter the mental gymnastics Democrats try to put forth.

Reply  2 

Reaganwuzright! > roostir1455 

21 minutes ago

That's not what the anti-Christ will say though....

Reply  

Chicago323 

27 minutes ago

Joe needs to leave religious beliefs alone. Not his call to change something that is not his to change.

Reply  1 

c_tooner1151 

44 minutes ago

Do these people believe that the Bible is edited by random liberal clowns...like Wikipedia? Last I checked, the Lord did not give an option to vote on acceptance of the Ten Commandments.

Reply  4 

Reaganwuzright! > c_tooner1151

41 minutes ago

Lefties call them "The Ten Suggestions."

Reply  2 

Mathew234

54 minutes ago

that would just cause a split in the roman catholic church.

the new "fake" Catholics that support murder and the real true roman Catholics who oppose the murder of babies.

Reply  3 

Bright Idea 💡 > Mathew234

35 minutes ago

Witch side do you think the Pope will be on that split?

Reply  

Tommy A

2 minutes ago

If this gains one scintilla of traction/support among "practicing Catholics" than the ONLY way I would be okay with the Churches reaction is if the Catholic Church sends a formally addressed letter to POTUS Biden informing him that he is culpable for the attempted perversion of Church Doctrine, that he is considered to be in a state of mortal sin, and that he may attend Mass, but he need not come forth to receive the Eucharist unless he not only repents (confession) but also publicly announces reforms to his policies regarding the murder of babies (AKA abortion).

Joe Biden needs to do some introspection and figure out if Joe Biden lives out his faith for Joe Bidens glory, or for God's. (yes that was a Indiana Jones Last Crusade reference.

I do not think the Church should be in the business of calling out world leaders, but if said world leaders are claiming to be devout to their Catholicism while also corrupting the souls of potentially millions of people what are they to do?

Reply  1 

Jail Birdie

14 minutes ago

President Joe Biden's position as a liberal Catholic could be a force to change the church's position on important issues like abortion.

I was taught the government was not to be any kind of a force on religion...or some other such antiquated thinking.

Reply  

rmiketurn4263



13 minutes ago

Our faith is supposed to transcend politics and the whim of the day and help us change our ways to be more like God.

NPR and the Dems want the church and our faith to change to be more like god (they being the god).

Reply  

Reaganwuzright!



25 minutes ago

It's all fun and games until Christ comes floating back down through the clouds!

CNN will probably call him a wingsuit stuntman.

Reply  1 

Bill Ferguson



16 minutes ago

God's truth and righteousness does not change over time. But man's desire to have God conform to their definition of truth and righteousness does change. Doesn't make it right.

Reply  

winston4534



19 minutes ago

There is a big, big difference between contraception and abortion. And, that aside, you're kidding yourself if you think that Joe Biden is going to change Catholic doctrine no matter what your polls of supposed Catholics says.

Reply  

arielxdavis9975



47 minutes ago

Manson is disgraceful. There is no room in Catholic doctrine for abortion. You cannot be Catholic and pro-choice. I also call BS on NPR's poll.

Reply  1 

cric0412



18 minutes ago

I just want everyone to know that "liberal" Catholicism and "liberal" Christianity ISN'T a thing! And if it is anything at all, it should be more appropriately called "cafeteria Catholicism" or "cafeteria Christianity."

Reply  

WTF is going on

45 minutes ago

What polling of Catholics supports abortion?

Reply  1 

jimjohnson310720

42 minutes ago

The only Catholic I know that wants to change the Church's stance on abortion is John Podesta. He has funded such nonsense as "Catholic Doctors Against Abortion" accounts on social media. We learned this when Hillary Clinton emails were released. *(Edited)*

Reply  

davegar725543

49 minutes ago

There's a lot of d1ng bat woke church's in DC Lieden can attend

Reply  

saayman10284038

25 minutes ago

So then it's not Catholicism, and you should not practice Catholicism if you don't want to commit it's principles, oh but that makes too much sense!

Reply  

citizenconcerned3560800

25 minutes ago

Thought it was a Bible thing?

Reply  

Reaganwuzright!

43 minutes ago

God may disagree?

Reply  

bear17247474

24 minutes ago

Satan's church

Reply  1  2

scubasteve3627

22 minutes ago

Why in the world would a politicians views and the lies he says have any bearing on an entire religion? I'm atheist but even I know how insanely idiotic that is.

Reply  

Hexensohn > scubasteve3627

18 minutes ago

Yeah at a certain point if you change your religion to match secular standards and ideology, you no longer have a religion. Might as well tell Muslims to go ham on some bacon. There's no reason they shouldn't, it's just some silly rule they have.

Reply  

 Show 1 more reply

spetrecky4148

49 minutes ago

so its a coup against the church now as well. Coup'ing all over huh democrats

Reply  

Reaganwuzright!

33 minutes ago

Pro gay, pro abortion, Pro drinking, pro premarital sex, pro street drugs?

That's some church member....

Should be named The Lake of Fire Community Church?

Reply  1 

snowflakegeneration9620 > Reaganwuzright!

29 minutes ago

I believe the United Methodist church has a gay atheist pastors

Reply  1 

captgeesh473143

16 minutes ago

This pope is among the worst popes in the last 500 years. I will not baptize my last kid until the white smoke blows

Reply  

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