

## Atheists of Florida CHAPTER EVENTS

**MIAMI:** The July meeting is scheduled for **Sunday July 18**, 2-4 pm at the Broward County Main Library, 8th floor located at 100 S. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale. On **Sunday, August 15**, we will have our August meeting at the Scott Rakow Youth Center in Miami Beach with plenty of activities for the kids. Members can learn more from NEWSNOTES. For additional information call (305) 936-0210.

**PALM BEACH:** Meetings are held the **third Sunday** of each month at 2:30 pm in Jupiter. Members are notified by postcard. For driving directions or more information, call Charles Schisler (561) 627-6340 or 624-9359.



**MARGARET SANGER**  
1879 - 1966

### Woman of the century

When Margaret Sanger's mother died at age 48 of tuberculosis after having 11 children, it changed the course of Margaret's life and of world history. Margaret grew up in Corning, New York influenced by her father, a freethinking Irishman who once invited Robert Ingersoll to speak at the town hall only to be locked out by the town priest.

She attended nursing school in White Plains, New York specializing in childbirth cases. She married and had 3 children settling in New York City where she provided nursing care to poor women that seemed to

*Board Member Rebeca Porto, M.D. is Medical Director of Laboratory Services at Deering Hospital. She lives in Miami with her daughter.*

**TAMPA:** Meetings: **Saturday, July 31 and Saturday, August 28**, (last Saturday of each month), 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (probably in meeting room A) of the Clearwater East Public Library, 2251 Drew Street, Clearwater.  
**Monthly Dinners** — **Wednesday, August 4th, at 6:00 pm.** Dinner will be at Bridges Restaurant & Lounge located at 1999 Starkey (Keene) Road, Largo (just north of Ulmerton). If you have any questions or need directions, please contact: Ed Golly—(813)839-7567 or Jerry Moore—(727)526-4223

be in a constant state of pregnancy. They often begged her for "the secret" to preventing pregnancy. She started a weekly column "What every mother should know". After extensive research in medical libraries about conception, she started publishing a monthly newspaper *The Woman Rebel* and adopted the motto "NO GODS, NO MASTERS."

At that time, prevention of pregnancy was illegal and considered lewd and obscene. The Comstock Act prevented distribution through the postal system of any information about prevention of conception.

Margaret Sanger started a crusade in 1914 to bring inexpensive "birth control" (a term she coined) to all women and this battle continued throughout her life. She became a fugitive for violating the Comstock Act, was jailed 8 times and was censored and shunned. She was responsible for the distribution of diaphragms in the United States, the development of contraceptive jelly, the education of physicians in birth control techniques, the multiplication of birth control clinics, the founding of Planned Parenthood and ultimately the creation of the birth control pill.

She battled government and organized religion to make birth control a fundamental human right. That American women possess that right today and that public opinion has evolved to support it solidly is due in great measure to the courageous battle that Margaret Sanger, an atheist, waged and won over every obstacle. Doing more to free women than any other single individual, she was named "Woman of the Century" in 1966.

— Rebeca Porto, M.D.



8 July/August 1999



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# Atheists of Florida

*Dedicated to the absolute separation of State and Church*

Volume VIII  
Number 5

July/August  
1999



## Miami NEWSNOTES

MIAMI—There are really two problems.

First, we publish our newsletter every six weeks rather than monthly. But the chapters meet each month.

Second, we send the newsletters by bulk mail which is sooo sloooow. It can take up to three weeks to get a newsletter to the Miami area from Tampa where we produce and ship them.

So Miami Chapter director Patrick Bens has taken it upon himself to produce and mail his own flyer called **NEWSNOTES** to announce the Miami meetings. The single sheet letters are mailed first class to all Miami/Dade members and comps prior to each meeting. For additional information about meetings, you may contact Patrick Bens at 305/936-0210 or 954/929-0441, eFax at 617/687-7965 or e-mail at atheist1@bellsouth.net.

**TAMPA BAY**—Atheists of Florida made a public appearance at the Greater Tampa Bay Pridefest on the July 4th weekend in Tampa. Combined with the Humanists of the Suncoast and Humanists of Florida all set up under a "Freethought Florida" banner. See *picture at right*. Pictured at the exposition are A of F members (left) Jerry Moore, Dominick Florio and his sister, Michelle and Ed Corl (sitting). Our next setup will be Circus McGerks People's Fair October 30th followed by the Miami Book Fair International on November 19th-21st. We have plenty of volunteers for the stand.

Although Atheists of Florida attorney John MacKay is prepared to file a lawsuit on our behalf against the Hillsborough County

Aviation Authority seeking to close the chapel at the Tampa International Airport, he suggested first attempting to settle the issue out of court. A meeting has been scheduled with Aviation Authority Director Louis Miller for August 12 at which time MacKay and A of F president Ed Golly will explain to him the constitutional violation the Authority has committed and attempt to persuade him to reconsider his illegal action.

A likely scenario of what happened is that when the former director retired, the County Commission was responsible for selecting the replacement. Two of the Commissioners were highly intent on getting this

*(continued on page 2)*



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church built in the airport at public expense. It's likely they made it quite clear to Miller that he would get their nod for the job only if he would pander to their demand to get it built. Miller sheepishly agreed.

But now the situation is different. One of those Commissioners is no longer in office due to term limitations and the other is a lame duck. This puts Miller in a different position. He may agree that it is more prudent to avoid the expense of legal action now that he no longer must bow to pressure from the goons who could have had him fired and agree to close the chapel. Not likely, but worth a try.

The election for the new Board of Directors is well underway. All ballots should have been postmarked by July 20th. We have had an excellent response from most of the members. All contestants will be notified by mail of the results along with the date and location of the next board meeting which will probably be in September. The election results will be published in the next newsletter.

## "So there, too!"

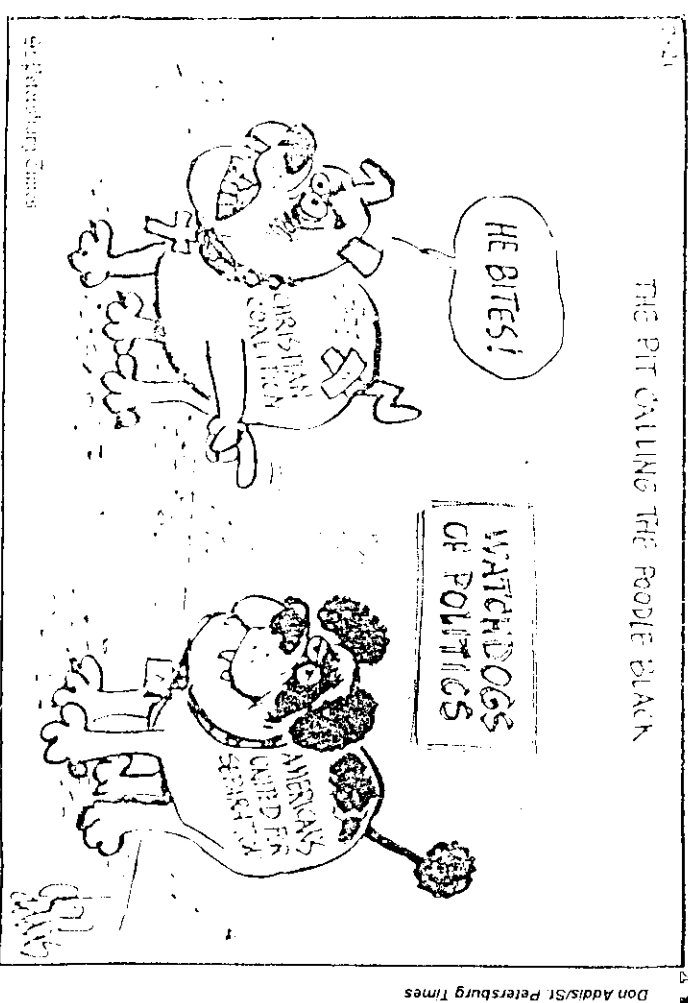
ON JULY 20TH, press releases announced that Sen. Jesse Helms and two Senate Republican colleagues were seeking a federal criminal investigation of a state/church watchdog group, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, that has been critical of the Christian Coalition. Helms claimed that Americans United was attempting to "...disfranchise religious voters by intimidating people of faith into not participating in the political process..." by abandoning participation in a Christian Coalition voter registration drive.

Barry Lynn, executive director of A U, called the senators charges "baseless" and "a bald-faced lie."

"We have been extraordinarily careful, cautious and non-threatening and above all non-partisan" in contacting churches about Christian Coalition activities. Lynn said "This really looks like an effort to intimidate us."

Lynn said he believes the Senate Republicans' attempts to have his organization prosecuted is politically motivated. "Americans United is being singled out for attack for a simple reason—because we have the nerve to stand up to Pat Robertson and his Christian Coalition." Lynn said.

On the following day, the *St. Petersburg Times* ran this terrific pictorial comment by editorial cartoonist Don Addis, who is extremely sympathetic to the freethought cause.

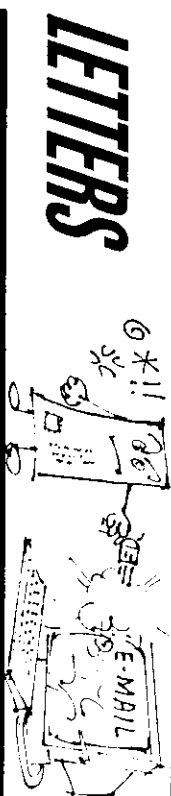


Don Addis/St. Petersburg Times

## Mourning the loss

Responding to the story in which a former employee was implicated in the death of O'Hair, *A of F* member Dominic Florio's response was published in the *St. Pete Times*.

Tears came to my eyes when I read "...Madaelyn Mays Murray O'Hair is an equal opportunity bigot



whose loathing of humanity is eagerly dispensed without partiality..." The *Times* chose to use a quote from a convicted felon and accused murderer, which left the reader with the idea that perhaps Dr. O'Hair is not worthy of anyone's mourning.

I met the Murray O'Hairs when I was 16 years old. We had been friends for 19 years at the time of their disappearance. I can tell you that Madaelyn, Jon and Robin supported causes that sought to improve the human condition. They loved children, animals, plants, the environment, music, art, education, history, freedom of expression, science, rational thought and debate.

My belief is that we all believe.

believe.

They hated individuals or organizations that preached that profit and/or Armageddon were more important than preserving our planet. They also despised any individual or organization that used superstition and dogma to threaten the rights and humanity of women, gay people and other minorities.

What the *Times* failed to point out is that due in part to the litigation and educational efforts of the Murray O'Hair family, Americans can pray privately in school, attend church if they wish, or choose the alternatives without fear that their education, citizenship and their participation in the human community will be denied.

We have lost three brilliant minds that kept inquiry and debate alive. They forced our society to think, which made us all more human. Oh, how I mourn the loss of my friends, for it is a loss for us all.

Dominic Florio  
Pinellas Park

## 'I don't believe'

A *of F* board member Rebecca Porto responded to this editorial (summarized) which appeared in the *Miami Herald* in April.

My belief is that we all believe. Ordinarily, Johnny Hart is not a guy I'd be rushing to defend. Politically speaking, he's a little to the right of Anita the Hun. He adheres to an unsparingly literal interpretation of the Bible. Believes God may have been behind the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as punishment for negotiating holy land away. Thinks

Muslims, Jews and gays are on the afterlife express to hell. Not exactly on the same page, Johnny Hart and I. Till now. It seems that in the last few years, Hart—creator of a popular comic strip that runs in *The Herald* called "B.C."—has been at the center of a minor media controversy. Angry readers have complained. And some of the more than 1,200 newspapers that carry his work have either dropped it entirely or reserved the right to excise strips they don't like.

You might be wondering what Hart did to raise such a stink. According to a profile that recently ran in *The Post*, the answer is simple: He mentioned Jesus. Meaning that from time to time, particularly around the religious holidays, Hart uses the comic strip as a forum for Christian doctrine: birth, death, resurrection, salvation.

That, apparently, is more than some folks can stand. People don't like it when you mess with the funny pages. That's why so many strips seem to unfold in some dimension beyond time, an eternal 50's where nothing ever changes and safe, inoffensive gags recycle without end. Controversy is easily generated when a strip incorporates pointed sociopolitical satire. Or matters of faith.

I'm not here to argue the verities of faith. My point does not concern what people believe. Rather it deals with the fact that people believe. Believe overwhelmingly, according to the polls. In a higher power, a force, a man or woman upstairs, a God. However you want to put it, we believe.

Media often seems ill at ease with that. They tend to pass the subject of religion in silence for reasons I'm not sure I understand. But I certainly understand the result: the media misses a large portion of the lives they purport to reflect.

But the American creed of free speech has always demanded that we consider more views, not fewer. Has always held that the ability to countenance diverse opinions is a source of strength, not a sign of weakness. Guided by that principle, we've survived some pretty extreme characters, survived David Duke, Louis Farrakhan, Larry Flynt and Ice-T.

I have to believe we can survive Jesus, too.  
—Leonard Pitts Jr. At Large  
*Porto's response, printed in The Herald, April 24th.*

I was surprised to read that Leonard Pitts thinks that everyone believes in a god.

I do not believe in any religion or any god. I am an atheist. I am not alone; there are atheist organizations all over the United States, including Atheists of Florida. On a national level there is the Atheist Alliance, the council for Secular Humanism and the Freedom from Religion Foundation.

Atheists are ordinary people who work hard, pay taxes, love our children, buy groceries and do laundry. We are the last minority to come out of the closet. We are fortunate to live in a free and democratic society where everyone's beliefs are respected.

## Voucher lawsuits

TALLAHASSEE With support from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, parents and taxpayers in Florida have filed a lawsuit challenging a state voucher program paying for tuition at religious and other private schools. Americans United has joined a coalition of educational and public policy organizations to contest the voucher plan, which was enacted by the Florida legislature at the behest of the Gov. Jeb! Bush.



filed in state court in Tallahassee.

"This voucher program is a grave threat to constitutional liberties and the public school system," said Barry Lynn, AU executive director. "We will not stand idly by while Florida lawmakers attempt to put the church-state separation provisions of the Constitution through a paper shredder. I have news for Gov. Bush. This is the 20th century, not the 18th. People don't have to pay taxes to support religion any more."

Americans United activists in Florida also criticized the voucher program. "Taxpayers should never be forced to pay for religious instruction," said Sidney Goetz, president of the Tampa Bay chapter of Americans United, at a press conference in Tallahassee. "This program clearly violates the separation of church and state, and I am confident that the courts will strike it down."

In addition to the U.S. Constitution's state/church separation safeguards, the Florida Constitution contains strong language prohibiting public funding of religion. (see page 3).

## First federal test of vouchers filed in Ohio

CLEVELAND, OHIO—A coalition of civil liberties and public education groups filed a lawsuit July 21 in federal court challenging voucher aid to religious schools. The Harris-Simmons vs. Zelman case, filed on behalf of three parents and taxpayers, marks the first federal court test of a state program offering voucher assistance to religious education.

In the suit, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the American Civil Liberties Union, People for the American Way, and other allied groups charge that diverting public funds to religious schools violates the state/church separation provision of the U.S. Constitution.

"Ohio taxpayers should never be forced to contribute their hard-earned dollars to a church or church school," said Barry Lynn. "Vouchers violate the Constitution and jeopardize our vital public school system."

**We will not stand idly by while Florida lawmakers attempt to put the church/state separation provisions of the Constitution through a paper shredder**

"I firmly believe the federal courts will uphold the separation of church and state," continued Lynn. "The Constitution simply does not permit politicians to force Americans to pay for religious instruction."

The Ohio Pilot Project Scholarship Program issues vouchers of up to \$2,500 for Cleveland students to attend religious and other private schools. The plan was reapproved by the legislature earlier this year after the state Supreme Court struck it down on technical grounds.

The state's highest court, however, said voucher aid to religious schools does not violate the state/church separation provisions of the U.S. or Ohio constitutions. (State courts in Maine and Vermont have ruled against voucher-style aid to religious schools, and the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals also said private tuition subsidies violate the U.S. Constitution.)

## Juvenile Justice Bill unconstitutional

WASHINGTON—During the week of June 14th, votes in the House on House Bill 1501, the Juvenile Justice bill, were a catastrophic blow to state/church separation. House Bill 1501 passed the House floor on the evening of June 17th. Here are the five amendments tacked on to this bill which adversely impacted state/church separation.

- H.R. 198: Declaring that a memorial on public school campuses may contain religious speech without violating the U.S. Constitution.
- H.R. 199: Disallowing the recovery of any attorney fees in any action claiming that a public school or its agent violates the constitutional provision against the establishment of religion by permitting, facilitating, or accommodating a student's religious expression.
- H.R. 200: Allowing the Ten Commandments to be posted on any public building.

- H.R. 201: Allowing governmental entities that make grants to nongovernmental entities to also make grants or enter into contracts with religious organizations.

- H.R. 202: Prohibiting any funding to be used to discriminate against, denigrate, or otherwise undermine the religious or moral beliefs of juveniles who participate in juvenile justice programs. (This would deny public funding to, say, secular prison alternatives to Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous, such as the "Save Our Sobriety" program umbrella'd under the Council for Secular Humanism.)

This bill now needs to be sent to the Joint Congressional Committee to reconcile it with the Senate version (which does not include any of these amendments). It is unclear which, if any, of these amendments will survive that process. It will then be forwarded to President Clinton for his signature.

WITH FANTASTIC UPSIDE-DOWN LOGIC, the governor's "reform" plan will raise the state-imposed educational standards for all public schools at the very same time that it will siphon off money from schools which fail to meet the new standards. The measure is promoted as being "revenue neutral" since the vouchers (which can go as high as \$24,000 per year for a child with disabilities) will simply be

## School vouchers—

## The struggle begins...

transferred with the student. What it amounts to is a redistribution of public funds to the private sector.

Syndicated *Orlando Sentinel* staff columnist Charley Reese minces no words as to where he stands on public education.

In a hysterical piece (March 28, *Time to abandon public schools*), he writes "An educational system designed to graduate semiliterate young socialists who are atheistic, hostile to their own country—to capitalism and to liberty—is not a system that sensible Americans would want their children involved in." And even as he writes, the Republican-controlled House, Senate, and state administration of Florida have voted to cause still further deterioration in the state's already underfinanced and unequal public schools. As promised, Jeb! signed the voucher law with a smile.

Presented by newly elected Gov. Jeb! Bush as part of an educational reform package that he has baptized his "A-plan," he claims its purpose is to improve the education of Florida's schoolchildren. A pupil enrolled in a failing public school will be eligible to receive an annual \$3,500 voucher to use to transfer to a private school (church-related or otherwise) or some other public school.

It should come as no surprise that in the new Republican business climate, "educational reforms" take on the look of voucher-voodoo as private schools are paid to come to the rescue of students in poorly performing public schools. To sell the public on the idea, the vouchers are labeled "Opportunity Scholarships."

To qualify as "failing," a school must be F-rated two years out of a four-year period. Right now only four schools are on the F-list, but with the projected legislative "reforms," the number of failed schools is optimistically expected to jump to 169 (with a total of 152,000 students) within a year. Bitterly noting this kind of progress, another Bush, Rep. James Bush, D-Miami, an African American, recently gave Gov. Bush's A+ plan an F+ grade.

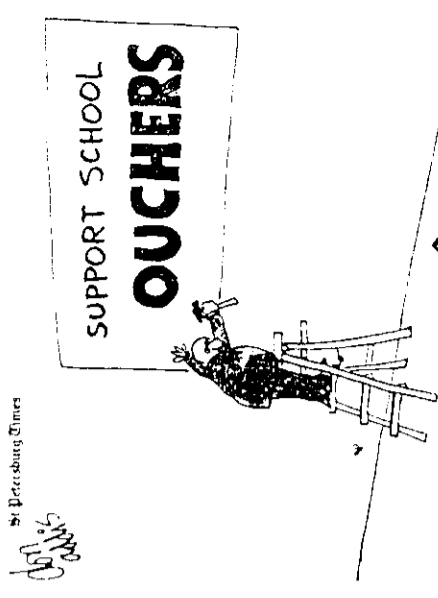
In fairness to the pros and cons of the new education proposals, you should be made aware of the state education laws that already exist. According to the

superintendent of Orange County, Florida, Public Schools, the current manual of state public education laws fills 689 pages. That's the bad news. The good news is that the Bush plan exempts private schools—present and future—from all of these laws.

What is especially galling to the many organizations which oppose vouchers—including the ACLU, Americans United, the AFL-CIO, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the American Jewish Congress, the League of Women Voters of Florida, the NAACP, and the National School Boards Association—is that the private schools which will enroll voucher students and pocket the tax money diverted from public schools are in no way accountable for the subsequent achievements or non-achievements of their new wards (not to mention the constitutional prohibitions, both federal and state, against government support of religious schools).

And what about smaller class size and better student-teacher ratios, better paid teachers, the construction of needed additional schools (instead of ever more prison facilities), repairing roofs and badly dilapidated

Don Addis/St. Petersburg Times



school facilities? For that matter, what about the inadequate social conditions—decent jobs and housing and access to health care—that threaten family stability and parental guidance? Such questions are not fashionable in the new business climate of Florida. They smack of concern for human welfare.

The *Orlando Sentinel*, though generally conservative in its editorial policy, has been consistently critical of the governor's A+ plan. A recent editorial under the heading "Easy as ABC," describes how you can "make big bucks" by opening new private schools to receive the expected increase in failing public school pupils and get tax funds without any accountability.

Are vouchers the wave of the future in Florida? In the United States? Or are we going to be able to see them for what they are and make the legislators and governors accountable for the betrayal of public education, the very foundation of a democratic society? The answer is up to us!



*Are you as sick of hearing about the saintly virtues of Mother Teresa as we are? Especially those of us who know what she really represented. An excerpt from the Hitchens book helps us see through the hoax of MT.*

## Good Works and Heroic Virtues:

### Mother Teresa and Charles Keating

From *The Missionary Position* by Christopher Hitchens

The apologists generally claim that Mother Teresa is too innocent to count money or to take the measure of those who offer it, or to reckon that they obtain some benefit from their supposed generosity in the form of virtue-by-association. Forgetting for a moment her boast that she does not accept eye-of-the-needle subventions in the first place, we might agree that this argument had merit in the case of the late Robert Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell inveigled a not-unwilling Mother Teresa into a fund-raising scheme run by his newspaper group, and then, it seems (having got her to join him in some remarkable publicity photographs), he made off with the money. But Maxwell did succeed in fooling some very experienced and unselfish people in his day, and although it might be asked how Mother Teresa had time to spare for such a wicked and greedy man, it can still be argued with some degree of plausibility that she was a blameless party to his cynical manipulations.



However, it is difficult, if not impossible, to assert this in the case of Mr. Charles Keating. Keating is now serving a ten year sentence for his part in the Savings and Loan scandal—undoubtedly one of the greatest frauds in American history. In the early 1980's, during the booming, deregulated years of Reagan's first term, Keating, among other operators, mounted a sustained and criminal assault on the deposits of America's small investors. His methods were those of the false prospectus and the political bribe (Washington vernacular still contains the expression 'the Keating Five' in honor of the five U.S. Senators who did him favors while receiving vast campaign donations in the form of other

people's money.) Keating had political ambitions as well as financial ones, and as a conservative Catholic fundamentalist had served Richard Nixon as a member of a much-mocked commission to investigate the ill effects of pornography.

At the height of his success as a thief, Keating made donations (not out of his own pocket, of course) to Mother Teresa in the sum of one-and-a-quarter million dollars. He also granted her the use of his private jet in return. Mother Teresa allowed Keating to make use of her prestige on several important occasions and gave him a personalized crucifix which he took everywhere.

In 1992, after a series of political and financial crises and the most expensive bailout operation in the history of the American tax-payer, Keating was finally brought to trial. He appeared before the Superior Court in Los Angeles (his Lincoln Savings and Loan had been a largely Californian operation) where he was heard by the later notorious Judge Lance Ito. The trial could have only one outcome: the maximum sentence allowable under California law.

During the course of the trial, Mother Teresa wrote to the court seeking clemency for Mr. Keating. She gave no explanation of her original involvement with the defendant and offered no direct testimony, mitigating his looting of the thrift industry. (The Letter).

*Dear Honorable Lance Ito, We do not mix up in Business or Politics or courts. Our work, as Missionaries of Charity is to give wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor.*

*I do not know anything about Mr. Charles Keating's work or his business or the matters you are dealing with.*

*I only know that he has always been kind and generous to God's poor, and always ready to help whenever there was a need. It is for this reason that I do not want to forget him now while he and his family are suffering. Jesus has told us "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren...you did to me." Mr. Keating has done much to help the poor, which is why I am writing to you on his behalf.*

*Whenever someone asks me to speak to a judge, I always tell them the same thing. I ask them to pray, to look at their heart, and to do what Jesus would do in that circumstance. And this is what I am asking of you, your Honor.*

*My gratitude to you is my prayer for you, and your work, your family and the people with whom you are working.*

*God Bless You*

—M. Teresa

One is struck immediately by two things. First, though the claim about 'free service to the poorest of the poor' is made in almost the same words as it was made to (TV producer Malcolm) Muggeridge, the rela-

ted claim that the rich receive no *quid pro quo* seems to have disappeared. Then there is the astonishing artlessness of the letter, both as composed and as presented. One might think it a missive from an innocent old woman who knows nothing of cupidity and scandal, and who naively wishes to intercede for reasons of rather woolly compassion. The transcript of Mother Teresa's highly ideological Nobel Prize speech, for example, does not read like this. It is professionally written and presented. And many of her other public interventions demonstrate a much sharper sense of the real world, even when Mother Teresa is choosing to speak on matters, such as sexuality and reproduction, where she must necessarily admit to being disqualified by inexperience.

The suspicion that there might be something *faux naïf* about the appeal occurred also to Mr. Paul Turley who, in his capacity as Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles, was Mr. Keating's co-prosecutor. On his own initiative, and as a private citizen, he wrote and dispatched a careful reply. (reproduced here)



*Dear Mother Teresa:*

*I am a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles County and one of the persons who worked on the prosecution of your benefactor, Charles H. Keating, Jr. I read your letter to Judge Ito, written on behalf of Mr. Keating, which includes your admission that you know nothing about Mr. Keating's business or the criminal charges presented to Judge Ito. I am writing to you to provide a brief explanation of the crimes of which Mr. Keating has been convicted, to give you and understanding of the source of the money that Mr. Keating gave to you, and to suggest that you perform the moral and ethical act of returning the money to its rightful owners.*

*Mr. Keating was convicted of defrauding 17 individuals of more than \$900,000. These 17 persons were representative of 17,000 individuals from whom Mr. Keating stole \$252,000,000. Mr. Keating's specific acts of fraud were that he was the source of a series of fraudulent representations made to persons who bought bonds from his company and he also was the repository of crucial information which he chose to withhold from bond purchasers, thereby luring his victims into believing they were making a safe, low-risk investment. In truth and in fact, their money was being used to fund Mr. Keating's exorbitant and extravagant lifestyle.*

*The victims of Mr. Keating's fraud come from a wide spectrum of society. Some were wealthy and well-educated. Most were people of modest means and unfamiliar with high finance. One was a poor carpenter who did not speak any English and had his savings stolen by Mr. Keating's fraud.*

*The biblical slogan of your organization is, 'As long as you did it to one of these My least brethren. You did it to Me'. The 'least' of*

*the brethren are among those whom Mr. Keating fleeced without flinching. As you well know, divine forgiveness is available to all, but forgiveness must be preceded by admission of sin. Not only has Mr. Keating failed to admit his sins and his crimes, he persists in self-righteously blaming others for his own misdeeds. Your experience is, admirably, with the poor. My experience has been with the 'con' man and the perpetrator of the fraud. It is not uncommon for 'con' men to be generous with family, friends and charities. Perhaps they believe that their generosity will purchase love, respect or forgiveness. However, the time when the purchase of 'indulgences' was an acceptable method of seeking forgiveness died with the Reformation. No church, no charity, no organization should allow itself to be used as a salve for the conscience of the criminal. We are all grateful that forgiveness is available but we all, also, must perform our duty. That includes the Judge and the Jury. I remind myself of the biblical admonition of the Prophet Micah: 'O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you. To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly.'*

*We are urged to love mercy but we must do justice.*

*You urge Judge Ito to look into his heart—as he sentences Charles Keating—and do what Jesus would do. I submit the same challenge to you. Ask yourself what Jesus would do if he were given the fruits of a crime; what would Jesus do if he were in possession of money that had been stolen; what would Jesus do if he were being exploited by a thief to ease his conscience?*

*I submit that Jesus would promptly and unhesitatingly return the stolen property to its rightful owners. You should do the same. You have been given money by Mr. Keating that he has been convicted of stealing by fraud. Do not permit him the 'indulgence' he desires. Do not keep the money. Return it to those who worked for it and earned it!*

*If you contact me I will put you in direct contact with the rightful owners of the property now in your possession.*

*Sincerely,*

*—Paul W. Turley*

Three years later, Mr. Turley has received no reply to his letter. Nor can anybody account for the missing money: saints, it seems, are immune to audit. This is by no means the only example of Mother Teresa's surreptitious attitude to money, nor of her hypocritical protestations about the beauty of poverty. But it is the clearest instance, and it is proof against the customary apologies about innocence and unworldliness.

Mother Teresa reigns in a kingdom that is very much of this world.

