

Saints and sinners: Bad driving is a moral scandal

I was somewhere on the Pennsylvania turnpike en route to Cleveland to begin my new job when I realized I didn't have my driver's license. I must have left it, I decided, in my other pants in Boston, 300 miles in the other direction.

No reason to panic, I told myself. Certainly I was not the first person to have left his driver's license in his other pants. The Highway Patrol must make some provision for people like me. But I wasn't sure that they would. Suppose they said there was nothing for me to do but stay off the highway until I retrieved my license? Then where would I be?

Stranded in Buffalo, that's where. The only solution to my difficulty, I reasoned, would be to avoid a situation in which I would be asked to show my driver's license. I must "steer" clear of everybody.

As a result, I drove more carefully than I ever had before. I never exceeded the speed limit. I heeded every traffic sign. I waited until the traffic light was "very green" before I started up. I used both my blinker and a hand signal when turning.

I smiled and waved at every man in blue. And I extended every courtesy to pedestrians and my fellow motorists.

When I wrote about my driving experiences on the church page of my new newspaper in Cleveland, a minister wrote to the editor and asked, in high dudgeon, "What has this story got to do with my religion?"

That, I have discovered, is fairly typical of the unimaginative clergy. Most of them fail to see the connection between morality and our behavior on the highway, which is responsible for killing more people than all our wars.



george plagenz

• saints & sinners

Our driving is a moral scandal — and a grave sin. But you will never hear it mentioned in church.

Most auto accidents are caused by driver discourtesy. Our conduct in traffic is quite different from our behavior on the sidewalk or in an elevator, where we might be recognized. In our automobiles we hide behind our anonymity. Nobody knows who we are. We can be as rude as we want to be. Who's going to know?

Based on this theory, we could make people better drivers and reduce accidents by reminding them of their responsibility to be courteous drivers.

We could do this by distributing window decals or license-plate emblems that say "I am a courteous driver." Every driver will notice an immediate improvement in his driving once he is on record as proclaiming he is a courteous driver. None of us wants to be considered a fraud. We don't like to make a claim for ourselves and then be caught in the act of not living up to that claim.

With an "I am a courteous driver" sticker on his window or license plate, a driver will feel obligated to act altogether differently behind the wheel. Soon it will be a matter of honor for every driver to want an "I am a courteous driver" tag for his car. If he doesn't have one, won't he

be saying that he doesn't want to be included among the courteous drivers and that he wants to be ostracized?

Most of us, of course, think we are good drivers. Here is a good way to find out whether you are a safe driver:

Suppose you had just won \$5 million in the lottery, but you could collect that amount only if you passed a 30-day driving test with a score of 100. For an entire month you would have to drive with an examiner sitting beside you grading your performance.

How you would drive for that month — with your \$5 million lottery winnings hanging in the balance — is how a safe driver drives.

Of course, if you were to drive the way I drove from Buffalo to Cleveland when I didn't have my driver's license, you would collect the \$5 million too.

McVeigh execution becoming a catalyst for nun's Declaration of Life

By Kimberly Hefling

Associated Press Writer
TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — Publicity surrounding Timothy McVeigh's scheduled execution is generating renewed interest in an anti-death penalty document already signed by thousands.

The so-called Declaration of Life has a simple message: If I'm murdered, don't execute my killer.

Sister Camille D'Arienzo, a Roman Catholic nun from Brooklyn, N.Y., started the group in 1993 that is responsible for distributing the Declaration of Life.

Any time there's an increase in public discussion about the death penalty, she said, more people sign the declaration. "Every couple of years something happens and it starts up again, like a big forest fire," D'Arienzo said.

The latest catalyst is McVeigh, convicted in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people. He is scheduled to die by lethal injection on May 16 at the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute.

The Declaration of Life document declares that capital punishment is wrong at any time. If the signee is murdered, it requests that the judge not sentence the killer to death.

"People are sick to death of the killing," said D'Arienzo, who was not aware of any signer who was later murdered.

Those who sign the two-page declaration, she said, feel in control because it "relieves the signer of absolute powerlessness" over the death penalty.

Paul Stevens of Dawson Springs,

Ky., whose daughter was murdered in Evansville in 1969, is one of at least 1,500 people who have signed it in recent months.

Stevens, who now works as a prison minister to death row inmates at a state penitentiary in Eddyville, Ky., signed it while attending a speech Feb. 26 by Cardinal Francis George, the archbishop of Chicago.

George spoke in opposition to executing McVeigh, reflecting the Roman Catholic church's opposition to capital punishment.

"I just think people need to let others know how they feel and for what reason, and it does that," Stevens said. "I would've signed it a long time ago if it would've been available because I don't believe in the death penalty."

Sister Joan Slobig, a nun based in

Terre Haute who recently signed the declaration, said doing so is a very personal experience. The document has been distributed to the 600 members of her order, the Sisters of Providence.

"It certainly makes you face the possibility of violence in your own life and deal with the feelings that that generates within you," Slobig said.

Since 1998, D'Arienzo has been a spiritual adviser to David Paul Hammer, an inmate incarcerated in the Terre Haute prison. He's on death row for strangling his cellmate in 1996 while in Pennsylvania's Allenwood Federal Penitentiary.

From within the prison in Terre Haute, Hammer was received into the Catholic church by Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel Buechlein and received his first communion last fall with

D'Arienzo by his side. Hammer has had three stays of execution; no execution date has been set.

D'Arienzo and Hammer correspond weekly and also have regular phone conversations, D'Arienzo said. Hammer is also visited weekly by a nun from the Sisters of Providence.

An article D'Arienzo wrote about Hammer and the Declaration of Life published Feb. 19 in America, a weekly Catholic magazine, prompted many to seek out a copy of the declaration, she said.

Those who sign the declaration are asked to trim a portion of it off and send it — along with \$1 — to Cherish Life Circle, D'Arienzo's group. In return, they receive a wallet-size card, making it clear they have made the declaration.

Because not everyone mails in the

trimmed part, it's difficult to gauge the true number of signees, D'Arienzo said. About 10,000 have sent the stub to Cherish Life Circle, but D'Arienzo estimates 20 to 30 times more people have signed it.

The declaration has been signed by actors Susan Sarandon and Martin Sheen, former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and U.S. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, whose husband was killed by a gunman on a New York commuter train.

On the Net: Sisters of Mercy in Brooklyn, N.Y.: <http://www.brooklyn-mercy.org>; National Coalition Against the Death Penalty: <http://www.ncadp.org>; America, a national weekly Catholic publication: <http://www.americapress.org>; <http://www.sistersof-providence.org>



Goodland Bible Church

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Don Crutcher
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm
Adult Bible Study and Youth Group
Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm
If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church
Pastor:
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 5:30 am
Thursday: Ladies' Bible Study: 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist Church
Pastor: Bobby Potter • 332-3956
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman
899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church
Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kaika
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 899-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church
104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13th & Center
899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114
Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Saturday: Church School: 4 pm
Holy Communion: 5 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm
Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church
223 E. 10th
899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration & Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:
Pastor:
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead
307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am
Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church
Serving the rural community for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Jim Cress
899-5784
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking
Hwy. 24
Good Samaritan Center
208 W. 2nd

Koons Funeral Chapel
North Main
Goodland Motor Co.
Hwy. 24

Golden Wheat Ranch
Office 110 E. 11th

Goodland Daily News
1205 Main
Topside Office Products, Inc.
1110 Main