Weekend Review

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

A-HED

Suburbia Is Awash in Above-Ground Swimming Pools—and That Has Some Neighbors in Hot Water

Coronavirus lockdowns and a lack of community recreation options mean many homeowners are defying local rules to cool off

Letters: A superfluity of archdeacons while churches are emptied even of pews

By Letters to the Editor
5 August 2020 • 12:02am

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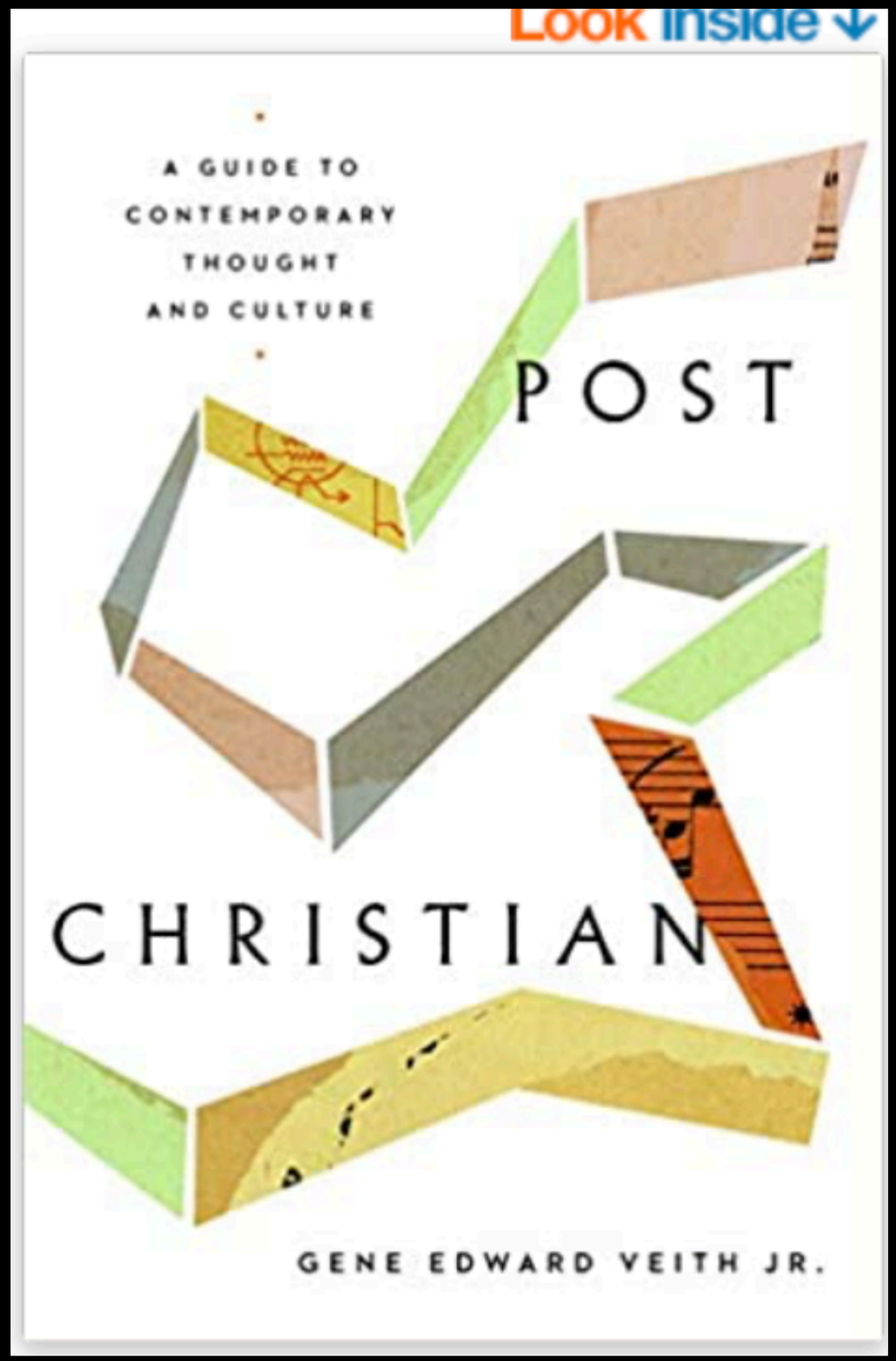
Canon Maggie McLean, Canon Missioner, lighting the Paschal (Easter) candle at York Minster in front of the East Window | CREDIT: Charlotte Graham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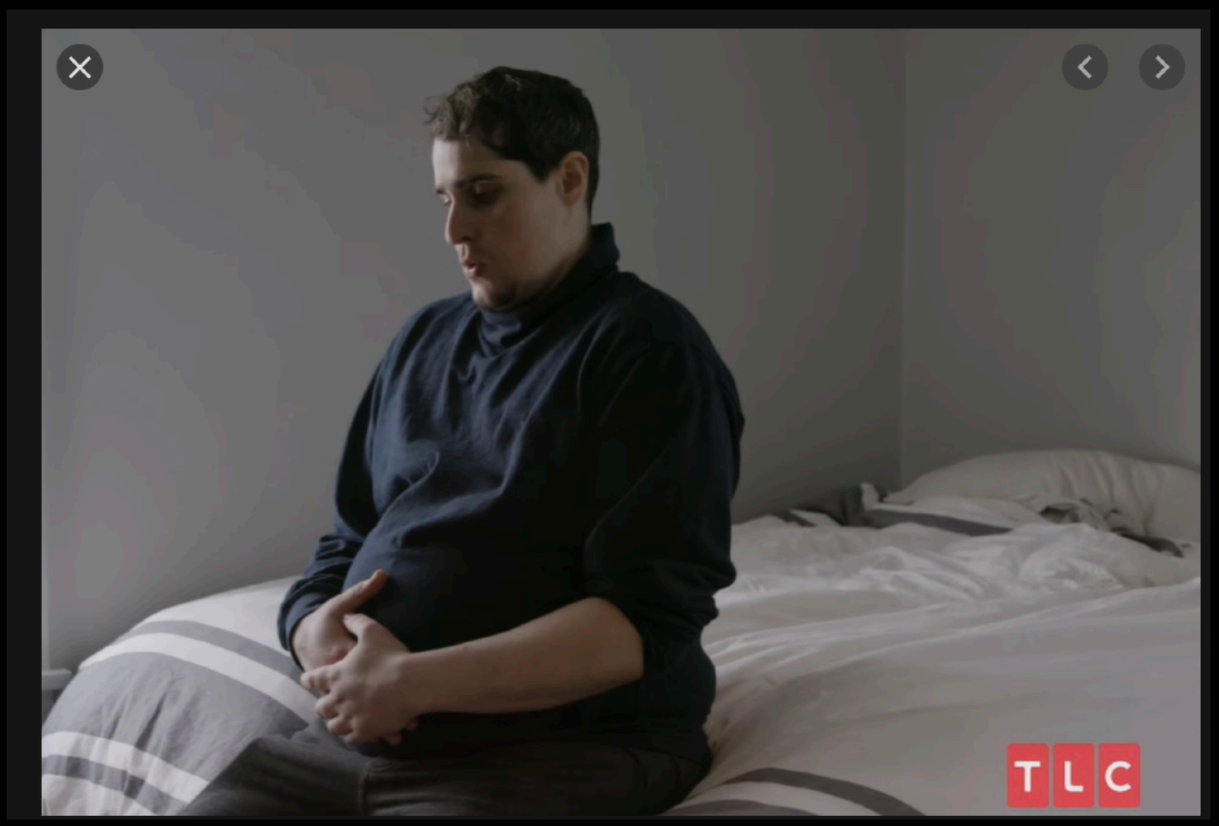

TLC

The Anonymous Professor Who Wasn't

A professor at Arizona State University does not exist.

BethAnn McLaughlin in late 2018. Lane Turner/The Boston Globe, via Getty Images

By Jonah Engel Bromwich and Ezra Marcus

Aug. 4, 2020

'My Actions Are Inexcusable'

On Tuesday, Ms. McLaughlin gave a statement to The New York Times through her lawyer.

"I take full responsibility for my involvement in creating the @sciencing_bi Twitter account," it said. "My actions are inexcusable. I apologize without reservation to all the people I hurt."

The anonymous account, @Sciencing_Bi, was an active participant in the corner of Science Twitter that frequently discusses issues of sexual misconduct in the sciences. It claimed on at least one occasion to have grown up in Alabama, to have "fled the south because of their oppression of queer folk," and to have attended Catholic school. The account began to pointedly make reference to being Native American and, earlier this year, began to identify as Hopi.

QUESTIONING THE QUANTIFIED LIFE / SUMMER 2020 / BOOK REVIEWS

The *Amodernist*

Péguy's critical stance toward both broad coalitions made him neither a modernist nor an antimodernist, but something quite distinctive and instructive.

Jay Tolson

Portrait of Charles Péguy, 1908, by Pierre Laurens, Centre Péguy, Orleans, France; Photo 12/Alamy Stock Photo.

REVIEWED HERE

Carnal Spirit: The Revolutions of Charles Péguy

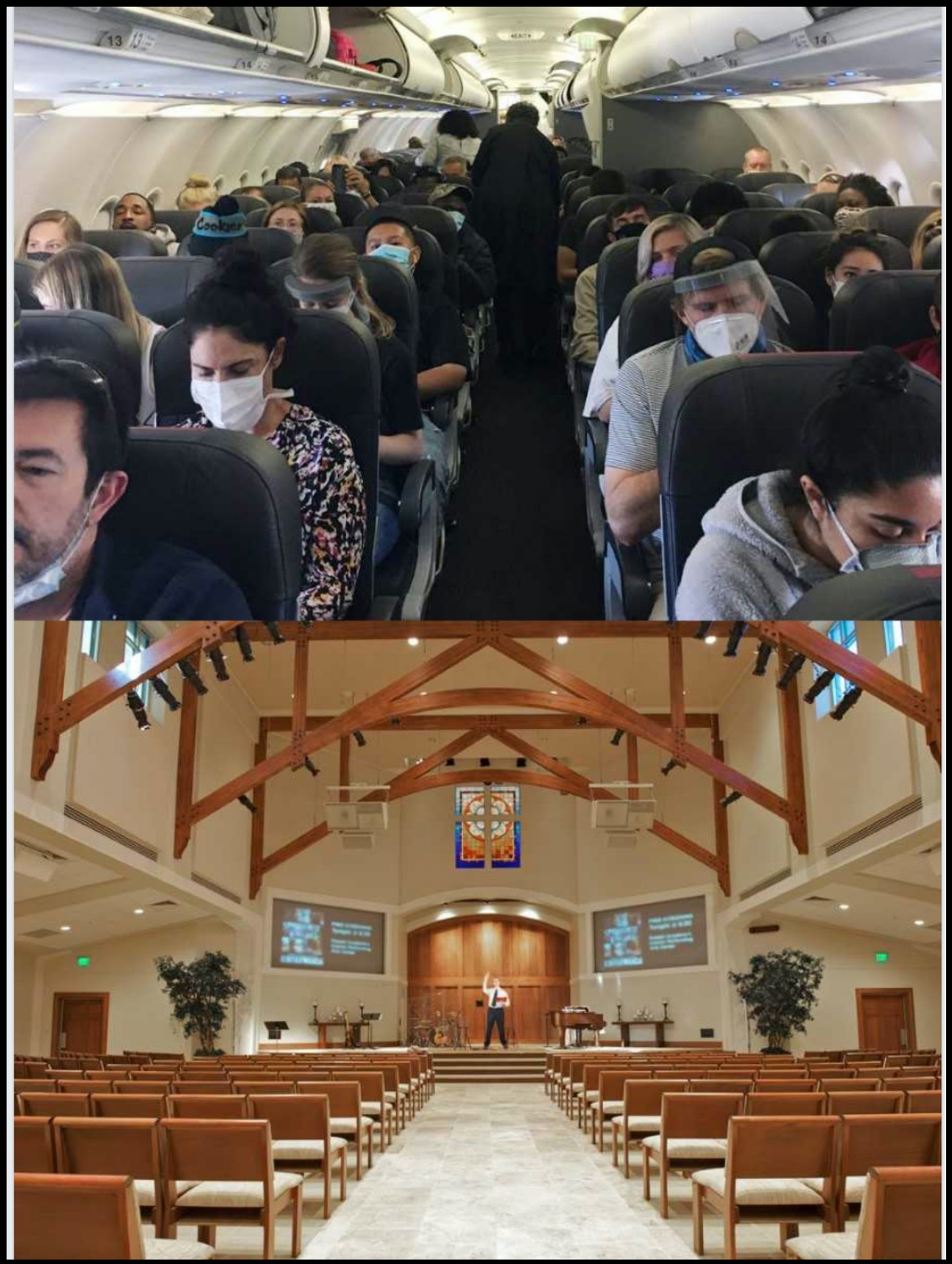
Matthew W. Maguire

Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019.

JAY TOLSON

Beyond the study of character and the dishing of high gossip, one of the nobler aims of biography is the exploration of the representative person—the individual whose life and work illuminate the mentality and underlying culture of a particular time and place in history. That ambition figures prominently in this admirable intellectual biography of Charles Péguy, a thinker who today is little known beyond specialist circles concerned with fin-de-siècle

Much as he liked Benda, Péguy found his extreme rationalism arid and unsustaining, particularly when it came to fostering solidarity among the citizens of a nation. Péguy's conviction that all politics begins in mystique—that is, in the very mysteriousness of shared transcendent beliefs and myths—made him a shrewd and prophetic critic of the conditions of social separation and anomie that have repeatedly provoked ultranationalist populism in modern democracies, usually to disastrous effect.



the American Mind
A PUBLICATION OF THE CLAREMONT INSTITUTE

The COVID Coup

Angelo Codevilla

Essay — 07.17.2020

And how to unlock ourselves.

What history will record as the great COVID scam of 2020 is based on 1) a set of untruths and baseless assertions—often outright lies—about the novel coronavirus and its effects; 2) the production and maintenance of physical fear through a near-monopoly of communications to forestall challenges to the U.S.. ruling class, led by the Democratic Party, 3) defaulted opposition on the part of most Republicans, thus confirming their status as the ruling class's junior partner. No default has been greater than that of America's Christian churches—supposedly society's guardians of truth.

The biggest and most significant default however, has been that of America's Christian churches—all of them—from their hierarchs to their priests, pastors, and ministers. Their complaisance with the lockdowns set aside a truth far more important to human dignity than anything having to do with any physical ailment—the one truth that puts all human power in proper perspective, the truth on which our civilization itself rests: that no human power can manufacture true and false, right and wrong, any more than we can make ourselves, and that, therefore, we are obliged to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

Jewish congregations have been similarly craven.

The churches' agreement to suspend public worship and the distribution of sacraments also contradicted their duty. Until 2020, Christian clergy felt obliged not just to offer public worship to whomever, but also to search out the sick, to offer sacraments to the dying, especially in places where victims of plagues lay between life and death—regardless of consequences. Because surrendering to secular dictates concerning how congregants should behave, even in church cannot be justified in Christian terms it would not have crossed previous generations of churchmen's minds.

Had this generation of church leaders simply practiced their faith, even by merely keeping silent about the ruling class's claims about the COVID-19 rather than ignorantly, submissively endorsing them, they would have preserved their intellectual and moral credit to help the general population to deal with the growing realization that they had been duped. Instead, they chose to be complicit with tinpot Caesars. Hence, as Americans face the bitter fact that we have been hurt worse than for nought, the churches have largely disqualified themselves as arbiters of truth.

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

ROMANS 1:16