



# Catholic Civil Rights League

[www.ccrl.ca](http://www.ccrl.ca)

Monthly highlights Volume 3, No. 5, May 30, 2012

## League critiques anti-bullying legislation

TORONTO, ON May 28, 2012 – Following two weeks of public hearings, the Ontario Minister of Education, Laurel Broten, has announced amendments to [Bill 13](#) that, if passed, will make it mandatory to allow Gay-Straight Alliances, so named, in all schools where students request them, including Catholic schools.

The League was among the organizations that presented a brief critiquing the anti-bullying legislation to the Ontario Standing Committee on Social Policy. In it, we lauded the effort to make schools more accountable for combatting bullying and stated that Bill 14 (now Bill 80) offers the best framework as it is comprehensive and does not single out any one form of bullying as being more serious than others.

“Ms. Broten’s claim that the hearings saw widespread support for Bill 13 and GSAs is simply incorrect,” said League Executive Director Joanne McGarry. “There was unanimous support for combatting bullying, but a significant number of presenters said that singling out bullying based on sexual orientation is not the way to go about it.”

Of the different groups presenting to the social policy committee between May 7-15, 28 were strongly against bill 13, 15 were in favour, and one had strong preferences for parts of both 13 and 14.

“As we said at the hearings, when parents choose Catholic schools for their children, they do so with the expectation that Catholic teaching will be taught and upheld,” said Ms. McGarry. “Among other things, this means that student clubs should be supervised by adults who are knowledgeable about the Catholic faith. This does not necessarily mean that any topic is off limits, but it does mean that a Catholic school cannot have students direc-

cting their own clubs on moral issues by government dictate.”

Visit our website for links to our presentation at Queens’ Park, the statement about Bill 13 by Cardinal Thomas Collins, and press coverage.

### Michael O’Brien receives CCRL award

TORONTO, ON May 24, 2012 – The Catholic Civil Rights League is pleased to announce that it has chosen Canadian artist and author Michael O’Brien as winner of this year’s Archbishop Adam Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life. The award will be presented at the League’s annual dinner in Toronto June 7, which will feature a keynote address by Robert Ventresca, chair of the history department at Kings University College, London and author of a new biography about Pius XII.

“Through his ability to engage strong Catholic themes in his writings and the unique religious imagery in his paintings, Michael has given a powerful witness in the world of art and literature, and his work has given spiritual enrichment to countless individuals,” said League President Philip Horgan. “It’s an honour to recognize Michael’s work and give our supporters the opportunity to meet him.”

Mr. O’Brien, born in Ottawa in 1948, is internationally renowned as the author of the novel *Father Elijah: An Apocalypse*. His eight subsequent novels have also been best-sellers in the Catholic world and have been translated into 10 languages.

He is also the author of non-fiction, notably his examinations of the contemporary pagan influence on children’s books and films. These titles include *A Landscape with Dragons: The Battle for your Child’s Mind*

and *Harry Potter and the Paganization of Culture*. Other books include his collection of essays on socio-political issues, *Remembrance of the Future*; a children's book, *The Small Angel*; a book of his paintings and meditations, *The Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary*; the paintings for John Paul II's *Biblical Way of the Cross*, and *The Family and the New Totalitarianism*, a collection of his essays on the crisis of the family in a modern age. His work has been widely reviewed in both secular and religious media in North America and Europe.

### League tribute to Tom Langan

The Catholic Civil Rights League joins the family, friends and colleagues of Tom Langan (pictured) in giving thanks for Tom's many contributions to the Church and for the guiding role he played in the lives of so many of his students.



Tom, who died Friday May 25 at the age of 83, was part of the original steering committee that established the CCRL in 1985. He served as president for many years, helping to guide the organization from a loosely-organized group of volunteers to a professional organization with a paid staff and national support base. He became President Emeritus in 2004.

"We know our entire membership joins us in praying for Tom and all his family at this time," said Phil Horgan, President of the League. "As well as being respected scholars, authors, and teachers, active in their faith community, Tom and Janine have also been role models for thousands whose lives they have touched over the years. The board of CCRL thinks of the Langans as very much part of our family.

"Tom can take credit for bringing thousands closer to Jesus Christ, and for helping many of us to have a deeper and richer knowledge and experience of the faith. "The words of the Magnificat are appropriate. Tom and Janine truly magnify the greatness and glory of God."

Tom was on the faculty of philosophy of the University of Toronto from 1967 to 1994, with St. Michael's College from 1978 to 1994. He served as chairman of

the Commission on the Family for the Archdiocese of Toronto, as a member of the Board of Regents at Athol Murray College of Notre Dame, Wilcox, Sask, and as a Consultor for the World Organization for the Family, Vienna. He was chairman of the Spiritual Development Committee of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Toronto, from 1981 to 1983. He was a graduate of St. Louis University and the Institut Catholique de Paris.

Tom received the papal knighthood Knight of St. Sylvester in 2006 in recognition of his outstanding service as a Catholic educator and for his long-term leadership of the League.

### Media Watch

#### League protests graphic, publicly-funded exhibit at Ottawa museum

OTTAWA, May 16, 2012 - The League wrote May 11 to federal Heritage Minister, James Moore, as well as to the museum itself to protest the exhibit "Sex: a Tell-All Exhibition", scheduled to run at Ottawa's Museum of Science and Technology May 18 to early next year. The exhibit, which includes detailed, "non-judgmental" information about sexual relations, masturbation, abortion and other topics, complete with photographs and interactive questions-and-answers, is geared to youth age 12 and up, with younger children admitted if accompanied by an adult.

In our letter, we challenged both the content of the show and the public funding of the museum. "Based on information from the museum's own website, as well as on information provided to a local contact during a preview, this material is far too advanced and detailed for the age group for which it is intended, and in any case has little if anything to do with the museum's stated mandate "to help the public to understand the ongoing relationships between science, technology and Canadian society." The League urges you to review the funding of this institution if this exhibit goes ahead as planned." Many League members sent messages of protest.

By the time of the show's opening, protest had caused the museum to raise the admission age to 16 and remove a few especially offensive photographs. The museum was still extolling the merits of the show, however.

*-Let the League know: Media items with anti-Catholic content should be e-mailed to [ccrl@ccrl.ca](mailto:ccrl@ccrl.ca).*