

PANViews



*Newsletter of PA Nonbelievers, Inc., affiliated with American Atheists,
Atheist Alliance International and the Council for Secular Humanism.*

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President's Report

Josh CruverKibi

Motivation

What motivates the atheist, humanist, secularist, sceptic? If we are to believe the spiritualists, we should struggle to find motivation without believing in a force or entity 'higher' or bigger than ourselves. This is a personally and materially absurd assertion to most of us, especially in the sense that we are all motivated to achieve goals in our lives. I do not need to contemplate the force of gravity to be motivated to eat a sandwich or do a half hour of cardio. But how do we motivate ourselves to do things that we do not want to do? Do non-believers have a motivational advantage over the religious or spiritual believer?

All humans have evolved the motivation to seek basic needs such as food, water, shelter, and safety. The non-believer's perception of necessity can motivate our survival, just as it motivates people who use faith to get them through the day. However, necessities beyond basic survival are dependent on what we have learned from our social environments or that we have become attached to. Religion and what is understood as spirituality are learned like the skills of skepticism, the Socratic method, or adhering to the rules of the scientific method. All these learned processes could be used to motivate our behaviors and goals.

I think that if one wants to maintain motivation while using skeptical inquiry, the Socratic method, or the scientific method, we must be willing to accept that there are unknowns and adjust our goals and motivations as the process results in discoveries and change. I think that this willingness to change with evidence is the motivational advantage that one could have over the use of faith, or belief without evidence. Scientific and skeptical inquiry is the antithesis of maintaining a faith based on premises that were made in ignorance. The faiths or realities that we are functionally, or dysfunctionally, motivated by can have quite consequential results. As Victor Stenger once said, "Science flies you to the moon. Religion flies you into buildings".

Faith is the process of setting false premises for deductive and inductive arguments and hoping something is 100% true but is more likely in the range of 0-99% probable. I think that the religious believer's faith without evidence, along with a life lived on this foundation of false premises, creates a necessity to maintain a house of cards. I do not think that this is a fate for just the religious believer, but also a consequence for anyone who believes things religiously. I think that they feel increased pressure throughout their life to maintain the lie, or else face their unexamined life. As for the religious cult believer, they may become so desperate to maintain the lie that they feel a necessity to maintain absurd beliefs, such as there is a plan for children getting cancer, that priests know more about women's health than doctors, ignoring the sexual perversion of their religious leaders, or justify taking, occupying, and killing for land they were told was given to them by gods they've never seen. Anything to maintain the belief. The maintenance of illusion, or their 'spiritual burden', supplants the material and personal goals they

may have otherwise developed through a life lived in reality.

Now how can we atheists, humanists, secularists, and skeptics not fall into a similar trap of being motivated by illusion and false premises? We must be willing to accept the results of a scientific inquiry or the Socratic process even if it means facing our fears. We must endeavor to not make illusion the burden of reality. We non-believers were all motivated by this sense of curiosity, inquiry, and doubt that allowed us to stop believing, or never start believing, in the illusions of religion and spirituality. We can now be motivated by more important goals. We can also learn from the spiritualist and choose not to be driven by illusion. What they may label and have faith in as praying to a god, we can instead engage in mindful meditation without the illusion and false premises of gods and chakras. All the psychological benefits of relaxation, none of the illusion weaknesses and religious baggage.

Motivation beyond basic survival does require planning, goals, and to a certain extent perceiving necessity that is relative to one's lived life and attachments to reality. These attachments could be based on a goat herder's guide to shellfish from 2000 years ago or relative to an authentic personally lived life. If I, for example, want to find motivation to live healthier, then I will need to set realistic and motivational goals, relative to me. Not someone else's god or fake persona on social media. I need to ask myself what is healthy for me. What are my intentions and what are reasonable goals? What can I focus on to keep me motivated? Who could I talk to or ask for help? What are my personal and material needs? What are some reasonable step goals that I can start with, build on, and make steady incremental changes, to evolve my behaviors and improve my overall health and wellbeing?

If I am struggling to find motivation, could I gain some insight into my lack of motivation by framing my thoughts as a religious believer? Have I convinced myself that something is true so that I do not have to face the collapse of an illusion? Am I avoiding or maintaining a faith in something that I am not certain of?

Atheist News in Pennsylvania– The Nation – The World!



PA Bible Reading Marathon

This May 18, Pennsylvania participated in a Capitol Bible Reading Marathon. Various state officials took turns reading sections of the Bible over 90 continuous hours until the entire opus, from Genesis to Revelations, is done.

The Bible Reading Marathon is a project of Seedline International, a nonprofit dedicated to distributing Bibles all over the world.

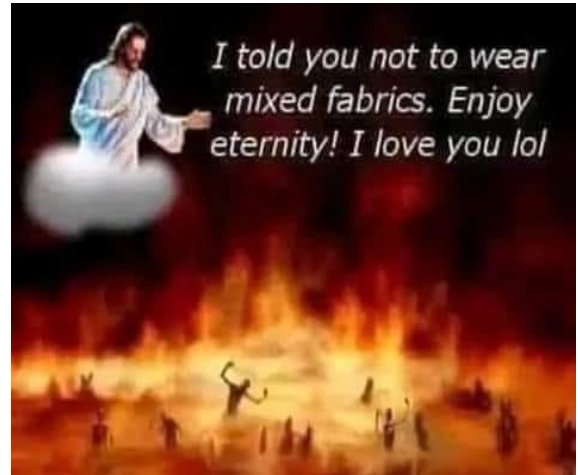
The Marathon has taken place at US Capitol since 1990. Only seven states participate: Indiana, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and, of course, Pennsylvania.

There's not much information online about this waste of time. There is a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/p/Capitol-Bible-Reading-Marathon>, with pictures of PA legislators, reading away. This is not a definitive list, but several of the ones shown represent central PA: Bryan Cutler, John Di Santi, Barb Gleim, Tom Jones, Rob Kauffman, Kristen Phillips-Hill (pictured) and Dave Zimmerman.

Religious Incursion into School Boards

The Independence Law Center continues to influence Central Pennsylvania school boards. School boards hire the ILC to “advise” them on certain matters, usually involving LGBTQ+ issues. The ILC does not replace school board solicitors, who handle a myriad of issues, such as contracts, law suits, etc. In some cases, the solicitors have recommended against hiring the ILC, warning that its advice can lead to lawsuits the school boards probably won’t win.

The ILC typically does not charge for its services. Where does their money come from?



According to keystone newsroom.com, the ILC is the legal arm of the Pennsylvania Family Institute, the state chapter for the Family Research Council. The Family Research Council is a Christian nationalist organization the Southern Poverty Law Center calls “an extremist group.”

The article goes on to explain that since 2015, the Pennsylvania Family Institute has spent more than \$400,000 lobbying on issues it cares about: education, religious liberty, marijuana and civil rights, according to the PA Department of State’s records, with the largest amount distributed last year. All four members of the ILC’s legal team are registered lobbyists with the Pennsylvania Family Institute: Jeremy Samek, retired PA Superior Court Judge Cheryl Allen, Janice Martino-Gottshall, and Randall Wegner. Wegner has a history in York County: he was one of the lawyers involved in the Dover intelligent design debacle.

The Pennsylvania Family Institute staffers go to anti-LGBTQ+, anti-abortion rallies and committee hearings in Harrisburg. It has taken a special interest in banning trans athletes, books it doesn’t like, and in monitoring who uses which bathroom in schools. Often large numbers of people show up at school board meetings to oppose the ILC’s position on these topics. Too bad more people don’t vote in school board elections.

The York *Daily Record*, yrd.com, notes the ILC is involved in 40% of York County school districts, and is engaged in talks with others.



Thomas Paine Memorial

Margaret Downey, well known to PAN members as the founder and president of the Freethought Society of Philadelphia, is engaged in raising funds for a memorial to Thomas Paine. The website thomaspainememorial.org explains there are no statues or memorials of any kind to Paine in Washington, DC, and only one portrait, in the National Portrait Gallery.

Paine was a prolific author, famous for writing in *Common Sense*, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Paine donated the money he received from his best-selling works, *Common Sense*, *The Crisis*, *Rights of Man*, and *The Age of Reason* to the war for independence and fought in the military himself. He is a rarity among the founding fathers in that he opposed slavery, favored abolition, and believed in equal rights for women.

Paine was a deist, and an aggressive opponent of religion. In an article on the National Archives' website, archives.gov, Harlow Giles Unger, author of *Thomas Paine and the Clarion Call for American Independence*, makes the point that Paine's criticism of religion was controversial during his lifetime, and remains controversial today. Unger says, "You have two problems with history texts in secondary schools in America. The first is the small amount of time given to study subjects in a typical school day, which makes learning centuries of American history difficult. The other problem is a religious problem: in towns across America, school boards are run by everyday people, many of whom are churchgoers who simply will not tolerate their kids reading any of the works that Thomas Paine wrote . . . especially *Age of Reason*."

The Center for Inquiry and the Freedom From Religion Foundation will participate with The Freethought Society and the Thomas Paine Memorial Association in an online celebration of Paine on June 8, via Zoom from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. People can participate by visiting this meetup group: [meetup.com/freethought-society-meetup/events/293396499/](https://www.meetup.com/freethought-society-meetup/events/293396499/)

Catholic Contraction

The US Catholic church continues to have financial problems. Many parishes, and their schools, are being closed. Even Catholics who acknowledge the need to reduce the number of parishes are often unhappy about which parishes are closed.

This has been a hot issue in Baltimore, where the archdiocese announced plans to reduce the current 61 parishes to 21. According to the Baltimore *Sun*, baltimoresun.com, at public, town hall-style meetings, Catholics have objected to how the reform initiative – labeled by church marketing consultants as "Seek the City to Come" – has been conducted. Many attendees thought the church should spend money on its ministries, not consultants, and that their motives were more financial than spiritual. (This cynicism may be the result of a controversy several years ago, when the archdiocese closed Cardinal Gibbons High School, despite its having good attendance and strong alumni support. Those groups accused the archdiocese of wanting the land for the nearby St. Agnes Hospital, which the church angrily denied. About a year after the school closed, guess what? St. Agnes Hospital built a parking garage on the land.) Many commentators note

the archdiocese is going through Chapter 11 bankruptcy, because of lawsuits stemming from child sexual abuse lawsuits.

The archdiocese pointed out that church attendance has dropped dramatically, and many of the churches are huge, old buildings, expensive to maintain. There are now more funerals than baptisms in Baltimore Catholic churches. Opponents think the archdiocese has not paid enough attention to the differing missions of parishes that will be joined together. One commentator said, "I think what's being missed in much of this process is the fact that parishes are not subunits of a larger corporation. They're communities. A community has its own organic life. And that life is something that evolves and grows and changes over time, not something that is easily captured in data, especially when those data are collected with questions that act as if parishes are service centers or franchises."



The final decision will reduce the parishes from 61 to 23. Some predominantly black, Hispanic and ethnic churches were spared, because the move would have forced them to consolidate with parishes that had historically rejected them.

The church denies the value of the underlying real estate had anything to do with the decisions.

Mormons Modernize

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, aka Mormons, is well-known for its requirement that young men (and young women, if they want to) engage in missionary work. Mormon missionaries go all over the world, formally dressed, men in white shirts and ties, women in skirts, knocking on doors, trying to engage personally with possible recruits.

According to the New York *Times*, nytimes.com, the church has loosened and updated some of the rules. It is now encouraging its missionaries to use social media, and to work on projects closer to where they live.

The church has always said that men are responsible to do missionary work for two years starting at age 18. It is optional for women, who serve for 18 months. (Women are supposed to focus on marriage and children.) Originally women had to be 21, but since the church lowered the age to 19 in 2012, more women have been going. During their mission, no missionary can date, engage in premarital sex, drink caffeine or alcohol, or smoke (which Mormons can't do anyway.)

Other rules have been relaxed. Missionaries now receive their training online, at home, instead of going to a missionary training center. The church is more accommodating to scheduling missions at a family's convenience. Depending on where they are assigned, men can wear blue shirts, and no ties. Women can now wear pants, and instead of only being allowed to phone their families on Christmas and Mother's Day, missionaries can call them once a week. Missionaries still have no say in where they are sent, and lots of them throw parties when they open their "call letter."

Mormons believe that it is crucial for them to convert the world. Of course, it also increases church memberships, and the two years of service, often right after high school but before college, builds an invaluable commitment to their religion.

Why do you condemn religion?
It brings joy and gratification to
many people.

So does porn and heroin.

Church leaders acknowledge that updates were necessary. Matthew Bowman, a Mormon, and a professor of religion and history at Claremont Graduate University who holds the chair of Mormon studies, explains. "Knocking on doors and approaching people on the street are no longer seen as useful as they once were because of shifts in American culture." He adds that Mormons long thought the missionaries' suits made them look successful and appealing to outsiders. The suits are now "outdated."

The pandemic encouraged a lot of these changes, especially using social media. People weren't going to church; Mormons (and Jehovah's Witnesses) couldn't go door-to-door to spread the message.

The new missionaries make videos on their phones to post on social media. In one, a missionary raps about his faith. In another two missionaries throw footballs and Frisbees through an obstacle course in a church, to illustrate how Jesus can help people conquer challenges. The new attitude seems to be working. The number of missionaries has grown by about 25%, to around 72,000, in the last three years.

Despite all these changes, church membership only grew about 1.5% last year

Baptist Judgment Day

The Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the US, continues to deal with sex abuse allegations.

USA *Today*, [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com), reports that as part of a US Department of Justice investigation of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, federal prosecutors have indicted a former administrator, charging him with falsifying records to cover up an abuse report. The indictment claims Matt Queen, formerly interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Southwestern, with falsifying records and lying about evidence tampering, as part of an attempt to obstruct an ongoing grand jury investigation. Queen is now a pastor in North Carolina.

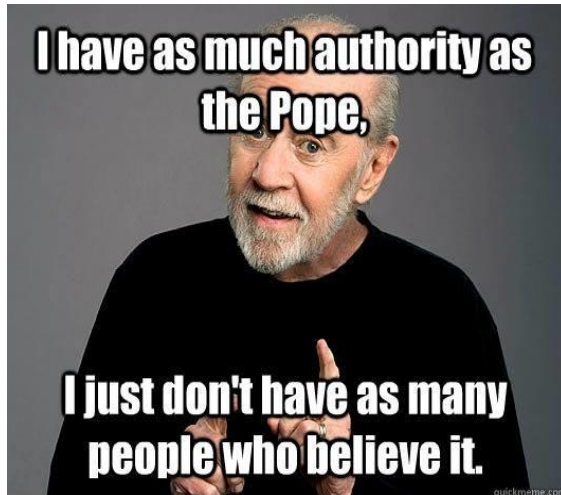
Some SBC reform advocates are disappointed that the indictment didn't address other denominational issues. The federal investigation began in August 2022, after a third-party inquiry into negligence and a cover-up by SBC leaders, and reports of clergy sexual abuse.

Interestingly, the SBC Executive Committee announced two months ago that the DOJ had concluded its investigation without recommending additional action. They subsequently added a note: "Legal counsel for the SBC confirmed the investigation into the SBC as a whole remains open and ongoing."

Queen's indictment was a result of the arrest in January 2023 of Christian Flores, an undergraduate at Southwestern who was charged with felony sexual assault. His case is ongoing.

Queen and another unnamed administrator discovered there had been a report by Southwestern's police months earlier about Flores. The unnamed administrator told a staff member to delete any reference about the prior report. Queen is accused of lying about the other administrator's instruction to delete the records. The indictment also says Queen gave federal investigators notes he claimed were contemporaneous but were not.

Southwestern trustees fired its president in 2018, when he was accused of downplaying rape reports, and of trying to intimidate an abuse victim. His activity resulted in a federal lawsuit against the former president and Southwester, which is moving through the US Court of Appeals.



Not All Visions Are Equal

The Catholic Church has long been identified with mystical sighting and appearances. The most famous of these, in places like Lourdes, France, and Fatima, Portugal have become tourist sites, and generators of great wealth for their communities.

The church actually is careful about approving miracle sites. The New York Times, nytimes.com, reports that the Vatican has issued new, even stricter guidelines for evaluating visions, or other "faith-based phenomena."

Supernatural claims continue to appear. Located near Rome, the "Madonna of Trevignano" attracted hundreds of pilgrims on the third of each month to pray to a stature of the Virgin Mary, and listen to the message as relayed by a local resident, Gisella Cardia. A commission of theologians, psychologists and canon law specialists ruled this month that there was no supernatural element. Cardia says Mary told her the priests and theologians are heretics.

The new guidelines offer six "prudential conclusions" for investigators, ranging from complete rejection to more nuanced findings. The Vatican will also issue an opinion on each case. Most important, the church will no longer officially declare that a phenomenon is supernatural. The rules state that "after assessing the various spiritual and pastoral fruits of the event and finding no substantial negative elements in it," the church can, if it wants, decide there is no reason to stop the local bishop from drawing "pastoral benefit from the spiritual phenomenon."

Social media has allowed these incidents to spread quickly. They are popular, an expert notes, because people want proof of heaven and "certainty in the [existence of an] afterlife."

However, there is a recent example of the Vatican accepting a miraculous event unequivocally. According to the Washington Post, washingtonpost.com, Pope Francis has recognized a second miracle for Carlo Acutis, which means he can now be canonized – recognized officially as a "saint," a confirmed resident of heaven. The Vatican has been clear as to why it is going ahead with this. Acutis, who died at age 15 in 2006, had a strong online presence, where, ironically, he specialized in investigating miracles. The church thinks his canonization will increase its appeal to millennials.



North Carolina's Representative

Each state is allowed to pick two of its citizens to be honored with statues in the US Capitol. The *Christian Post*, christianpost.com, reports North Carolina has chosen the late evangelist Billy Graham to be one of its representatives.

The bronze statue is seven feet tall and shows Graham gesturing with an open Bible in his hand. The pedestal will be engraved with John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life") and John 14:6 ("I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.") Graham will be proclaimed "Preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

In 2013 the North Carolina General Assembly voted Graham the state's "Favorite Son," which started the process which resulted in the statue. Then-Governor Pat McCrory stated, "There have been many great North Carolinians, but few have impacted the world more than Billy Graham."

North Carolina Sen. Ted Budd noted, "The legacy of Rev. Billy Graham is based on his simple message of forgiveness based on John 3:16. His lifelong commitment to preaching the Gospel, his fight for civil rights, his opposition to communism, and his spiritual guidance provided hope to hundreds of millions."

Not everyone agrees that Graham was devoted to civil rights. According to CNN.com, Graham did sometime preach about racial tolerance and some of his crusades during the civil rights era were integrated. But he also held segregated crusades, and criticized marches and sit-ins. He did not risk his popularity -and financial success – by aggressively opposing segregation.

When Graham died in 2018 at 99, he became only the fourth American citizen to lie in state in the US Capitol Rotunda. (The other three were Jacob Chestnut, police officer killed in 2018 during an attack at the Capitol, Josh Gibson, baseball star from the Negro Leagues and Rosa Parks, civil rights icon.)

Graham was unmatched in his ability to generate publicity. He counseled 12 US presidents and preached in person to nearly 215 million people in 185 countries and territories, more than anyone in history.

Since each state is limited to two statues, North Carolina had to remove one already in the Capitol. The loser was former Gov. Charles Brantley Aycock, whom Wikipedia describes as a prominent white supremacist in the late 19th and early 20th century. The statue of Zebulon Baird Vance remains. Wikipedia says he was governor of the state during the Civil War, as well as being a Confederate officer. He was a proponent of antisemitism, which, despite his being a former slave owner, allowed him to be considered a progressive.

Jailhouse Art

The Itasca County opened a new \$75 million justice complex. As part of it, Jail Administrator Lucas Thompson decided the decorating touch the facility needed was Bible quotes, including the Ten Commandments, on the wall. There was also a quote painted on cell block walls, attributed to former President Ronald Reagan, "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face."

The oversized display was discovered during tours of the new northeast Minnesota facility.



After receiving 20 complaints, the Freedom From Religion Foundation challenged the religious quotes, pointing out they violated the First Amendment, and the quotes were painted over. The FFRF said it was pleased that "the Constitution prevailed over the desire of some county officials to create a coercive religious environment." "These displays imposed religious views on a literal captive audience," said FFRF co-president, Annie Laurie Gaylor, in a statement. "Even those who are incarcerated have the right to be free from religion."

According to the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, startribune.com, Sheriff Joe Dasovich made the decision to repaint. This decision was not universally popular. At a tense and crowded County Board meeting, many citizens complained. Some people criticized the Board for letting the Sheriff make the decision. Another man said the complaints came from a "very small minority;" another compared the commandments to laws and said if the county was going to remove the commandments, they might as well do away with speed limits. Another attendee claimed many inmates had no knowledge of religion, and they would benefit from reading the quotes.

County commissioners acknowledged they had received hundreds of calls, texts and emails about the religious quotes, most of them supporting leaving them in place. Several commissioners talked about their own Christianity, and about how they would have preferred to let the quotes remain. One commissioner noted that since voluntary religious programs in the jail are well-attended, he didn't anticipate inmates' complaints about the religious décor.

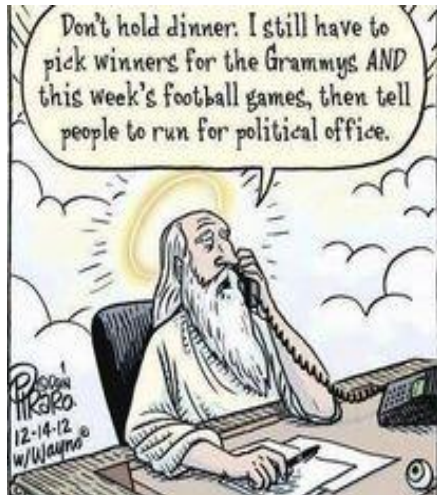
There was no information about the cost of the original paint job, or the cover up.

Kicker Gives Commencement

Benedictine College, a small Catholic school in Atchison, Kansas, scored a coup when they secured Harrison Butker, kicker for Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, as their commencement speaker. The school was probably not expecting to get national media attention for his remarks.

The New York *Times*, nytimes.com, reports that Butker had several interesting things to say. He described LGBTQ+ Pride Month as an example of one of the deadly sins. "Not the deadly sins sort of Pride that has an entire month dedicated to it," Butker said, "but the true God-centered pride that is cooperating with the holy ghost to glorify him." The NFL doesn't play during Pride Month, June, but it did host a "Night of Pride" before the Super Bowl, in conjunction with GLAAD, and the Chiefs are one of several NFL teams that has a Pride selection of team apparel in rainbow colors.

Butker is an unapologetic proponent of conservative Catholicism. He criticized an Associated Press article on the US Catholic Church, which paid special attention to Benedictine, in particular what it



described as rules which “seem like precepts of a bygone age.” Butker gave examples from the article, like “volunteering for 3 a.m. prayers” and “pornography, premarital sex and sunbathing in swimsuits being forbidden.” The story was an “attempt to rebuke and embarrass” Benedictine and places like it, Butker, said and it should be met with pride, not anger.

What got Butker the most attention, though, were his thoughts on the role of women. A woman’s most important role is homemaker, he opined. “It is you, the women, who have had the most diabolic lies told to you. Some of you may go on to lead successful careers in the world but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world.”

Guess what? The religious order who founded Benedictine College, the sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, doesn’t agree with him. Not a big surprise, since they are obviously not housewives. They issued a statement that says, in part, “*The sisters of Mount St. Scholastica do not believe that Harrison Butker’s comments in his 2024 Benedictine College commencement address represent the Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college that our founders envisioned and in which we have been so invested... One of our concerns was the assertion that being a homemaker is the highest calling for a woman... Our community has taught young women and men not just how to be “homemakers” in a limited sense, but rather how to make a Gospel-centered, compassionate home within themselves where they can welcome others as Christ, empowering them to be the best versions of themselves...*”

The controversy has served to make Butker more popular. His jersey became the top-seller on the Chiefs’ website, according to cbssports.com, selling even more than the jerseys of his teammates, three-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Patrick Mahomes, and Taylor Swift’s boyfriend, Travis Kelce.

Clergy Replacement

Many denominations are having trouble recruiting clergy. The big brains behind AI have an answer: an AI generated priest! What could go wrong?



The New York *Post*, nypost.com, tells the story.

“Father Justin,” pictured at left, was launched by Catholics Answers. He was meant to be an “interactive educational tool.” However, Father Justin told people he was a real priest, living in Assisi, Italy. He even performed sacraments over the internet. A woman posted online a conversation with the chatbot priest where he heard her confession, gave her a penance, and absolved her of her sins, with the traditional, “Go in peace, my child, and sin no more.”

He was also hard-core on some sexual issues. Father Justin asserted that the church teaches that “masturbation is a grave moral disorder.”

However, he was a bit more relaxed on other topics. For example, he told another user they could baptize their baby in Gatorade.


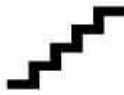

After word of these interactions got back to Catholic Answers, it announced he is now just plain Justin. The organization noted it had never expected people would seek absolution from a computer graphic. It disputed the idea he had been laicized – he was never a real priest.

New Justin wears a shirt and jacket, no longer performs sacraments. He comes with a disclaimer, explaining he is to be used for educational services only, and is “not a replacement for real human interaction.” The website adds, “If there are issues you struggle with, please seek guidance from your pastor or spiritual advisor.

FUN!



Rebus puzzles
Can you guess the words and expressions?

M1Y L111F1E	Get it Get it Get it Get it	Try $\frac{\text{stand}}{2}$
$\frac{\text{TRAVEL}}{\text{CCCCCCC}}$	FAST	T O W N
EYE 	father 	ONCE 
POT ○○ ○○ ○○ ○○	D movie D movie D movie	SECRET ← SECRET SECRET

PAN News & Updates



John

John Wolff: HAIL AND FAREWELL

Priscilla Oppenheimer

John Wolff, of Lancaster, avid spokesperson for atheism and civil rights, died May 7 at the age of 92.

John was a supporter of PA Nonbelievers in York from its inception, a founder a decade ago, of the Lancaster offshoot of PAN, and more recently an adherent of CPR in York. He'd written articles for the former Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom of Lancaster and letters to the newspaper supporting liberal causes. He supported the ACLU and was a life member of the Freedom from Religion Foundation.

John was born to a Jewish family in Germany and was baptized and sheltered by a Catholic family during WW II. Emigrating with his mother to the U.S. after the war, he made the decision to eschew religion of any kind.

An engineer by profession, he also had a deep interest in botany and developed a world-class shell collection.

John was an invigorating conversationalist and loyal friend. He became the caregiver for his wife, Jeannette during the final years of her illness.

It's difficult to express what John has meant to his friends, but Steve Neubauer states it well: "Their lives elevated John and Jeannette to the highest level of respect and affection by all who knew them. Seldom have two people shown and lived with such clarity of thought and plain ethical behavior in this intellectually and morally challenged world. They were two of the very finest people I have been privileged to know."



Jeannette

Tabling Events – June is one of PAN's busiest months! Please join us in meeting the public, or just stop by if you're in the neighborhood.

June 8 – Olde Annville Days, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

June 15 – Lancaster Pride, Lancaster Convention Center, noon

June 20 – Jubilee Day, Mechanicsburg, 10:00 am – 9:00 pm

June 22 – York Pride, All Trans Memorial Hall, 334 Carlisle Avenue, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Meetings – PAN holds in-person and online meetings. Locations, times, and dates below.

Online meeting: Fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. We hope to split the meeting into an hour of chat and an hour of presentation or more structured discussion. Anyone with a book/movie review, discussion topic, or potential guest speaker should contact Dietrich

Dellinger @ guyinnagorillasuit@gmail.com

Chambersburg – Second Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm, Volcano Japanese Restaurant
955 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg

Cumberland/Mechanicsburg – Third Thursday of the month, Gather Your Party Gaming & Hobby, 219 North Hanover Street, Carlisle, PA. This group plays board (atheist) games!

Harrisburg – First Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm, Zeroday Brewing Company Taproom, 923 North 3rd Street.

Lancaster – Fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:00 pm, Centerville Diner, 100 S. Centerville Rd.

Lebanon - This meeting is currently on pause.

Reading – Third Thursdays at 7:15pm, 3rd & Spruce Drafthaus, 238 S 3rd Ave, Reading, PA 19611

York Meeting – First Sunday at noon, Mexitaly Brick Oven Brewhouse, 2440 East Market St.

How to Contribute to PAN

Giant Cards - We will have Giant grocery store cards available for purchase at PAN meetings. You pay face value for the card and use the face value at the store, but Giant lets PAN have 5% of that face value. If you shop at Giant, anyway, use the cards in lieu of cash and help PAN. What could be easier?

Pennies for PAN - Finally, we are happy to take money the old-fashioned way. You can give your tax-deductible contribution to a Board Member at one of our meetings or events, you can donate via PayPal on our website, www.panonbelievers.org, or you can mail a check to us at PA Nonbelievers, Inc. PO Box 702, York, PA 17405. Remember when you donate you can indicate what fund you want your donation to go to, you can find the list of our funds on the PAN website in the Donate section.

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Puzzle Solution

1 – For once in my life (four ones in my life)

2 – Forget it

3 – Try to understand

4 – Travel overseas or overseas travel

5 – Breakfast

6 – Downtown

7 – Eyeshadow

8 – Stepfather

9 – Once upon a time

10 – Potatoes (pot 8 O's)

11 – 3D movie

12 – Top secret