

St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

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Traditionally Speaking by S. Casarotto 10/11/09

ILLEGAL CATHOLIC MASS?

It seems that Catholics must go into hiding again, like in the days of the catacombs or in Stalin's Russia. An organization has been granted a Federal Hearing on their claim that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should prevent the broadcasting of the mass, rosary, and other devotional practices on the airways of America. If this attempt is successful, all Sunday worship services being broadcast on the radio or television will be stopped. This group is also campaigning to remove all Christmas carols from public schools! Please don't take this lightly. Don't let this happen in America, the land of the free. We ignored one lady once and lost prayer in our schools and in offices across the nation. It is not the public exercise of religion but lack of true religion which is the cause of so many evils in our society.

The underlying principle is not only an agnostic and atheistic understanding of reality, but the positive rejection of God in relation to us. More than 130 years ago, Russian philosopher Mikhail Bakunin said: "God does not exist but if He really existed, it would be necessary to abolish him." For materialists, atheists and state idolaters God is bad for man and society. Man can take care of his own affairs. The Bible had the answer to them, "*Dicit insipiens: non est Deus!*" The foolish say: There is no God.

On this Columbus Day weekend, it may be good to remember that when Columbus landed in the newly discovered world, he planted the Cross and on his second journey he brought along Catholic missionaries. To deny the Christian and Catholic history of America is to deny America itself. We hope that the 6 Catholic Justices in the Supreme Court remember that history too has its own laws.

"Freedom of religion, institutionally guaranteed and effectively respected in practice, both for individuals and communities, constitutes for all believers the necessary condition for their loyal contribution to the building up of society." (Benedict XVI)

COLUMBUS DAY AFTERTHOUGHT – "When people were still arguing whether people with a different color than the Europeans should have been considered human beings, the Church, by pouring on their head the waters of a new birth, was imposing silence. As far as it was her concern, in answer to that shameful discussion, the Church was declaring them brothers of Jesus Christ and called to the same heritage." (Italian writer Alessandro Manzoni, in *Osservazioni sulla Morale Cattolica*)