

Letters to the editor

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The Vatican's unspoken message

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The unspoken message by Vatican officials clamping down both on predator priests and on those attempting women's ordination (July 16--Vatican Revises Abuse Rules) might well be, shut them up! Now that Catholic women and/or those speaking up for them--both in the media and in the Church--are voicing opinions about the horrors of clergy abuse, the big guys want to cow them and all women supporters back into compliance.

Age-old tactic--make them wear veils (or prefer that they do), push a passive Virgin Mary role model and give guilt trips if faithful females stray from subservience. Mothers of Catholic children--and others who care--let's separate the cream from the curdle: women's issues must be seen as wholly separate from clergy abuse management. Otherwise, it's easy to lump the "unruly" women and their backers into the same category as problem priests--something to be ignored, avoided or cast out.

Clarification needed here: clergy abuse and related cover-up is unconscionable. Women's ordination rights are questionable, maybe, but surely not sinful, sickening and uncivil such as in the case of credibly accused clergy.

Jesus loved women and honored them. Would that the hierarchy follow the Master's lead.

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