

# Balance



The Family and Media Association

# Media Report



## Institutional child abuse

The Ryan report shows that the State must not be given more power over children at the expense of their parents—a children's rights amendment would be imprudent ...

(Back page)



## Aniston and the culture of hopelessness

Jennifer Aniston suggests it's too much pressure to expect relationships to be forever ... (Centre pages)

## Pope on Facebook!

As the year of St Paul drew to a close Pope Benedict went on Facebook and launched a new website:

[pope2you.net](http://pope2you.net) ...

(Centre pages)

# In the balance

## Family values under threat as 50-50 rule questioned

PRESSURE IS MOUNTING to ignore the 2000 Coughlan Supreme Court judgement which requires a 50—50 breakdown in the air time given to 'yes' and 'no' proponents in referendum broadcasts. Although any new broadcasting norms would, in the first instance, be applied to this October's Lisbon Referendum, it is worth noting that, once adopted, those norms would also apply to future referenda which could have a narrower focus on family values.

See [www.rte.ie/news/2000/0126/divorce.html](http://www.rte.ie/news/2000/0126/divorce.html)

It's easy to listen to any of RTÉ's old broadcasts by going to the FMA home page [www.fma.ie](http://www.fma.ie) and clicking on this link: 'Find and play an old broadcast / Read an old article'

'Congratulations to young Catholic journalists!

Centre pages

'30 pieces of silver' — State broadcaster misleads public

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Evangelise the "digital continent", Pope Benedict XVI tells young people

Centre pages

Year of the Priest: FMA Chairman, Dr Ivo O'Sullivan presents the chalice of his uncle, Fr Donal O'Sullivan to Dublin Archdiocesan Vocations' Director, Fr Eamonn Bourke



## YES YOU CAN:



← [write to](#)  [text](#),  [phone](#) OR  [email](#)

a media outlet, or a regulatory authority such as the ASAI, BCI, BCC, RTÉ Authority, Press Ombudsman, Press Office or the Minister for Communications—See centre pages ...

We will accept lesser or **GREATER** amounts...

### 3 JOIN THE FAMILY AND

**ALREADY A MEMBER?**  
Get a friend (or two) to join!

MEDIA  
at the  
Cross  
roads



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### STAY INFORMED.

In addition to its *Media Report* printed publication, the Family and Media Association provides a **FREE TEXT SERVICE** (see above), regular emails, talks on the media, audio and video media reports, RSS feeds, **FACEBOOK** and **TWITTER** pages and a regularly updated website designed to keep you up to date with the media developments affecting you and your family

### 1 CONTACT THE MEDIA , THE GOVERNMENT OR ONE OF THE REGULATORY BODIES:



- RTÉ, Today FM, TV3, Newstalk etc
- Minister for Communications Marine and Natural Resources,
- Your local representative,
- BCI, BCC, Press Ombudsman, RTÉ Authority, ASAI

Unhappy with something in 'the media'?  
Do not be disheartened  
**YES YOU CAN** make a positive difference

**YES YOU CAN** write, phone or send a text or an email.

## Things YOU CAN do!



HERE ARE JUST A FEW of THE THINGS YOU CAN DO:



...than our €30 annual subscription

## D MEDIA ASSOCIATION !

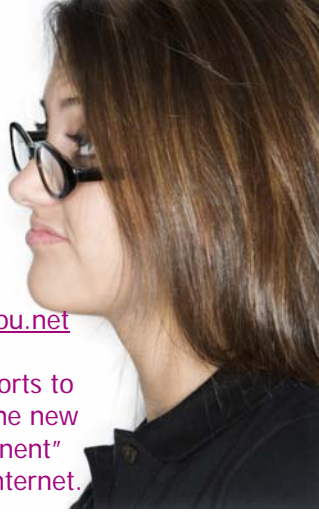
We urgently need your support to continue to offer our free services. Please donate what you can !

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## Pope on Facebook!

The Pope is now on Facebook and has launched a new website [pope2you.net](http://pope2you.net) as part of his continuing efforts to evangelise the new "digital continent" that is the Internet.



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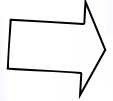
## NO, DON'T DESPAIR ! ASK FMA TO GIVE A TALK IN YOUR AREA !

FMA gives talks to parish groups, school bodies and various other organizations all across the country.



**"The Media: at the crossroads between Self Promotion and Service" —The Pope believes we may have a "valuable opportunity" to reshape the media.**

Encapsulating the culture of hopelessness? In a much hyped interview with Cosmopolitan Magazine, published on May 10, Jennifer Aniston suggested that it was "too much pressure" to expect relationships to be "forever".



## 5 SUPPORT GOOD MEDIA!

Encourage those who are willing to swim against the tide to support the family in the media. **EWTN** has excellent pro family content. Also watch out for the launch of **Spirit FM** which is expected to take place in **September '09**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to two young Catholic journalists, **Paul O'Callaghan** and **Seán Rafter** who, in the last few months, made their mainstream press debuts by writing fine articles for the Irish Independent (April 16) and the Irish Times (June 16) respectively.



"It falls in particular to young people to take on the responsibility for the evangelization of this "digital continent""

-- Message of Pope Benedict XVI —  
World Communications Day,  
May 24, 2009

## '30 pieces of silver' RTÉ misleads public on stem cell research

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Family and Media Association has complained to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BCC) that serious factual errors were made by RTÉ in the course of three news reports about the lifting of US federal funding restrictions for embryonic stem cell research. The reports were broadcast on 9 March, during the 6:01 news on Drivetime, the business news on Drivetime and the Nine News. In its complaint, the Family and Media Association identified 21 separate problems with these reports. Of the second report, the Family and Media Association said, "it was very hard to avoid the conclusion that this re-

*"RTÉ's Vision is to grow the trust of the people of Ireland as it informs, inspires, reflects and enriches their lives"*

...  
RTÉ—RTÉ Website—today

port was a misleading propaganda piece for the *embryonic* stem cell research industry. In much the same way that we have been taught to think of 'Kleenex' as a synonym for tissues, we are being taught to think of "stem cell research" as meaning "*embryonic* stem cell research only". The Family and Media Association concluded its complaint by saying, "all in all, the RTÉ reports had the character of propaganda pieces, promoting, as they did, what in reality is a highly lucrative type of research, one which involves the destruction of human embryos, the taking of human life. They included misleading and in some cases grossly inaccurate statements, in order to invent a 'straw man' of *exclusively* extremist opponents of a non-existent "ban" on *all* "stem cell" research and, in so doing, they even ignored topical news stories and readily available scientific information which had been discussed in earlier RTÉ broadcasts."

*"If honesty is one of your values then you damage yourself if you break it"*

...  
Professor Ian Robertson, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience explaining to Newstalk's Orla Barry why a taxi driver returned \$32,500 which was left in his cab to its rightful owners—Weekend Blend—Newstalk, 9 May, 2009

*"I'd just like to know, Alan, will you be voting in favour of abortion legislation and Euthanasia legislation and ...?"*

...  
Audience member attempting to pose question to European Parliament candidate about his pro life stance—Today with Pat Kenny—RTÉ Radio One, 20 May, 2009

*"And when did you stop beating your wife? Is that the kind of question we have here!?"*

...  
RTÉ's Pat Kenny intercepting the same question—Today with Pat Kenny—RTÉ Radio One, 20 May, 2009

*"I noticed that most of the press releases for the 'Yes' side were made out for The Irish Times. In many ways we were talking to ourselves...Such was the paper's enthusiasm and then its frustration when the campaign was not going in the way desired that I would not have been surprised to see the headline: 'The People Have Spoken—The Bastards', ... The Irish Times is talking to itself and, in a way, we, the Members of this House, are talking to ourselves."*

...  
Chris Andrews, TD, speaking during the post Lisbon Treaty Dáil debate, 18 June, 2008

[www.fma.ie](http://www.fma.ie)

## Institutional child abuse (Letter to Irish Times 23 May)

Madam,—The appalling revelations about institutional child abuse and the way the State, and children's charities, as well as religious institutions, were involved in splitting up families, further highlights the need to strengthen parents' rights to protect their children.

Justice Adrian Hardiman has pointed out that the Constitution does not prefer parents over children.

A "children's rights" amendment to the Constitution, however, would take power from parents and give it to the State and State approved bodies.

The State must not be given more power over children at the expense of their parents.

The Ryan Report, therefore, shows that appeals to have a so-called "children's rights" amendment inserted into the Constitution are imprudent.

—Yours, etc,

*"The new media—telecommunications and internet in particular—are changing the very face of communication; perhaps this is a valuable opportunity to reshape it, to make more visible, as my venerable predecessor Pope John Paul II said, the essential and indispensable elements of the truth about the human person (cf. Apostolic Letter The Rapid Development, 10)."*

Message of Pope Benedict XVI for the 42nd World Communications Day, 4 May, 2008

*"A group of people like Gay Pride is revolting"*

...  
Anne, a Gay woman complaining to Joe Duffy that some Gay people impose their values on others. Liveline—RTÉ Radio One, 9 June, 2009