

IF COLUMBUS WERE ALIVE

By
Frank Mazzaglia

If a young Christopher Columbus were alive and living in the United States today, he most probably would not have chosen to attend Notre Dame University. More probably, he would have chosen Franciscan University in Steubenville, Pennsylvania, or St. Bonaventure in New York. Those are both Franciscan centers of learning and represent a more authentic Catholic university that would be more in keeping with the real Columbus.

Notre Dame President John I. Jenkins, a Holy Cross priest, looked like a frightened deer in the headlights when he appeared on Fox television to explain why he decided to cover the 19th century murals depicting the life and exploration of Christopher Columbus.

Jenkins explained that “In recent years, many have come to see the murals as at best blind to the consequences of Columbus’ voyage for the indigenous people who inhabited this “new” world and at worst demeaning toward them.”

In keeping with this logic, we should assume that the good Fathers of the Holy Cross anticipate giving up their entire campus and turning it over to the Native Americans who owned the land before it was stolen from them. Of course, we shall miss the great football games, but it’s almost certain that Fr. Jenkins will do the right thing and give the land and all those building back to the Indigenous People.

Jenkins has a lot of apologizing to do. He needs to express his regret to the millions of good Latino people who, because of Columbus, accepted the Roman Catholic faith.

Sadly enough, Jenkins was personally demeaning to Italian Americans who revere Columbus. Of course, that’s to be expected of his privileged class who thought nothing of forcing early Italian Catholic immigrants to pray downstairs in churches while they were seated comfortably upstairs with whiter people.

One can only speculate as to what Native Americans will call the university once they take it back. One thing for sure is that the Native Indians will show a lot more courage and cognitive sufficiency than Mr. Jenkins and the mental weenies that govern the university now.

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