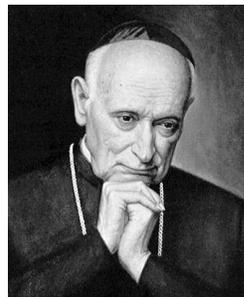


Mindszenty Report



May 2009

Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation

Vol. L1-No.5

Angels & Demons A New Cinematic Assault on the Catholic Church

Evelyn Waugh's 1935 biography of 16th century Jesuit Edmund Campion, graphically details his gruesome martyrdom by being *drawn and quartered*. While this kind of barbaric test is virtually non-existent in America today, there is a more subtle kind of martyrdom that happens daily in the United States. It is a *dry martyrdom* in the form of relentless attacks on the Catholic faith from the *culture of death*.

A Tag Team of Distortion

Hollywood has long been an agent of this bloodless martyrdom. A good example of an *anti-Catholic* film was director Ron Howard's 2006 production, *The Da Vinci Code*, based on Dan Brown's blockbuster novel. Howard's latest cinematic assault on the Church is adapted from another of Brown's novels, *Angels & Demons*. As in their first collaboration, this tag team of distortion perverts not just the Catholic faith but also European history. Given the viewing public's virtual ignorance of both history and religion, it is easy to imagine how much damage their film may do to the Church.

John Calley, co-producer with Brian Grazer who worked on both films, uttered a classic understatement when he told New York Times that *Demons* would be far less reverential than the *Code*. Brown denies that his books and films are intended to be anti-Catholic. He writes about Catholicism because he *finds the faith fascinating, and loves to weave dramatic tales about it*. The evidence suggests otherwise.

The basic deceit of *Demons* resides in the author's melding of fact with fiction, so they become indistinguishable. This provides him with the license to interject his anti-religious message in the subtlest of ways. He once admitted that his goal has always been *to make the characters and plot to be so engaging that readers don't realize how much they are learning along the way*. According to Joseph Dias, the general secretary of The Catholic Secular Forum Dan Brown knows what the historical record says and yet he deliberately misrepresents it.

William Donohue of the Catholic League concludes that *Demons'* message is that the *Church sees science as the enemy and will stop at nothing to get its way*. Brown's religious skepticism goes beyond the pale of honesty. Not bound by any standards of truth, fairness and honesty, Brown invents characters and organizations to suit his profane agenda of putting the Church in the worst possible light with impunity.

Ancient Forces

In *Demons* actor Tom Hanks reprises his role as Harvard symbologist, Harry Langdon. He has been contracted by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) to investigate the murder of one of their leading physicists, who was found dead with mysterious symbols seared into his torso. (The convention establishing CERN was signed on 29 September 1954 by 11 countries in Western Europe. The acronym CERN originally stood, in French, for *Conseil Europeen pour la Recherche Nucleaire*, European Council for Nuclear Research, which was a provisional council for setting up the laboratory, established by 11 European governments in 1952). Langdon determines that forces with ancient roots are willing to stop at nothing, even murder, to advance their goals. Esoteric symbols, like the single eye on the back of the U. S. dollar bill and *ambigrams*, -- words drawn to read identically right side up and upside down, -- underscore how convoluted Brown's plot is. Brown alleges that some of these symbols were from a secret society of physicists, mathematicians and astronomers called the Brotherhood of the Illuminati.

According to Brown, in the 1500's the Illuminati were forced to meet in secret because the Church wanted to persecute them, as their discoveries contradicted her teachings. According to Brown *Demons* revolves around a tale of *revenge 400 years in the making*. Since the Church had hunted down and murdered most of the Illuminati's members in the 16th century, revived and more powerful Illuminati had risen to avenge its forerunner, using *anti-matter*, a potentially dangerous substance as its lethal weapon.

When Langdon learns about an inescapable Illuminati time bomb in Vatican City, he jets to Rome where he joins forces with Vittoria Vetra, a beautiful Italian scientist whose physicist father has been murdered. Following a four-century old trail of ancient symbols that snakes across Rome toward a long-forgotten secret Illuminati lair, the pair embark on a frenetic chase in a fashion worthy of *24's* Jack Bauer, through sealed crypts, dangerous catacombs and deserted cathedrals in the heart of Rome

The Literary Dodge

In defense of the many historical, doctrinal and geographical errors in *Demons*, Brown employs the same kind of literary dodge that he did in *Code*. He repeatedly insists

that he is writing fiction and therefore cannot be held responsible for any *errors* or *misunderstandings* that may occur. He reminds his critics that *Demons* is a love story within the context of a chase thriller, not a historical documentary. Yet the author prides himself in using fiction to promote his secular agenda, designed to impact current issues.

Despite Brown's claim of extensive research, his errors are legion. A sampling includes his contention that Winston Churchill was a *staunch Catholic*, when the fact is he was never a Catholic. He credits two BBC reporters with winning a Pulitzer Prize, even though the award goes only to Americans. Brown falsely attributes a Christian Science belief about the impropriety of **medically treating a young person and falsely attributing it to Catholicism**. He wrongly identifies a non-denominational organization, the Christian Coalition, as Catholic.

While CERN does exist, it is not a *Swiss institute*, but a global company located in France and Switzerland. While CERN does produce *antimatter*, *there is no possibility to use antimatter as energy 'source'*, or as a weapon. Alleged to be a 100,000 times more powerful than rocket fuel, CERN states that antimatter is *perfectly safe*, given the minute quantities we can make. It would be very dangerous *only if we could make a few grams of it, but this would take us billions of years*.

The Ultimate Victim

Brown's erroneous link between Italian scientist Galileo and the Illuminati, serves as the plot's focal point. In Galileo, Brown and Howard have their ultimate victim who can paint the Church as the dedicated enemy of science and prove without a doubt, the Church's relentless war on reason. The real history of the Galileo affair is far different from the one that Brown portrays.

A prominent professor of astronomy and physics at the University of Pisa, Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) formulated the basic law of falling bodies by using careful measurements. He believed in Polish astronomer Nicholas Copernicus's (1473-1543) Heliocentric Theory that the Earth and all other planets revolved around the sun, which was contrary to the Church's belief at the time. Copernican astronomy shared with its Greek precursors perfectly spherical heavenly bodies, circular orbits, and constant planetary speed. His heliocentric model affirmed a moving earth orbiting the sun, as did the other planets. In 1531 Pope Clement VII and several Church scholars urged Copernicus to publish his theories.

Initially churchmen welcomed Galileo's scientific revisions. The Church treated his idea as a working hypothesis, not a proven fact. Galileo believed the Copernican system was absolutely true. He arrogantly breached the line with his accusation that the Biblical texts that contradicted his scientific data had to be reinterpreted in light of his findings. His stubborn insistence on the certitude of his thesis had cast Galileo adrift from the safe haven of the scientific harbor into the stormy waters of religious conflict.

In 1616 Galileo agreed to teach the Copernican system as a hypothesis. Pope Urban VIII spoke of Galileo as *a man whose fame shines in the sky and is spread over the whole world*.

By 1633 Galileo had relapsed into his own stubborn belief on the certitude of his theory. He was condemned as a *suspect of heresy* and was ordered to cease any further publication on Copernicanism. He was never tortured and never spent a day in prison. He was confined to house arrest in his modest home for nine years. Galileo faithfully relented and did go on to publish many more acceptable scientific treatises before his death in 1642, a full 134 years until the real Illuminati surfaced.

A Religion of Reason

It was Adam Weishaupt who founded the historical Illuminati in Bavaria on May 1, 1776. Weishaupt was an eclectic thinker who drew his inspiration from a myriad of ancient and esoteric sources. He christened his philosophy *Illuminism* a combination of occultic practices and demonic principles that were designed to twist minds and attract candidates for their nefarious purposes. He enlisted many young men of wealth and position, the so-called *best and brightest* of Germany.

While it was true that Weishaupt had a vendetta against all religion, especially the Catholic Church, his clandestine organization had virtually nothing to do with science. It was a political secret society from its inception, whose main direction was to overthrow the monarchy, the church, civil government, and private property.

Weishaupt has been reputed to be *history's greatest conspirator*. He effectively used the Machiavellian principle that *the ends justify the means* in establishing a web-like structure of agents with access to Cardinals, princes, and kings all over Europe. His *initiates* were masters at infiltrating and undermining their local communities. His Jesuit-inspired cell structure was the forerunner of that used later by the Communists. His was a revolution of the soul, designed to lead its people away from God and the Church.

He was an early advocate of a world *without patriotism, nationalism, and the family*. Weishaupt's Illuminati sought a *Novus Ordo Seclorum*, a world government, administered by a *dictatorship of the elite*. He wanted to replace religion with a *religion of reason*. The Bavarian government finally awakened to the dangers posed by the Illuminati and attempted to suppress them. By 1790 Weishaupt and his disciples had scattered to the four winds with their toxic philosophy. Some might argue that *Demons* exposes Brown as an Illuminati disciple.

A Flash of Inspiration

Born on June 22, 1964, Dan Brown is a graduate of Amherst College and Phillips Exeter Academy, where he later taught English before applying his creative talents, first to music and then finally to adventure fiction. His literary career began in 1994. While vacationing in Tahiti, he read Sidney Sheldon's *The Doomsday Conspiracy*. Concluding that he could do better, he published his first novel, *Digital Fortress* which quickly became a bestseller. His follow-up techno-thriller, *Deception Point*, centered on similar issues of morality in politics, national security, and classified technology. He married in 1997 to Blythe Newton, a woman 12 years his senior, and three years

later *Angels and Demons* became the reclusive author's third novel.

In an interview for BookBrowse.com, Brown traced his *flash of inspiration* for *Demons* to a Vatican City tour that included a tunnel called *IL passetto*. The guide told him that the tunnel contained concealed passageways used by the early popes to escape enemy attacks. The guide also said that one of the Vatican's most feared enemies was a secret brotherhood, known as the Illuminati. They were a cult of early scientists who had vowed revenge against the Vatican for crimes against scientists like Galileo and Copernicus. He was fascinated by the guide's story of *images of this cloaked, anti-religious brotherhood lurking in the catacombs of Rome*.

Despite all his fascination, Brown knows that Weishaupt's Illuminati did not come into existence until 150 years after Galileo. He ignores this fact with his contrived tale that they went into hiding in Bavaria where they mixed with other refugee groups fleeing Catholic purges--mystics, alchemists, scientists, occultists, Muslims, and Jews. From this melting pot a new Illuminati emerged, who were a darker, more deeply anti-Christian Illuminati who vowed to impose revenge on the Catholic Church. Myths, such as these, have been cannon fodder for conspiracy theorists for centuries.

A Search and Destroy Engine

Demons is more than a novel about conspiracies and secret societies. While its nexus is a conflict between science and religion, in a larger context *Demons* reflects the current political and moral landscape. Even though Brown's novel predates the Embryonic Stem Cell Research issue by a decade, the film underscores the inaccurate message that the Church has been an obstacle to scientific progress.

Brown boasts that a love of science is at the core of his personal philosophy and not surprisingly, it is the central theme of and the obvious *Angel* in his title. Brown believes science *has come to save us from our sickness, hunger, and pain! Behold science—the new God of endless miracles, omnipotent and benevolent! Ignore the weapons and the chaos*. Brown contends that soon science will prove that all gods are no better than plaster idols. As *Demons* states, the *ancient stories of the Immaculate Conception, the burning bush, the parting of seas are no longer relevant. God has become obsolete*. In Brown's creative hands, science has become the search and destroy engine of the Church.

An Enemy of Humanity

Good mystery fiction always requires a villain. In

Demons it is conveniently the Catholic Church. Brown says that it should not surprise anyone that *an organization as old and powerful as the Vatican could not possibly have risen to power without acquiring a few skeletons in their closets*. Despite his constant denials, Brown cannot hide the fact that his philosophy emanates from a distinctive milieu that sees the Pope as the purveyor of every modern heresy.

In the [Catholic League's](http://CatholicLeague.org) pamphlet *Angels and Demons: More Demonic than Angelic*, William Donohue reports a series of informal discussions that Father Bernard O'Connor, a Canadian priest and an official with the Vatican's Congregation for the Eastern Churches had with several members of *Demons* crew and production staff when he was in Rome in 2008 during Ron Howard's local film shoot.

Since Fr. O'Connor was dressed casually, the movie people were extremely candid with their opinions about the Church and the film. One production official complained that *the wretched Church is against us yet again and is making problems*. He stressed how he *would do anything to demolish that detestable institution*. He predicted that *within a generation there will be no more Catholic Church, at least not in Western Europe*. Other members of the crew were ecstatic that *the public is finally getting the message*, which they clearly defined as the *Catholic Church must be weakened and eventually it must disappear from the earth*, because it is *humanity's chief enemy*.

It is not surprising that Vatican officials had refused any material cooperation with Howard and his film crew, or that it has also called for a boycott as the Vatican had done for the Code. Unfortunately this strategy will attract millions, out of curiosity alone, to see the film, which opens May 15th. The best way for Catholics to blunt the edge of Brown's sting is to see the film and/or read the book, (borrowed not bought!) so they can know what information is needed to convincingly refute its anti-Catholic bias. The truth and a good deal of study will ultimately set the Church free from the slings and arrows of its dedicated enemies.

Catholics should remember that being a real martyr means literally "bearing witness" to the truth of our faith. This movie provides the perfect opportunity for witnessing the truth of the Catholic Faith.

William A. Borst, Ph.D. is the author of [Liberalism: Fatal Consequences](http://Liberalism:FatalConsequences) and [the Scorpion and the Frog: A Natural Conspiracy](http://theScorpionandtheFrog). Both are available from the author at PO Box 16271; St. Louis, MO 63105 or write BBPROF@sbcglobal.net.

The Mindszenty Report is published monthly by the
Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation,
7800 Bonhomme Ave.
P.O. Box 11321
St. Louis, MO 63105
Phone 314-727-6279 Fax 314-727-5897

Subscription rate: \$20.00/year, \$36.00/two years.
Outside the U.S.A. \$28.00

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Contributions to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation
are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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Conference in 2009

THE CHURCH TEACHES FORUM LOUISVILLE, KY - July 17-18

The Galt House-East Tower
Fourth Street at the River, Louisville, KY
Friday Evening Mass, Banquet, Keynote Address
Welcome/Introduction by Rev. Edmund McCaffrey
THEME: MARY: MEDICINE FOR A SICK AMERICA & WORLD

Speakers on Friday

Most Reverend Raymond Burke, Rome
Reverend Benedict Groeschel, NY

Speakers on Saturday

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Louisville
Reverend Roger Arnsparger, Charlotte, NC
Most Rev. Thomas Doran, Bishop of Rockford, IL

Info: Eternal Life-Rev. Edmund McCaffrey, President
902 East Stephen Foster, Bardstown, KY 40004
Tel: 1-800-842-2871 Fax: 1-502-348-2224

Chicago Conference Outstanding!

CHICAGO/OAKBROOK, IL—The 28th CMF Conference on April 4, 2009 was a remarkable success after a lapse of three years! Attendance was a sell-out—407 persons, many young people, families. Outstanding speakers received standing ovations and their books quickly sold. The program was opened with Mass and the Children's Choir of St. John Cantius Church added beauty and reverence. **Father Frank Phillips, S.R.**, Pastor of St. John, recalled the sanctity, courage, and perseverance of His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty. **Richard Thompson**, President of the Thomas More Law Center, enlightened us on the ACLU and more; **Steven Mosher** is the China expert and detailed his extensive research on the slaughter of the unborn and dwindling populations; **Dr. Jerome Corsi** covered the "Obama-Nation" and the USA's coming merger with Canada and Mexico. All four talks available on CD for \$20.00

The Evaluation questions were unanimously answered with the comment, **Excellent!** and a fervent plea for the Conference to return in 2010!

Kudos to the dedicated Conference Committee headed by Kevin Haney, Mary Ambul and lots of generous volunteers. Special thanks to John Shields, who M.C.'d the entire program and his lovely wife Claire who smoothly handled all the details!

N.B. In the April "Mindszenty Report" we erroneously attributed weapons used by drug cartels in Mexico as coming from the United States. Other sources attribute a large percentage of weapons coming through Central America from China, Russia and N. Korea.

Father's Day, June 21



FATHER CARD—Due to many requests, we are happy to offer you our Father Card:

The Importance of a Father

St. Joseph was strong in the face of adversity and poverty of his time. He is a model of the virtues of prudence, humility, strength and fortitude. Even though Joseph is "silent" in Scripture, his actions speak to us more clearly than recorded words. Just as Joseph resigned his own will to the will of God, so a good father walks the path as God sets it out for him. The greatest gift any father can give to his children is lifelong fidelity to his Marriage Covenant. Children learn about love through a father's affection, prayer, honor, self-control, forgiveness and integrity.

St. Joseph showed Jesus all the natural love, all the affectionate solicitude that a father's heart can know. —Pope John Paul II

The full message shown above is on a cream 5 1/2" x 3 1/2" card. Order these cards to insert with notes, letters, payments, and to give out at church, school and family gatherings.

Cost of cards	20 for \$2.00	50 for \$4.00
including postage:	100 for \$7.00	500 for \$32.50
		1,000 for \$60.00

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