

MACHIAVELLI BACK IN ROME? ..... The straightforward advice to lie, steal and punish that Machiavelli craftily gave a papally related Prince a half millenium ago is apparently followed today in the Vatican at times more diligently than the Gospel message. This imperial pope is a highly disciplined and demanding World War II veteran who has appointed an obedient and subservient officer corp. He brooks no disobedience or dissent. The increasingly evident corrupt conspiracy that Joseph Ratzinger, the current pope, has effectively overseen for decades in Rome has many branch offices, as we are learning daily, throughout the worldwide Church, including in the US as well as Mexico.

It is important that Catholics see some of the bigger picture so vividly encapsulated locally in Mexico in the sordid Maciel story that has been reported so well by Jason Berry.

Incidentally, Canon "L"aw, like "T"radition and "M"agisterium, is mostly whatever the pope in Rome at the time says it is, regardless of Canon Law's (and Tradition's and the Magisterium's) often obvious conflict with the Gospel message and authentic church history. Most clerical scholars appear fearful understandably of pointing out these conflicts.

The Maciel crime story even has a current American connection to, and some parallels with, the currently exploding Philadelphia Archdiocese's priest abuse cover-up scandal.

As Jason Berry reported in his "Vows of Silence" book, a former Mexican seminarian's early report on Maciel's crimes was made in a detailed official letter sent in 1976,

almost four decades ago, by Msgr. John Alesandro, then the Chancellor of the Rockville Centre Diocese on Long Island, NY. The Mexican priest was then resident in the LI Diocese. This Diocese is now run by Bishop Murphy, a long time accomplice of one of the pope's favorite overseers of priest predators, Boston's fugitive Cardinal Law.

Jason has reported in his book that Alesandro indicated to him that he, in effect, did not follow up diligently on his Maciel related letter to Rome after getting stonewalled initially. Had he done so, perhaps many Maciel victims could have been spared the lifetime of pain Maciel bequeathed most of them.

Alesandro is a NY state licensed civil lawyer, former head of the US Canon Law Society and, I believe, may presently be teaching at Fordham. He is also the nephew of recently deceased Philly Cardinal Bevilacqua, who, along with the pope's long time curial colleague and former Philly Cardinal from 2003 to 2011, Justin Rigali, are focal points in the pending Philly criminal proceedings for child endangerment alleged against Philly's longtime priest personnel chief, Msgr. Lynn.

We may never know for sure whether Alesandro ever discussed Maciel with his Uncle Tony, but they were close and probably did. In any event, the papal Maciel abuse cover-up has echoes in similar cover-ups of priest sexual abuse of defenseless children that occurred, it appears, on Alesandro's, Bevilacqua's and Rigali's watches.

Alesandro himself, as described in a 2003 Suffolk County NY grand jury report and in Newsday (available at <http://www.bishop-accountability.org/> (B/A)) was implicated in a cover-up program of over a dozen alleged LI priest predators. He worked on this effort with another

priest lawyer, Msgr. Alan Placa, who was defended in the NY media by his high school chum, old friend and sometimes employer, Rudy Guiliani.

For the record, Alesandro served in my parish for many years, and Placa and Guiliani were also my chums at Bishop Loughlin HS in Brooklyn, NY in the late '50's.

Interestingly, one of the major investment banker founders and funders of the Leadership Roundtable, an important current donor to the US bishops and an NCR advertiser, organized an unsuccessful opposition to Alesandro's pastoral appointment by Murphy to the wealthiest parish in the Diocese, presumably in part as a reward for Alesandro's success in stalling priest child abuse claims until NY's short statute of limitations tolled. This is also reported in Newsday on B/A. In this sinful Church we now endure, Alesandro replaced a pastor who reportedly left suddenly amidst multiple allegations against him.

Lynn recently disclosed that Bevilacqua, reportedly with help from later Bishops Cullen and Cistone, in 1994 shredded a potentially incriminating document listing almost three dozen Philly priests suspected of child sexual abuse and/or similar misbehavior. We also know, so far, that some of the priests on the shredded list went on to sexually abuse more children.

An unexpected retained copy of the shredded list of suspected priests turned up in connection with a criminal grand jury investigation in 2006 but, it appears, Cardinal Rigali's lawyers inexplicably failed to produce it until recently.

Two days ago, Fr. Avery, one of the current Philly criminal defendants with Msgr. Lynn, pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a young boy. The continuing court proceedings indicated Avery stated Msgr. Lynn knew he was sexually abusing children, but nevertheless reassigned him to other unsuspecting parishes. Avery also indicated that the Philly Archdiocese, in effect, acquiesced in his continuing his "disc jockey gigs" where he groomed more child victims. The Philly Archdiocese has clearly not been under child protection control and must be compelled judicially to open all of its secret abusive priest archives.

Recent history strongly suggests, for example, in Boston, Los Angeles and Philly, that local prosecutors may too often defer to the hierarchy's political clout. Hence, no US bishop to date has been prosecuted for actually covering-up predator priests' crimes. KC's Bishop Finn failed to report a child pornographer, a different crime. This is despite the more than 100,000 American children abused so far by priests, according to a recent Vatican conference experts' estimates.

The current Philadelphia criminal proceedings are off to a troubling start. The Democratic PA state judge has so far maintained relative secrecy by an undemocratic gag order. She has also reportedly expressed interest in getting a Federal judicial appointment.

The seemingly ambitious Democratic Philly district attorney reportedly had worked earlier for the Philly Archdiocese's (Philly AD) main outside law firm. On Chris Matthew's Hardball show and elsewhere, he indicated a favorable assessment of Cardinal Rigali even after a damning 2011 criminal grand jury report was issued,

following an earlier 2005 grand jury report with comparable findings.

One of the Philly AD's key outside lawyers is a law partner of the recent former PA Democratic governor, who had also served as the US Democratic Party National Chairman. He is close to Obama, who appoints federal judges.

While there is no evidence of any illegal incentives in play, the unnecessary secrecy and the surprise "soft" plea deal for Avery has given this experienced lawyer some concern. Hopefully, the PA criminal justice system will not fail Philly citizens again. Both full justice and the security of many thousands of Philly children are at stake.

The recent guilty plea and immediate sentencing of Fr. Avery was an unexpected and surprising plea deal for many close observers. Given the court record to date and eye witness testimony available, the sentence seems quite light, especially since it is not conditional on Avery testifying against others who may be implicated in this apparently massive Philly AD cover-up conspiracy.

Cardinal Rigali currently remains, along with disgraced Cardinal Law, on the powerful Roman curial Committee For Bishops. He had been St. Louis mentor to Opus Dei's Bishop Finn of Kansas City, currently criminally indicted for failing to report a priest child pornographer. Obama's Justice Department also has indicted this priest under Federal child pornography criminal laws.

Rigali had also been St. Louis mentor for Cardinal Dolan. Dolan is, of course, the pope's favored head of the US bishops. When Dolan is not busy working with the likes of Rush Limbaugh to replace President Obama with a "reliable Republican", who would likely further stack the US

Supreme Court with Opus Dei sympathetic Justices who then could outlaw contraception and protect bishops even more from legal liability for their priests' sexual abuse of children, Dolan works in tandem as the Dynamic Duo with his bulldog buddy, Bill Donohue, trying to destroy SNAP.

SNAP, an international sexual abuse victims support group, has filed criminal charges against the pope, related to the pope's evident worldwide child abuse cover-up strategy, with the International Criminal Court (ICC). If Dolan can destroy SNAP quickly before the ICC prosecutor can compel the pope to open his secret Vatican priest abuse archives and before the pope is required to testify under oath in a public courtroom, the pope might then possibly even consider backing Dolan for pope, God forbid. This is a major reason why Catholics need to support SNAP, notwithstanding what other reservations some of them may have about SNAP.

The US focal points of the pope's effort to replace Obama have been the anti-women's reproductive health and the anti-gay marriage crusades. For info on the US bishops early planning on this, with some fundamentalist evangelical and right-wing Republican operatives, please click on at: