



Focus on Religious Freedom

A Win for Genuine Religious Freedom in CA Schools

A parent lawsuit, brought by the Thomas More Society, forced California to drop a public school curriculum requirement that had students praying to Aztec gods. The curriculum included a section of "Affirmations, Chants, and Energizers," that prayed to five Aztec deities by name and title "that were invoked when the Aztecs worshipped with human sacrifices," said the special counsel.⁽¹⁾ The prayers and chants recognized these deities as sources of power and knowledge, invoked their assistance, and gave thanks to them.

"The Aztec prayers at issue - which seek blessings from and the intercession of these demonic forces - were not being taught as poetry or history," said Thomas More Society. "Rather, The Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum instructed students to chant the prayers for emotional nourishment after a 'lesson that may be emotionally taxing or even when student engagement may appear to be low.' The idea was to use them as prayers."⁽²⁾

"We are encouraged by this important, hard-fought victory. Our state has simply gone too far to promote fringe ideologies and racial grievance policies, even those that disregard established constitutional principles," said attorneys for the CA Equal Rights Foundation.⁽³⁾

"Satan Clubs" Causing Controversy in Public Schools

School officials and parents are trying to decide how to deal with what are being called "Satan Clubs" cropping up in schools, specifically in Illinois and Ohio, in a mistaken belief that these clubs have First Amendment Religious Freedom rights. They do not.

Recently, a K-5 school in Lebanon, Ohio, that historically made space available for an after-school Christian program called "Good News" has provided space to a club calling itself "The Satanic Temple After-School Satan Club."⁽⁴⁾

"The district does not and is not legally allowed to discriminate against any groups who wish to rent our facilities, including religiously-affiliated groups," said a district spokesperson⁽⁵⁾ However, Satanism is the opposite of religion since it directly attacks the foundation of religion - "the existence of a Creator who is the source of unalienable rights."⁽⁶⁾

"(Satan) is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44

"Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14

(cnsnews.com, 1/17/22(1); thechristianpost.com, 1/17/22(2); gywire.com, 1/19/22(3); wkbn.com, 1/21/22(4)(5);
returntoorder.com, 1/30/22; local12.com/news. 1/21/22; thecatholicthing.org, 5/6/17(6))

Shortened Version:

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Catholics For Freedom of Religion

www.cffor.org

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