

SEX ON THE CATHOLIC MIND

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"Misguided idealism is dangerous!" Political and religious institutions are driven by ideals. But when ideals are out of touch with human realities, then a dangerous environment--trying to force reality--results [e.g. invading Poland (1939) to create the Third Reich, or flying airplanes into Twin Towers, purifying orthodoxy with Inquisition, decreeing "no pervers allowed" to generate psychosexually healthy human beings, etc.].

Imperial/hierarchical repression does not and has never dealt effectively with the realities of human sexual energy--an energy that is universal to human beings; an energy that brought all of us into existence; an energy that within the Catholic tradition is a "sacrament" (whereas, celibacy is not one of the seven--although you would think it so within the clerical caste system).

The insistence that celibacy be mandated and universalized among all priests comes out of a religious system and culture suffering from an illusion of power. There is such a thing as the "charism of celibacy" engaged in service of the gospel. But the "charism" is rooted in a human being who has sorted out the realities of psychosexual human development and reached an extraordinary high degree of integration and maturity.

How very rare it is that any human being is in that place in their twenties, or thirties, or forties. Married people know this very well as the human sexual energy within them is engaged, expressed and unfolds in the realities of marriage and family life.

Jesus, in calling the apostles to follow him, did not ignore the necessary human development that must take place in all of us. Most of the apostles were married men whose lives and faith included the realities of human sexual development.

Repression truncates and "splits off" a part of our humanity that must be integrated. When we "split off" an essential part of our humanity there are serious consequences! If we do not deal adequately with the sexual energy within us, then "sex ends up having us" rather than vice versa. One's libido is not a mistake made by the Creator. The institutional "manufacture" of the "charism of celibacy" is an illusion of power and its continuance injures the mission of the church.

So the illusion continues in the mandated celibate clerical caste system of the Roman Catholic priesthood where a "married priesthood" is not an option but a

threat to the status quo--even an ecclesiastical obscenity. Universalizing celibacy in priests injures the church, priesthood and the role the charism of celibacy can play in the life of the church.

Before dysfunctional systems implode they do what they know to do--only harder. Paul Blaschko's experience in the seminary expresses a clerical culture in crisis and in great need to face reality and the incarnation of the human race. How bad does it have to get before the system adjusts and embraces the truth of our human experience and growth?