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BILL O'REILLY

WORLDNETDAILY EXCLUSIVE COMMENTARY

An Easter message for the Catholic ChurchPosted: March 28, 2002
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Editor's note: Purchase a copy of Bill O'Reilly's new book, "No Spin Zone," autographed and personalized, and receive a free "No Spin Zone" bumper sticker and a free three-month trial offer to Whistleblower magazine. Take advantage of this exclusive offer now!

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The joyous season of Easter is anything but celebratory for the Roman Catholic Church this year. Not since the great schisms in Europe, has the image of the Church taken such a pounding. The sexual abuse committed by a number of priests has deeply affected most Catholics, but far more importantly it has dashed much of the moral authority the Church may have possessed.

For centuries, Catholicism has defined good and evil in stark terms. The Church teaches that mortal sins, many of them in the sexual arena, will lead to eternal damnation if not confronted and confessed. Judgments about human behavior are front and center in

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Catholicism and priests have the power to forgive or to withhold forgiveness.

Now all that has been seriously undermined by the Church leadership, which did not aggressively stop the most heinous of sins: the abuse of children. Many good people are questioning how these men can ever again speak on moral issues.

The damage to the world in this case is incalculable. We live in a time of moral relativism where many human beings simply will not make judgments about right and wrong. President Clinton was a poster-boy for this group. All behavior can be explained and most excused. Evil is a word not a force. As Rosie O'Donnell told me: "Most problems lie in gray areas and it is there where the truth lies."

But the Catholic Church does not see it that way. There is black and white in the teachings of Jesus. Taking a human life is wrong, therefore capital punishment and abortion are not acceptable. Using people for personal satisfaction is wrong, therefore casual sex and bodily abuse are sins.

Many people, perhaps most, do not believe what the Church proclaims. But the fact that there was a force in the world that would present an argument for absolute behavior was very important. The relativists of the world often will not demand responsibility for personal behavior that injures other people. The Church does demand that. And the world needs to hear that point of view or it will be engulfed in a secularism that can severely weaken even the strongest societies. Hello, ancient Rome.

But now the Catholic posture is badly wounded. Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But another resurrection is needed - that of the moral

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Editor's note: If you would like to see Bill O'Reilly's "No-Spin Zone" column in your local newspaper, please suggest it to the editor or editorial page editor. It is available now through agreement with [Creators Syndicate](#).

Veteran TV news anchor [Bill O'Reilly](#) is host of the Fox News Channel show, "[The O'Reilly Factor](#)," and author of the best-selling book, "[The O'Reilly Factor: The Good, the Bad, and the Completely Ridiculous](#)," [available at the WorldNetDaily storefront](#). His WorldNetDaily column is now syndicated internationally.



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