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## Lisbon Treaty

Debate heating up

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## Cardinal at 70

Exclusive interview with Cardinal Brady

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# Cuts force Trócaire pull out



# Jesuits stop C oir using its Caravaggio image

**Mags Gargan**

C oir, the anti-Lisbon campaign group, has stopped using an image of a Caravaggio painting after receiving a solicitor's letter on behalf of the Irish Jesuits, the owners of the image.

C oir, an organisation associated with Youth Defence, were using the image of *The Taking of Christ* on the cover of anti-Lisbon leaflets without permission. The original painting was identified hanging up in a Jesuit building in Dublin in the 1990s and is now on

loan to the National Gallery of Ireland.

Fr Noel Barber SJ, Assistant Provincial of the Jesuits in Ireland said that when he was alerted to the fact that C oir was using the Caravaggio he asked them to desist because "we do not grant permission for the use of the image for contentious issues".

## Honest mistake

When C oir did not respond to the request at first, solicitors contacted them on behalf of the Jesuits. C oir then apologised for the de-

layed response and agreed not to issue any further flyers using the image.

Scott Schittl, a C oir Campaign Co-ordinator said that the organisation had made an honest mistake.

"We had thought the image was in the public domain, but once the Jesuits made us aware that they owned the image we apologised and ceased production."

**Fr Edmond Grace SJ writes on 'Lisbon, life and open government' on page 6.**



The Taking of Christ: Photo: courtesy of the National Gallery of Ireland and the Jesuits.

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# LISBON, LIFE AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

Our politicians have served us badly in making the case for the Lisbon Treaty, writes **Fr Edmond Grace SJ**

**O**UR politicians have been so used to talking in terms of money, that whenever people challenge them from any other angle they are stumped. The founders of Europe were not too worried about money. Their concern was with peace and it was a very practical concern.

We have never seen total warfare in this country. Even

**The Treaty itself is an exercise in building trust.**

at their worst, the Troubles in the North did not prevent ordinary daily life from continuing. We have never had whole sections of the population reduced to refugee status, with the rape, lawlessness and disease which results. No Irish city has ever been razed to the ground. Two world wars, within a quarter of a century, made our continental cousins see the world in a new light. They decided it was worth trying to build up goodwill rather than suspicion and that is how the European Union began.

### Trust and thriving

When people learn to trust each other, they begin to thrive. Ireland has thrived in Europe, because Irish people have built up working relationships – and friendships – with people from other European countries.

We have seen from experience that we have a part to play and not just something to 'get'. Part of the benefit, but only part, is economic. By far the greatest benefit which has come to Ireland from Europe is peace. John Hume, who will go down in history as the pioneer of the Irish peace process, consciously based his approach on the European model.

He was inspired by what the founders of the European Union achieved. They built a structure which enabled people to learn how to trust each other and, in the structures now in place in Northern Ireland, people are learning to do just that.

The structures are only the means. The goal is that mutual trust, in which people are willing to depend on each other's word so that everyone can thrive. A crucial test of trust in Ireland's relationship with Europe is the issue of abortion.

The European Parliament is certainly putting pressure on Ireland to introduce abortion and many MEPs are determined to get Ireland to do so but neither they, nor the parliament to which they belong, have the power to do

this. All recent European Treaties contain a guarantee that 'nothing shall affect the application in Ireland of Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution of Ireland.'

It's easy to concoct hypothetical arguments to show how this guarantee might be overturned, but nothing could disguise the blatant bad faith which this would require.

Any such 'interpretation' by a European court would undermine the basic framework of trust – the rule of law – on which the European Union is based. It would be saying: "We don't care what guarantees were made to Ireland in any European Treaty; we know what's best."

It would mean that Adolf Hitler's view of treaties had prevailed – that they are just bits of paper to be torn up at will. The issue here is not abortion, but our ability to trust in the democratic structures of the European Union.

### Trojan horse

The Charter of Fundamental Rights, which is part of the Lisbon Treaty, is often presented as some kind of Trojan horse which will introduce abortion by the back door, but it can only apply to the internal working of the Union under those same treaties which contain the guarantee on Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution.

The Charter itself is a positive document. The bishops of Europe have described it as "another impor-

**"Only the most bigoted pro-abortion fanatic would be willing to damage the trust on which the peace of Europe is based."**

tant step towards strengthening the protection of citizens' rights at the level of the Union".

Cardinal Ratzinger, as he then was, at first made sharply critical statements, but his views developed and, less than a year before his election as Pope, he wrote "The Charter of Fundamental Rights may be a first step, a sign Europe is once again consciously seeking its soul." In particular he singled out the provisions on trafficking of human beings – "the new form of slavery" – and trafficking in human parts for transplants as "points which deserve applause."

All this is far removed from the suspicion and fear being generated in his name by groups such as C oir.

### Building trust

The Treaty itself is an exercise in building trust and one provision in particular demonstrates this. You will often hear politicians talking about how much law is now made 'in Brussels'. What they often fail to point out is that whenever a new law is debated 'in Brussels', our Government ministers have a vote.

At present the Council (the meetings of ministers which vote on European laws) meets behind closed doors but, under Article 1.17.8 of

the Lisbon Treaty, it will have to meet in public when debating and voting on 'a draft legislative act'.

You might wonder why this is not being talked about, but the answer is simple. If politicians do talk about it they will be drawing attention to their own lack of honesty over many years – "It wasn't us. It was Brussels!" This opening of the doors of the Council is an unexpected triumph of conscience over the short term interest. (Doesn't conscience get the better of us all from time to time?) Imperfect as they are, our political leaders do believe in open government and they do know that keeping the people in the dark can only be disastrous in the long run.

Whatever way we vote on the Lisbon Treaty, it will come down to a question of trust and confidence versus fear and suspicion. We have our views.

We take our stand and we trust that those who disagree with us will treat us with respect, because they will damage the European Union itself if they do otherwise. Only the most bigoted pro-abortion fanatic would be willing to damage the trust on which the peace of Europe is based.

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