



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
December 2013



ATHEIST FILM CRITIC SAYS 'PHILOMENA' MOVIE IS
AN ATTACK ON CATHOLICS

New York City, N.Y., Dec 10, 2013 / 12:37 pm (Catholic News Agency) - An atheist movie reviewer has criticized the new film "Philomena" as "another hateful and boring attack on Catholics," saying that it unfairly shows the Church as exploitative and coercive.

"Anyone who is honest understands that it lambastes the way Irish Catholicism played out in 1950s Ireland, using falsehoods whenever necessary to underscore the point," said Kyle Smith, a movie critic for the New York Post.

"Some like 'Philomena' for that reason. Some think there should be a little more art than diatribe to a film," he continued.

The Weinstein Company movie dramatizes the story of Philomena Lee, an Irish woman who gave up her son for adoption at a convent in 1950s Ireland after she gave birth out of wedlock at age 18. The movie is told from the perspective of Lee 50 years later as she travels with journalist Martin Sixsmith to learn what happened to her son.

Smith, a self-described atheist, initially characterized the movie in a Nov. 21 review as "a witless bore," "90 minutes of organized hate," and "a diabolical-Catholics film, straight-up."

In response, the Weinstein Company ran a full-page ad in the Dec. 5 New York Times citing the review and publishing excerpts of a letter from Lee to Smith. The elderly Lee said she has "a very strong hold on my faith" and that the movie was meant to be "a testament to good things, not an attack."

Smith responded on Dec. 7 that Lee ignored how that the movie depicted her in a negative way, as a "dimwit and butt of most of its jokes" in comparison to the "sophisticate" atheist journalist.

The film critic said the movie was "lazy" and "contrived" with "smack-you-in-the-nose" dialogue like the journalist character's "crowd-pleasing, film-defining cry 'f---ing Catholics'."

While the movie portrays the Church as cruel and coercive, Smith noted that it was in some ways a refuge for single mothers who could not support children on their own in the face of social ostracism.

"We all know how cruel it was for the mid-century Catholic Church to provide shelter for scorned women written off as dead by their families, help them give birth to their children and place the adoptees in loving homes," Smith said with sarcasm. "Today we'd be much more compassionate: we'd simply abort all those kids. Problem solved."

He added that the film is encouraging anti-Catholic sentiment among some reviewers, such as James Killough of PureFilmCreative.com, whose review cited the obscene reference to Catholics in its title.

Killough's review said that the Church has abused "just about everyone in the history of its existence," and those who disagree with actor and Steve Coogan's depiction of it are likely members of the Catholic clergy or "as terrorized by this most dangerous and egregious of Christian sects as Philomena herself."

Smith, however, said that he "could see no reason for the movie's existence other than to soar overhead in the guise of the sweet bird of comedy, then drop a surprise load of guano on Catholic institutions."

“Like Coogan, I was raised Catholic and became an atheist, but I have too much respect for people of faith to be obnoxious about it,” he stated.

The “Philomena” distributor is owned by Harvey Weinstein, whom Time Magazine ranked as the most powerful man in Hollywood in 2012. Smith said that Weinstein has a “resume of anti-Catholic movies” including “The Magdalene Sisters,” “The Butcher Boy,” and “Priest.”

Smith said the latest film is playing to “mostly empty theaters,” despite receiving several positive reviews. He questioned the judgment on many movie critics.

“Film critics tend to give a free pass to obvious, trite, heavy-handed movies that light up the correct political-pleasure circuits in their brains,” he said. “I’m used to disagreeing with them.”

From *Catholic News Agency*: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/atheist-film-critic-says-philomena-movie-is-an-attack-on-catholics/>

DEGREE CEREMONIES

First Degree Ceremony: 20 January 2014. Location: Council 15250, Pope Chapel, Pope Army Airfield, NC. Show Time: 6:30 PM. Start Time 7:00 PM.

Third Degree Ceremony: 8 February 2014. Location: Council 2546, Raleigh, NC. For more details go to: http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

Third Degree Ceremony: 15 February 2014. Location: Council 9499, Clemmons, NC. For more details go to: http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

Third Degree Ceremony: 22 February 2014. Location: Council 3574, Jacksonville, NC. For more details go to: http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

Third Degree Ceremony: 29 March 2014. Location: Council 7406, Mooresville, NC. For more details go to: http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

If your Council is hosting a Degree Ceremony send an email to COOP5614@yahoo.com with the information and I will place it in the next Assembly Newsletter and on the website Calendar page.



CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

SK CHUCK VANHUSEN ORDINATION HONOR GUARD DETAIL

Thank you to the Sir Knights who participated for SK Chuck VanHuesen’s ordination to Cantor, Lector, and Subdeacon (November 24, 2013):

Faithful Navigator Jose Santos
Past Faithful Navigator Rod Komlofske
Honor Guard Commander Bob Testa

Past Faithful Navigator John Handley
Past Faithful Navigator Bob White
Sir Knight Chris Cooper

VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE HONOR GUARD DETAIL

Thank you to the Sir Knights who participated for the Virgin of Guadalupe Honor Guard Detail at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church Red Springs, NC (December 11, 2013):

Faithful Navigator Jose Santos
Past Faithful Navigator Rodney Komlofske

Past Faithful Navigator John Handley
Sir Knight Jeffery Jankovics

UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENTS

There are no Honor Guard Events Scheduled at this time.

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Sir Knight Christopher R. Cooper

I was listening to the morning radio talk show out of the Raleigh-Durham Area, NC. The topic was the myth about *The 12 Days of Christmas* Carol. I did not know about the controversy surrounding this Christmas Carol. No one can agree on its origin or what the original meanings of the symbols were. One theory is this Christmas Carol originated in England when the Catholic Church was banned. Another theory has the origin as a children's game played in France. There are also several version depending on what country a person is in. It doesn't matter. As with many of our Catholic traditions we took a local custom or practice Christianized it and made it our own. So here is our Christian Catholic interpretation for the meaning of *The 12 Day of Christmas*:

On the first day of Christmas my True Love (*Our Heavenly Father*) sent to me:

A Partridge in a Pear Tree
Christ on the Cross

2 Turtle Doves
The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens
Faith, Hope and Charity; the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds
The Four Gospels and the Four Evangelists
Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

5 Golden Rings
The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch"
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

6 Geese-A-Laying
The Six Days of Creation

7 Swans A-swimming
The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit; The Seven Sacraments:
Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, & Holy Anointing

8 Maids-A-Milking
The Eight Beatitudes:
Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.
Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

9 Ladies Dancing

*The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity,
Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control*

10 Lords-A-Leaping

The Ten Commandments:

- I. I Am The Lord Thy God: Thou Shalt Not Have Strange Gods Before Me.*
- II. Thou Shall Not Take The Name Of The Lord Thy God In Vain.*
- III. Keep The Sabbath Holy.*
- IV. Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother.*
- V. Thou Shalt Not Kill.*
- VI. Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery.*
- VII. Thou Shalt Not Steal.*
- VIII. Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbor.*
- IX. Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor's Wife.*
- X. Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor's Goods.*

11 Pipers Piping

The Eleven Faithful Apostles (Mark 3:16-18):
*Peter, Andrew, James [the] son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas,
James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus and Simon the Cananean*

12 Drummers Drumming

The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostle's Creed:

- I. I believe in God the Father Almighty Creator of Heaven and earth*
- II. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;*
- III. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,*
- IV. Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;*
- V. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;*
- VI. He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;*
- VII. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.*
- VIII. I believe in the Holy Ghost,*
- IX. The Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints*
- X. The forgiveness of sins,*
- XI. The resurrection of the body, and*
- XII. Life everlasting.*

IN MEMORIAM:

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the souls of:
All Deceased Knights of Columbus

ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Any Sir Knight who wants to add his article to the Newsletter, submit the article to Faithful Scribe, SK Chris Cooper, at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.