Letters to the Editor

Defending Medjugorje

Re: the Feb. 10 letter to the editor by Claire Phillips titled “Disobedience displayed.”

At first read I could only wonder what this letter was based on. This led me to discover this letter had been basically copied from an article posted on Catholic Exchange dated July 2, 2012. However, something very important was corrected from this letter; it is based on the writer’s opinion, not on facts.

It is well-known that Pope John Paul II was a staunch supporter and defender of Medjugorje. Pope Emeritus Benedict hinted more than once his support of Medjugorje.

Pope Francis sanctioned visionary Ivan Dugalic to visit and hold gatherings in his former diocese in Argentina, along with the former pastor of Medjugorje, Father John Zovko OFM, with whom he formed a warm friendship.

The seers are disobedient? In what way? They have placed themselves under the authority of the local church since the day one (remember, the seers were just children at the time!) and remain so to this day. They suffered three persecution under the oppressive Communist (and Catholic-hating) Yugoslav government from 1981-1991. Likewise, the Franciscans, to whom Medjugorje has been entrusted, are in full obedience to the Church. Those who don’t know the intricate history and turbulence of this area, and how the local Franciscans suffered and sacrificed for the people, should not make declarations about matters they know nothing about.

The fact that not all the bishops are in agreement regarding Medjugorje certainly does not equate to disobedience, but rather to differing opinions, and thanks be to God for it.

As a podul Croatian, I and many in the Croatian community, take exception to the accusations in this letter. We are not in a position to affirm the authenticity of the phenomena, and indeed neither should we discredit it. Allow those in authority to judge the fruits of Medjugorje and make their ruling, and otherwise abstain from making unsubstantiated claims, especially when they are attacks on individuals’ integrity, honesty, and credibility.

All those who are skeptical, you have every right to be so, but that does not translate to a right to slander others.

Vesna Jankovic Burnanicky

Retro commendation

Re: “Polish Princess turns down community’s offers,” in Feb. 10 issue: I have been enjoying Alastair Burnham’s excellent reviews of the cinematic representations of the lives of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. Might I also suggest an additional portrayal of Pope John Paul II by actors Cary Ellew and Jon Vought in the film titled “St. John Paul II”?

This is an inspirational and moving portrayal of the life and spiritual journey of the Pope John the Great. The film follows young Karol Wojtyla, played by Cary (“The Princess Bride”) Ellew, living under Nazi and then Communist rule in Poland, to his election to the chair of Saint Peter, and to his incredible final days at the Vatican.

Jon Vought takes over the role from the point of Wojtyla’s election. The transition from one actor to the other is very skillfully and subtly done, and both actors give us moving insights into the challenges, accomplishments, humanity, and, most of all, the holiness that radiates from this soon-to-be-canonized saint.

Patrick May
Vancouver

Editor’s note: That film will be reviewed in our March 10 issue. Witness to Hope: The Life of John Paul II will be reviewed in our March 24 issue.

We invite readers to send letters commenting on issues discussed in the community or within the pages of this edition. Letters may be edited for style, clarity, and length. letters@creos.org.

Olive Perrier and Philippe Lautenbach, foreground; Lambert Wilson, Olivier Rabourdin, Jean-Pierre, Jacques Herlin, and Jean-Manuel Pfrin star in a scene from the movie, Of Gods and Men.
Abortion protest lacks education on dignity of life

By Sarah Muoni

I’d like to thank The B.C. Catholic for printing my letter last year. The discussion it has generated and the subsequent article by John Hoff in the Dec. 9 issue merit recapitulation.

I would like to address some inaccuracies in Mr. Hoff’s article.

First, John Hoff’s statement that “across the hall from the neonatal intensive care unit they are aborting children.” The abortion clinic is not across the hall from the neonatal intensive care facility, it is nowhere near the neonatal intensive care unit. This is an inaccurate and false statement, a gross exaggeration verging on sensationalism. Circulating this false piece as an insult to the countless good works being done in this hospital, not just for our province but also for our country.

Second, I reiterate my issue about 40 Days for Life: the primary mission of B.C. Women’s and Children’s Hospital is to save, cure, and promote health for women and children.

Authentic faith not any kind of ideology

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This is not a simple matter. This is a complex issue and one that involves understanding the different perspectives. The Pope, for example, has stated that “a church without a mission is a church without a heart.” He has also stated that “a church without love is a church without a soul.” These statements are not easily dismissed as mere words.

But authentic faith, said the Pope, cannot be any kind of ideology. Faith is not a mere possession of one’s own making. It is a response to a call to love and to serve others.

And this is why the Church must continue to work towards a better understanding of these issues. Only then can we begin to move towards a better understanding of each other and a better understanding of ourselves.

Public consultation to end March 17

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of vulnerable women should be the goal of the church. Instead, we should be working towards the eradication of all forms of violence against women.

Question 4

Do you think that it should be a criminal offence for a person to benefit financially from the prostitution of an adult? Should there be any exceptions? Please explain.

I think it should be a criminal offence for a person to benefit financially from the prostitution of an adult. I do not think there should be any exceptions.

Consider the example of a business providing security to the women as they work. There would be no way to ensure the firm wasn’t paying a pimp in disguise. And it would allow criminal organizations to pimp women out of the grasp of law enforcement and the government license.

Question 5

Are there any other comments you wish to offer to inform the government’s response to the Bedford decision?

Allowing prostitution will legalize the exploitation of the vulnerable. It is wrong to compare the “immoral behaviour” of prostitution to the “immoral behaviour” of gambling, arguing that both should be legalized and taxed. They are not the same. Prostitution constitutes a great public harm in the exploitation of our most vulnerable by others. We should agree that gambling should also be restricted, but gambling does not involve the sexual and physical abuse, the forced drug addiction, and the inevitable infection with sexually transmitted diseases that occurs when pre-teen girls are exploited.

It is important to reflect on what Pope Paul VI said in his 1968 Humanae Vitae. He wrote, “It is never lawful, even for the gravest reasons, to do evil that good may come of it.”

It is clearly an evil face that smiles and says, “Make prostitution legal because there will be less harm to women.”

On the contrary, more harm will come to women as more women are exploited by brothels. We must continue to work towards a better understanding of these issues.

I encourage you to visit: http://geo.gfdy97Produkt to add your voice to this important discussion. The public consultation will end March 17.