

Duquesne University

Duquesne Scholarship Collection

Hallowed Secularism

The Collective Works of Bruce Ledewitz, Adrian
Van Kaam C.S.Sp. Endowed Chair in Scholarly
Excellence and Professor of Law

11-26-2014

November 26, 2014: Pope Tells Haggard Europe that it is in Need of Cultural Renewal

Bruce Ledewitz

Duquesne University, ledewitz@duq.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/ledewitz-hallowedsecularism>



Part of the [Constitutional Law Commons](#), and the [Law and Philosophy Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Ledewitz, B. (2014). November 26, 2014: Pope Tells Haggard Europe that it is in Need of Cultural Renewal. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/ledewitz-hallowedsecularism/886>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the The Collective Works of Bruce Ledewitz, Adrian Van Kaam C.S.Sp. Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence and Professor of Law at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hallowed Secularism by an authorized administrator of Duquesne Scholarship Collection. For more information, please contact beharyr@duq.edu.

Title: Pope Tells Haggard Europe that it is in Need of Cultural Renewal

Date: 2014-11-27T09:31:00.004-05:00

11/26/2014—It goes without saying that secularists don't need religion. That is the constant refrain. But it is also true that the most secular region on earth—western and northern Europe—is suffering severe cultural malaise. And the next most rapidly secularizing society—America—is also. Does the sense of decline have any theological significance? Maybe it is just that these societies are aging. That would not necessarily be an independent variable, since declining birth rates can be a sign of cultural despair. So it could be that aging cultures decline and declining cultures do not have high birth rates. But America has a large immigrant population and there is still this sense of decline. Of course, it is also true that America has been very much on top for 60 years and so relative decline is inevitable. All of that is true—and yet... . If the universe is an accident, maybe it is difficult to get too worked up over anything. Maybe secularism does have a problem that the Pope was speaking to.