

THE SERAPH

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The Vision of St. Francis

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In essentia - Unitas. In dubio - Libertas.
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EDITORIAL

WHO IS GOING TO HELL?

According to Jimmy Swaggart, the “cry- me- a- river- on-demand” leader of the family evangelizing business, that has Mrs. Swaggart attacking the Blessed Mother and his son prancing all over the stage with his posterior to the audience, and grandson targeting teenagers, there are not many non-followers who will be saved.

We can hardly disagree with Jimmy, except for one small truth which he does not want to mention. Namely, of all those destined for the heat of Hell, are most likely Jimmy, his family and all the thousands who enjoy his antics.

The most obvious reason for Swaggart’s damnation is his blasphemous insults directed to the Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Recently, Swaggart “launched into the deep” (pit of Hell, that is) by saying that praying to the Mother of God is of no avail.

We have the Roman Catholic Church’s infallible authority

to the effect that Mary is the Mediatrix of All Graces.

This means that Our Lord confided all the supernatural merits of His Passion and Death on the Cross to His Mother, who suffered along with Her Son albeit mystically.

The holy man, Simeon, said to Mary: **“Behold this child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many. And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed” (Luke 2, 35).** It is obvious that Swaggart has never exorcised the Devil out of anyone, since his lord and master is Satan.

Yet, even the devils have had to confess that they feared the Blessed Virgin Mary more than anyone else. In a case of exorcism, the Devil said to the exorcist: **“You don’t frighten me, but I’m afraid of her, the Great Lady, of her alone, for I can do nothing against her, her will prevails.”**

Numerous examples are available to prove the power of

(Continue p. 24)

The Bishop Speaks

Bishop Louis Vezelis OFM D.D.

OUTSIDE THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NO SALVATION

The Great Apostasy, foretold by St. Paul in his second epistle to the Thessalonians is a REALITY. Like old age, it crept upon us almost silently. Almost.

It has been in the making ever since Lucifer – the “Light Bearer” – rebelled against God and was cast down to earth.

With him and his fellow fallen angels, began the disorder in all of nature. “Where once there was order, now reigned disorder.”

Chaos reigned everywhere. Almost. There was a small portion of Nature that had not been touched, yet. It was called “The Garden of Eden”. This is where the First Adam was placed.

Adam was placed there for an important reason. The Dragon – Satan – had not penetrated this place where right order ruled. Thus far, supernatural grace ruled.

There was only ONE bond be-

tween the creature and the Creator. Before the bond was broken by an act of disobedience, Adam and Eve were united to God through a supernatural life of grace. “Just as Hell was created by an act of disobedience on the part of Lucifer and his fallen comrades, so likewise hellish disorder came into the world of man by an act of disobedience on the part of Adam and Eve.”

The tie binding man to God was “untied”. It had to be “retied”. This is where the word for this “retying” originates: “religion”.

It is the duty of every Catholic to pray and work for the conversion of those who are outside the Roman Catholic Church to accept the grace of God and thereby receive the means to be saved.

Satan has used and will continue to use every demonically devious means to destroy souls. Yes, even in the appearance of something seemingly good, the Devil will labor to drag souls into Hell.

This is the reason why Satan primarily targets the true religion. The adjective “true” implies that there is its opposite, namely,

“false”.

Then, there is such a thing as “false” religion? Yes. There are many false religions that have their origin not from the Holy Ghost, but from another source. That “other source” is well known to every exorcist:... **“For thee and for thine angels is made ready an unquenchable fire, because thou art the prince of accursed murder, thou art the author of lechery, thou art the leader of sacrilege, thou the model of vileness, thou the teacher of heretics, thou the inventor of every obscenity,”**

Here we must observe what the Holy Roman Catholic Church, guided and inspired by God Himself teaches us about the “other source” of **false religion**.

Every so-called “religion” outside the Roman Catholic Church **is a false religion inspired by Satan**.

We must not allow ourselves to be fooled by what looks like “goodness”. Everything is a sweet disguise that hides the true Teacher of all heretics: **SATAN!**

Heretics cannot be considered “good” because they have accepted the Devil’s lies and are clearly destined for the abode of **FEBRUARY 2012**

their father - the Father of Lies, No one is damned unless one damns himself.

The Tempter also quoted Scripture. We have seen that in the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent. He has been at this business for a very long time. And anyone who thinks himself or herself smarter than the Devil has already fallen into his trap.

At this time, it is important to pull off the disguise of a trick of the Devil that has many “kind Catholics” fooled.

In its appearance, the ruse seems to be a noble enterprise. It passes as an **“APOSTOLATE TO ASSIST DYING NON-CATHOLICS”**.

Its goal appears very noble and sincere. But, we must ask the first question: **How can such an apostolate be “A means of assisting well-meaning non-Catholics to die a happy death, or of leading them to the light of the one true faith”?**

The first flaw in this seemingly noble project is that it cannot possibly assist anyone to any kind of “happy death” because there is no salvation outside the true Church. It is an insult to the All-Just God to even suggest that

He would not give some kind of opportunity to every soul to be saved *by the means that He has ordained.*

God gives grace to everyone. And, to presume that someone is in “good faith” while remaining in a devil-inspired organization that pretends to be a “religion” is to place oneself above God.

No one can die a “happy death” that is destined for Hell. Whatever the superficial and artificial means used to deceive the dying in order to make the poor soul “feel good” through lying deception is a terrible thing.

Even the claim is a clever disguise of the Devil. How are these “apostles” going to achieve what is impossible to achieve?

They have a little card that is anything but representative of an example of the “light of the TRUE Faith”. There is no mention of Jesus Christ; no mention of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mediatrix of All Graces.

Note the clever ruse of Satan: He gladly promotes half-truths about religion. We ought to know that a half-lie is worse than a complete lie.

Here is what the Church teaches

about salvation:

“Whoever wills to be saved must before all else hold true to the Catholic Faith. And unless everyone keeps this faith whole and undefiled, without doubt he will perish forever...” (Excerpt from the Athanasian Creed).

Over the centuries, the Holy Spirit has guided the Church in the unfolding of different elements of the Faith.

Those who are not in the true Church cannot be said to be living the life of the Holy Spirit who is the Soul of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ which is the Roman Catholic Church.

Many things that Catholics believe were challenged by devil-inspired heretics. Because of this, the Church authorities – legitimate Popes and Bishops – gathered in different Councils to clarify and define the Church’s doctrines and regulate uniform discipline. No one can claim to be leading anyone to the true faith while ignoring the humanity of Jesus Christ or ignoring the Blessed Mother. It is all a subtle lie designed by Satan to promote his lies and to lead otherwise sincere Catholics into the trap of re-

ligious indifference.

After careful study of the proposed “Apostolate to Assist Dying Non-Catholics” the bishops have concluded that this apostolate is fraught with errors against the Faith and promotes religious indifference.

It is, therefore, forbidden to Catholics to engage in such activity. The greatest charity that can be shown to the dying is to urge them to accept the Catholic religion in its entirety.

The fact that the booklet promoting this activity bears the Imprimatur of an Archbishop does not prove anything. For, we should not forget that Modernism was condemned by Pope St. Pius X in 1905; no one should be surprised if the seeds of false ecumenism were already sown by 1943.

It is always necessary to refer to the clear doctrines of the Church rather than presume that every seemingly “good” inspiration is from the Holy Spirit.

Pope Pius XII stated that there are not more conversions to the true Faith because very few people pray for that end. Praying for the conversion of non-Catholics is the surest way of helping them.

This reminds one of a person who boasts of supporting a Muslim child somewhere in the Middle East. How odd. One would think that such a person would extend such charity to a needy Catholic child. Just a thought for all those “do-gooders” whose “doing good” gains no merit for eternity. Corporal works of mercy must be done for the “least of those who believe in Jesus Christ” in the Roman Catholic Church. Helping others outside the Church should have for a motive the preparation of the recipients of Catholic charity as the beginning on the road to conversion.

If we go back to the very beginning of recorded religious history, we will find that the Church has fought heresy from the beginning. After Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, we can easily surmise that error in matters of faith started with them. And the reason is simple: Having lost sanctifying grace and the supernatural life of the soul, there was not much left of faith other than possibly some rudimentary truths that were accessible to reason alone.

We must keep in mind that faith is a supernatural gift from God. Also, we must not lose sight of the fact that faith can be lost. For

example: If you have a gold coin and through carelessness happen to lose it, you cannot say that you have it. You can only say that you once *had* it.

The same is true of faith. We always lose charity upon sinning. That is, turning away from God and turning to the creature. For, that is what “sin” is: **sin is the turning away from God through disobedience and turning to the creature.**

Now, heresy is the rejection of a truth which the Catholic Church teaches. It is, therefore, a sin against the Holy Ghost who reveals all supernatural truth.

What is it if not an “act of faith” when saying: **“My God, I firmly believe all that the Catholic Church believes and teaches, because it is YOU Who have said it, and YOU are Truth itself”?**

So, whence comes the denial of only one truth that is taught by the Roman Catholic Church? It cannot come from God because God is all truth. And, that which is opposed to truth is error. If the error is obstinately held, it is a falsehood. Falsehoods are deliberate lies with the intention to deceive either oneself or others.

Heresies are falsehoods in matters of belief. They are, therefore, lies. And who is the “Father of Lies” – as Our Lord speaks of the teachings of the Pharisees?

SATAN IS THE FATHER OF LIES AND THE TEACHER OF ALL HERETICS.

All non-Catholics are heretics and all heretics are liars. Whether they wish to admit this or not does not change *the objective reality*. And, one reason why non-Catholics do not wish to convert to the one, true Church is because they are willing prisoners of Satan.

Because non-Catholics worship a false god (Even though they use the name of “Jesus”), they are deceived and/or forced by Satan to seek the destruction of other souls.

This is also the reason that the Church forbids her members to “pray” with heretics. The Church cannot engage in “religious tolerance” and at the same time remain loyal to Jesus Christ. That is what “ecumenism” has come to mean: **religious tolerance. This is just one step away from its logical end: RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE which is the death of all religion.**

**NO ONE CAN PRACTICE
RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE
AND STILL BE A TRUE
CATHOLIC.**

The Catholic Church has always practiced **civil tolerance** which means that she did not persecute anyone for holding a belief other than that of the Catholic Church.

Those Catholics who pray with non-Catholics commit a very great offense against God. They actually break the first Commandment: **“I am thy Lord and thy God, thou shalt not have strange gods before Me”**

Every object of any kind of worship that is outside of the Roman Catholic Church is an object of idolatry.

The Modernist apostate Church is NOT the Roman Catholic Church (the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ). The sad fact that Modernist heretics *occupy* our churches does not make them Catholic. The Church has fought heresy and schism throughout her history. Our times are only different by the intensity and extent of the heresy,

We are in that apostasy foretold by St. Paul. There will never be another such great apostasy from the true Faith. The reason

is because this apostasy *originates from what was once the very heart of the true Faith: IT ORIGINATES FROM ROME ITSELF.*

It shines down from the pinnacle like some kind of “black light” – it comes down and spreads over the whole earth from false popes, false cardinals, false bishops, false priests, false Religious and false laity.

This apostasy is so great that the number of the elect is very small. And as proof of the persecution of the remnant Roman Catholic Church we can cite a recent occurrence in our “backyard”. Before doing that, let us just take a look at the Church’s history in England.

When King Henry VIII needed money to pay the money-lenders from whom he borrowed heavily to pay for the loyalty of the noblemen around him, he could no longer squeeze taxes out of the already over-burdened farmers and laborers, his devil-inspired robbing of the Church was initiated. A pretext had to be found. Just like our own days when ravaging other countries are justified with lying pretexts.

The “9/11” of King Henry’s day

had to do with a *femme fatale*. An attack upon religion served his evil purpose. Monasteries were ransacked and the properties of the frugal monks confiscated. Sacred vessels were stolen and the gold there from given to the “right people”.

And where were the few who held fast to their faith even unto death? They huddled secretly in private homes to offer the true Sacrifice of the Mass. Priests and bishops were put to death after being brutally tortured. The true Mass was outlawed under penalty of death.

As always, the true faithful were in the minority. That is why they have always had to leave the edifices built by their forefathers for the true Sacrifice of the Mass.

Following in the courageous footsteps of our ancestors, we too must follow our conscience. We have chosen to gather in homes, in motels – and even in restaurants - to offer and attend the true Sacrifice of Calvary and not the heretical “Resurrection of the Lord” that desecrates our once-Catholic buildings.

As an example of the kind of “ecumenism” in vogue in today’s “religion” we have a most mean-

ingful letter sent to the Pastors of non-Catholic churches in the Fillmore, NY area by the “Pastoral Associate” (Sounds like a Wal-Mart worker) in the name of the alleged-priest in charge of once-Catholic St. Patrick’s church, Mr. Daniel Mancuso. It is important to note that we cannot refer to this gentleman as “Father” or “priest” since he was ordained according to the invalid rite of 1968.

We are thankful that Mr. Mancuso’s “Pastoral Assistant” wishes all the Protestant Ministers to know that we are in no way associated with this apostate group that has usurped our church buildings and typically employs identity theft to use OUR name “**Roman Catholic**”.

What distinguishes us from those occupying our buildings is the doctrine taught there. And it is this falsification of Catholic doctrine that does not allow our conscience to be united with them.

Here is what was written and sent to Protestant Ministers in the area of Fillmore, NY:

Dear Pastor,

As many of you have heard a new chapel has opened up in the former Fillmore Country House Restaurant

called St. Joseph the Workman Roman Catholic Chapel. I am writing on behalf of Fr. Dennis Mancuso, our pastor, who is on vacation, to offer clarification as to their relationship to St. Patrick's Church in Belfast, and to the Universal Catholic Church.

There is absolutely no connection between St. Patrick's and St. Joseph the Workman Chapel in Fillmore, St. Joseph is not in communion with Pope Benedict the XVI and is thus not part of the Universal Roman Catholic Church. Nor are they associated with the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Buffalo or Rochester, thus they are not part of the local Roman Church. As such they are not connected to us.

They are a group referred to by a broad title, "sede vacante." The term is Latin for "the seat being vacant." Mostly as a result of the changes of Vatican II, they do not believe that there has been a legitimate pope since Pope John XXIII. Therefore, from their perspective, the Chair of Peter is "vacant."

As with all divisions in Christianity, this lack of communion with us is a cause of great sadness. We hope that one day communion will be restored as we have that same hope for all Christians. You know that we at St. Patrick's value ecumenical prayer, service, and dialogue. It will be up to the Workman Chapel to decide how much they value ecumenism, Please note that their decisions, actions, beliefs, and words do not reflect St. Patrick's Church in Fillmore, or any other Roman Catholic Organization in union with Pope Benedict XVI

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I pray that this letter finds you and your family well. May you have a blessed New Year.

Sincerely,

Daniel Levis

Pastoral Associate

St. Patrick's RC Church of Belfast,
NY

St. Patrick's RC Church of Fillmore,
NY.

814 881 5218

Their website shows a picture of St. Patrick's church with the caption:

WHICH IS THE REAL

**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
FILLMORE, NY?**

The one and only

Roman Catholic Church

IN FILLMORE, NY

Along side the picture of the church is a poorly taken picture of the restaurant being used as the temporary chapel of the Roman Catholic faithful whose conscience is bound to the decrees of the Council of Trent and all other legitimate Ecumenical Councils prior and after that. This includes the true Vatican Council which was never legitimately closed.

We must now examine the contents of this Pharisaical letter addressed to those who are neither in union with Benedict XVI nor any other pretended representative of the Roman Catholic Church.

First, we thank Mr. Mancuso for making clear that we Roman Catholics are in no way associated with him or those who sheepishly and blindly follow him to their eternal perishing.

This is very important to us who remain faithful to the faith of our fathers and are conscience bound to reject the heresies promoted by Mr. Mancuso.

We are not a little surprised that Mr. Mancuso would be on such good terms with those who reject the Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, as the Mother of God, as the Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix of All Graces, and to enjoy “ecumenical prayer, service and dialogue”, with those who are devoid of supernatural life.

Is Mr. Mancuso a Catholic? He says WE are not even without examining OUR beliefs as Roman Catholics. If he were a Catholic, he would be with us instead of attacking us with such violence

and insults. He can only do this if he is inspired by the “Teacher of All Heretics” – SATAN.

If Mr. Mancuso wishes to be styled a “Catholic,” then he must of necessity respect the doctrinal decrees of past Popes like Pope Pius XII who clearly described the difference between a Roman Catholic (a member of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ) and false Christians.

Regarding who is a member of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ and who is not, Pope Pius XII (a valid and legitimate Pope) stated:

Actually only those are to be included as members of the Church who have been baptized and profess the true faith, and who have not been so unfortunate as to separate themselves from the unity of the Body, or been excluded by legitimate authority for grave faults committed. “For in one spirit” says the Apostle, “were we all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether bond or free” As therefore in the true Christian community there is only one Body, one Spirit, one Lord, one Baptism, so there can be only one faith. And therefore if a man refuse to hear the Church let him be

considered – so the Lord commands – as a heathen and a publican. It follows that those who are divided in faith or government cannot be living in the unity of such a Body, nor can they be living the life of its one Divine Spirit. (THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST AND OUR UNION IN IT WITH CHRIST –June 29, 1943).

This is a doctrinal Encyclical to which every true Bishop, Priest, Religious and Layman must hold. OTHERWISE SUCH A ONE IS NOT A ROMAN CATHOLIC.

How does Mr. Mancuso explain these words to his people as he leads them into the camp of the Antichrist: heretics, schismatics, the excommunicated **“That those who are divided in faith or government cannot be living in the unity of such a Body, nor can they be living the life of its one Divine Spirit”?**

What “ecumenical magic” does Mr. Mancuso use to circumvent these clear doctrinal words of a true Pope? Does he use the usual tactic of the heretic – silence?

If I went to his church with the hope of receiving supernatural grace through the Sacraments, I should want to know if the one

administering the Sacrament is a valid priest and if he is in the true Church.

They also reject the Transubstantiation as well as the Priesthood. While on this point of doctrine and discipline, those who blindly follow Mr. Mancuso and all those whom he represents must know that **this man is not a valid Roman Catholic priest.**

Despite the fancy alphabet appended to his name, he is not a valid priest. He was ordained according to the new invalid rite. The new rite was introduced in 1968. No one, appearing as a bishop, priest or deacon, and ordained with the new rite is a valid bishop, priest or deacon.

True. The physical structure was built by Roman Catholics to be the House of God where the true Sacrifice of the Mass was offered and the Real Presence resided in the tabernacle. It is no longer the House of God and there is no Real Presence there because Mr. Mancuso does not have the divine power to consecrate. His bread and wine are no different than the “Communion Service” practiced by members of the different Protestant denominations.

Plainly stated: The people who

attend Mr. Mancuso's church are guilty of idolatry because they are exposed to worshiping a piece of bread. Protestant Ministers use the same words of consecration that the Church uses. But, note the big difference: The Protestant Ministers have neither the power nor the intention of transubstantiating the wafer into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. This is exactly what Mr. Mancuso and others like him accomplish: The wafer remains the wafer; the wine remains the wine.

This is no small matter. This is why we remnant Roman Catholics are extremely careful concerning the validity or invalidity of the Sacraments and the Sacrifice of the Mass.

As a point of objective fact: We who hold to the teachings of ALL the legitimate Popes up to and including Pope Pius XII, do not consider Roncalli (John XXIII) a valid and legitimate Pope. It is most probable that Mr. Mancuso's lack of knowledge of Catholic theology and ecclesiology are responsible for his errors and those of those around him.

Our position as Roman Catholics is very simple and direct. Our theological position is based on

postulates that have already been studied and the logical conclusions drawn: The last valid and legitimate Pope of the Roman Catholic Church was Pope Pius XII. All those following after him are usurpers and imposters.

From this premise flow all the logical consequences: The Great Apostasy foretold by St. Paul can only be of a universal nature because it originates in the Vatican.

Mr. Mancuso is in error when he speaks of "ecumenism" and carelessly states that we Roman Catholics do not have that particularly subjective idea of what it really means.

Our desire and prayer is that those who have been living in error might have the humility to see their error and would return to the true Church from which their ancestors tore them. Often with horrible violence, at that. Example: The followers of Calvin would enter a church where the priest was offering Mass and stab him to death right there at the altar. The many priests and Religious that these devil-inspired false Christians murdered is a matter of record. It is with Christ like patience that those martyrs suffered such violence and did not return evil for evil.

We are the ones who are genuinely ecumenical because we desire to embrace all mankind into the one, true fold of which Our Lord has spoken.

Mr. Mancuso is to be forgiven for his callous and coarse effort to identify Catholicism with a building rather than what is taught there. We can point to numerous architectural gems that were once Catholic churches, but have been taken over by force to house error. This man's ignorance may be excused by the fact that like so many, he simply moved into what was already built by true Catholics before him.

People like Mr. Mancuso fail to see the true light because it takes supernatural faith to see beyond circumstances of the surface. It would appear that Mr. Mancuso might have a problem accepting that Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, laying in a manger in a stable, just as he has a problem recognizing the true Church that has finally come to Fillmore, NY because it is temporarily housed in a restaurant.

On the other hand, missionaries in foreign lands usually had to start with nothing. They had to rent or buy an ordinary house to be used as a temporary residence

and church. Missionaries did not need "Pizza Nights" to attract youth to the faith. It is the supernatural grace of God that attracts souls to the true Church.

A missionary often started with just one convert. And little by little, conversions increased.

Sadly, many people are fooled into thinking that the appearance of the building is more important than what is preached inside. I would offer Mr. Mancuso the opportunity of having one of our well-trained and properly ordained Friar priests to speak in St. Patrick's church. As a sincere expression of his "ecumenical spirit" ... of course. He is very happy to engage in ecumenical prayer, service, and dialogue. Would it not be a visible gesture for him to accept an invitation to visit us? We have no personal animosity towards this man. Our problem is his theology. If he is sincere in his ecumenism and dialogue, it would be time to express and prove it. We, on the other hand, would welcome an invitation to speak about our beliefs- just as the Protestant Ministers most likely are invited to mutual services.

Franciscan Saints

FEBRUARY 10

VEN. JUNIPER VEGA AND HUMILIS MARTINEZ

Martyrs, First Order

In spite of the fact that for more than a century Mexico was a prey to Freemasonry and to laicism, the worst offspring of Freemasonry, it was reserved for this unfortunate country to be the first with which we associate the kingship of Christ in the sense of the new feast of Christ the King. To Mexico may also be attributed the first martyrs to Christ the King. Prominent among these are thirteen secular priests, one Augustinian, one priest of the Society of the Heart of Mary, two Jesuits, three Franciscans, and several Tertiaries.

Today we commemorate Father Juniper de la Vega and his faithful companion, Brother Humilis Martinez. Both received the habit of St. Francis in the same convent in 1901, remained together later on, suffered together for Christ, and were awarded the crown of martyrdom at the same time.

Father Juniper and Brother Humilis were both born in Mexico, the former in 1874, the latter in 1873. Juniper was another Nathaniel, a man in whom there was no guile, with a pronounced tendency towards the interior life. Humilis was impetuous by nature and possessed a tireless impulse for work.

During the persecution under the notorious Calles, both were twice cast into prison for the cause of Jesus Christ. In February, 1928, Brother Humilis wrote to his provincial: "I am in a prison which held a martyr captive before me. One can still see the traces of his blood. I am sending you a bit of ground that is saturated with his blood." On February eighth, Father Juniper was questioned in court. "How many Masses have you read?" an officer demanded. In all simplicity the Father answered: "Figure it out for yourself, for I was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1905." "I did not ask that," the officer replied, "but how

many Masses have you read since the prohibition was issued that no Masses be said at all?" The confessor asserted in his simple, upright manner: "If I am to tell the truth, as many Masses as I could." That was a crime punishable with death. Both the father and the brother were again led back to prison and were fully aware of what was awaiting them.

Brother Humilis again wrote to his provincial: "I spent the entire night in humbly asking God to forgive me my sins and in recommending my soul to the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, for it is clear that we must die. You need not, however, reply to this letter, for without doubt I shall not receive the answer any more."

During the night Father Juniper heard the confessions of his fellow prisoners. Early the next morning he cast himself upon the ground and prayed. When Brother Humilis begged him to take a little rest, since he had spent the night without any sleep, Juniper answered: "There is no longer any time to sleep; the hour has arrived to prepare for death." And so it happened.

The executioners soon arrived. Both confessors were forced to board a military train. At Ecuandureo Father Juniper was forced to alight and run. A rain of bullets followed him. Meanwhile, the rude soldiery were making sport of Brother Humilis. At Zamora he, too, was forced to alight, and was shot down in his tracks.

The funeral of the two martyrs was like a triumphal march. Father Juniper was solemnly interred at Ecuandureo, Brother Humilis at Zamora. Over the graves of both martyrs the jubilant cry of many thousands of voices could be heard repeating: "Live, Christ the King!"

ON LAICISM

1. What are we to understand by laicism? This pestilence of our modern era consists in the determination no longer to recognize a place for God, religion, and the Church, and to eliminate them from the lives of the people and of the state. Laicism has been most unhappily successful in Mexico and in other countries. The name of God is purposely disregarded at state, political,

and business sessions. It has been forgotten that God is “the blessed and only mighty, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Tim. 6:15).

2. How did laicism arise? At first the authority of God was denied, as also that of His Anointed One over the nations, then the right of the Church of Christ to teach and guide the people. After that the religion of Christ was assigned to a place alongside the false creeds, and grossly subjected to civil authority. Finally, every Christian conviction was rejected. And yet, the God-man has solemnly commanded the representatives of the Church: “Going therefore, teach ye all nations” (Matth. 28:19). — Let us, then, be the more faithful to Christ and His Church, the more others attack them.

3. What results are bound up with laicism? Pope Pius XI gives the answer in his encyclical of the year 1925: “Dissension has been sown everywhere, the flame of envy and jealousy is kindled among the nations. Human society, which has rebelled against God and Christ, has been shaken, brought to the verge

of perdition, and is threatened with unavoidable dissolution.” The representatives of laicism are “blind and leaders of the blind” (Matth. 15:14). And matters must come to a still worse turn before they will recognize the real state of things. — Pray for these deluded souls, and, following in the glorious footsteps of the Mexican martyrs, take your stand unflinchingly for the rights of Christ and of His Church. Do this particularly at the time of elections.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty and eternal God, who didst make Thy glory known to the whole of Christendom; protect the work of Thy mercy, so that Thy Church, which is spread over the world, may remain firm in its confession of Thy name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**CONFERENCES ON THE
BLESSED TRINITY.
BY
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CONFERENCE IV.**

**ON THE DIVINITY OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST
THE SECOND PERSON OF
THE BLESSED TRINITY**

(CONTINUED)

From the consideration of the sublimity of our blessed Lord's moral teachings, the manner in which He announced them, His wisdom, and the sanctity of His life, let us now reflect on the manner in which he confirmed His doctrines and proved His divinity. This was accomplished chiefly by his miracles and promises.

A miracle is a work contrary to the laws of nature which none but God can perform, or one to whom God has given that power for the purpose of confirming the truth of declarations made in God's name. The sudden bringing on of any disorder or sickness, the instantaneous removal thereof without medi-

cine, the raising of the dead to life, and such like, are miracles. They have been wrought by Jesus Christ, and by others in His name; there is as much evidence to prove them as to prove any other facts that took place in the past.

According to the dictate of reason and the common consent of the human race, miracles are incontestable evidences of truth. They are proof against the keenest criticism and they mark the hand of God. They are the undoubted seal of the Divinity in attestation of truth, the silent but powerful voice of the Omnipotent, at whose bidding all other arguments cease, because the voice of God is equally conclusive to all minds, of whatever state or condition.

II.

Whenever our Lord gives a precept He gives a corresponding grace to keep it. Whenever He inculcates great mysteries He proves them by the performance of great miracles.

Our Lord wrought miracles; there is nothing more sure under heaven. The Gospel narrative

gives us the history of many. Let us select a few: at one time He feeds five thousand men with five loaves of bread; another He changes water into wine; then He cures divers diseases, casts out unclean spirits, raises the dead to life; to show His glory He is transfigured on Mount Thabor; He raises Himself from the dead; after forty days He ascends into heaven; He has but one human parent, who is at the same time a spotless virgin and a mother. These are some of His miracles, and there is nothing more certain.

What proofs do you require to be convinced of facts which you have not witnessed That they should have taken place, not in a corner, but publicly and in broad day, in a civilized community, and that they should have been performed in the presence of many trustworthy witnesses; and if these witnesses were of all ages and of every condition, so much the better. But our Lord's miracles were wrought in the most enlightened age of the world, the golden age of literature, and their publicity is a warrant against fraud and cunning.

What if their witnesses are even the declared enemies of Him, who performs them, and if, despite of their malice, they admit them as incontestably true? In that case there is no possibility of mistake, and no sane man can doubt them. Such are our Lord's miracles.

Could anything occur more open, more visible, or more tangible than the raising of Lazarus to life close to the gates of Jerusalem, one of the most populous and enlightened cities in the universe? No less so was the curing of the man who was born blind, and whom everybody knew; the feeding of the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes; and the instant cure of many of all manner of diseases in the middle of the streets, and in all public places, and everywhere in the villages, and cities, and towns, and highways of Judea. The sun in the heavens is not more certain than these marvelous facts. These miracles bear the seal of the conviction of those who, enraged against our Lord, clamored for His death and attempted to prevent the miracles from becoming known, though truth forced themselves even to acknowledge them: *Non possumus negare*. The people who

trail over the earth — the penalty of having rejected their Messiah — confess that these miracles were wrought among them by One who preached the most sublime doctrines, which He confirmed by all these wonders; that He styled Himself King of the Jews, Christ, and the natural Son of God; and they confess that for these reasons they put him to death. Do we need any further authority to convince us of the truth of these miracles?

The manner in which they were performed removes all doubt regarding their veracity. Every circumstance forbids the suspicion of human agency or contrivance. They were wrought without preparation and without physical or mechanical appliance, at any and every moment, everywhere, and by a single word. This is the only art, the only medicine; at this single word, and sometimes without a word at all, the blind see, the lame walk, all the multitudes are suddenly cured of their infirmities. *Lazarus, come forth!* Like the creative fiat, at this sound the festering body of the dead awakes to life, and the multitude confess that such works were never before seen in Israel. The Jews determined to de-

stroy both Lazarus and Jesus, God and His witness, because they could not deny the miracle. Oh! the blindness of the sinner's heart.

Although His miracles display the divine attributes of goodness and compassion for His creatures, our Lord did not perform them from motives of mere benevolence, for the same reasons exist today to cause Him to banish pain and death from the world. He wrought them for the higher purpose of establishing the truth of His teachings, and especially that He is God. We all share in them; they are perpetuated in the Church, and each proves every point singly and the entire body of her doctrines.

When the Baptist sent his disciples to inquire if Christ was God, for their answer He performed many miracles in their presence, and added: *Go and relate to John, What you have heard and seen: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead arise again.* This was in accordance with the prophecy of Isaias.

After Jesus had cured the man

who was born blind the chief Men among the Jews waited on Him and asked Him to tell them openly if He were Christ, or God — for both meant the same thing. He answered: *The works which I work in the name of my Father, they give testimony of me.* Before He raised Lazarus to life He declared formally that He performed the miracle that those who saw it might recognize Him as the sent of God.

To resume: God alone could give power to perform these miracles. This none can deny. It is equally clear that an individual exercising this power in proof of facts which he announces gives abundant evidence that God is with him, that what he declares in the name of God must be received as true; for God becomes responsible for the truth of His declaration. That our Lord performed miracles no sane man call deny; then God was with Him and all that He spoke is true. He wrought His miracles to prove His divinity; God would not permit the performance of a miracle for the purpose of establishing a lie, thus making Himself the

witness of a falsehood, to the detriment of His own honor and glory and of our salvation. Nor would the Spirit of God instruct the prophets so as to dispose the minds of men to believe a falsehood. Nor would He inspire the Evangelists to write a romance for the practice of mankind to the world's end. It follows that Jesus Christ is the true and only Son of God, is equal to the Father, and perfectly like Him; He is God, and the Second Person of the blessed Trinity.

Whom do you say that I am demanded our Lord of the apostles. Peter answered in the name of the rest: *Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God* (Matt. xvi.) Our Lord puts us the same question today. We answer: *We know and we believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.* We pray to hear the same words addressed to us as to Peter as the reward of our faith: *Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona.* Yes, with this faith we are happy in this life, and will be happier still in the life to come.

Man or angel could never re-

count the mercies of Jesus Christ to the human race. He has bestowed on us law, order, society, art, and science — the world itself and all it contains. He took away the sins of the whole world, opened the way to heaven, made us children of God and heirs to His eternal empire. Seated at the right hand of God, His gifts still flow with unabated abundance. He pardons our sins, nourishes us with His body and blood, makes us members of the true Church; He heals our infirmities, consoles our sorrows, and is with us in our journey to the grave. To use His own divine words, He is our way, our truth, our light, our life, our salvation, and our justice.

“Favors make gods” was a maxim of pagan times. Man’s worship is the expression of his love and gratitude towards his benefactor. Men, forgetful of their Maker, worshipped the air by which they lived, the sun that gave them light by day, the moon and stars by night, the conquerors who saved them from their enemies, the wise princes whose just laws made them happy and contented. The benefits bestowed by the best

benefactors of our race are paltry when compared to the favors conferred by our Lord on every tribe and nation and individual in the universe. Constituted as man is, there cannot be wanting on earth those who will adore Him, thank Him, and bless His holy name.

He does not end His miraculous life by instructing His disciples to thank God for every good and perfect gift conferred through His ministry. On the contrary, before He bids farewell to earth He binds us to Him by ties both indissoluble and everlasting. He commands us to believe in Him, to hope in Him, and to love Him still. He promises more than He had already bestowed, and assures us in His own words: *I am with you, all days, even to the consummation of the world.*

(*To be Continued*)



Could You Explain Catholic Practices?

Rev. Charles J Mullaly, S.J.

THE CATACOMBS OF ROME

It was a warm day in summer, and the Appian Way was uncomfortably hot beneath the glare of an Italian afternoon sun. My companion and I had left Rome by the Porta S. Sebastiano and, when about a mile and a quarter from the city proper, we had turned to the right, into a vineyard marked by large cypress trees. We were at the entrance to the Catacombs of St. Callistus.

My companion was a non-Catholic and an earnest seeker of the true faith. I had told him if he wished to see a visible proof that the doctrines of the Catholic Church of today are the same as those of the Early Church, then he should visit the catacombs of Rome. He became interested, and asked me to accompany him. As the combined length of the galleries of the various catacombs now discovered is estimated to be 587 miles, it was clear that we could visit only a small number of them. I chose St. Callistus.

Guided by a Trappist monk we descended, with lighted tapers, a steep stairway and found ourselves in a chill, damp gallery that lay hidden in appalling darkness far below the surface of the vineyard. It was a narrow gallery leading into many others. We had left the world of the twentieth century, and had gone back to the days of Pope Callistus I, to the year A.D. 218.

By the dim taper-light I saw an expression of awe upon my companion's face. The voice of the monk sounded strange and sepulchral in those silent depths of the earth, as he called our attention to each inscription on the slabs inserted in the walls and enclosing the remains of confessors and virgins of those early post-Apostolic days. There were many broken slabs; and some empty niches in the walls showed where once the bodies of martyrs lay for centuries until they were removed to various Roman churches.

In those narrow galleries and in

the broader chapels excavated in the soft stone — the volcanic *tufa granolare* — we saw everywhere evidence of what was the belief of those who received their Faith directly from the disciples of the Apostles themselves. In the Tomb Chapel of the Popes were buried many of the early successors of St. Peter as head of Christ's Church on earth.

On the walls about us were words and symbols, centuries old, of our own Catholic beliefs of today: the Divinity of Christ, Baptism, the Holy Eucharist, the Mass, Purgatory, the Resurrection of the Dead, the Sacrament of Penance, the Communion of Saints, Holy Orders, and the love of Mary, the Mother of Christ, etc. As we descended deeper and deeper and penetrated galleries that lay beneath galleries, I scarcely noticed that the air was chill with a penetrating dampness, for my heart was warm with gratitude that I possessed the same faith and the same belief of that Early Church, governed then, as now, by the Pope of Rome. Only one spiritually blind could fail to see that

the Catholic Church of today is the Catholic Church of the Catacombs.

When our supply of tapers was burning low, we retraced our steps and ascended the steep stairs and stood once more in the bright Italian sunshine. My companion was strangely silent. I did not obtrude upon his thoughts as we quietly walked back to the Eternal City. I was not surprised when I heard later that he had become a member of the Catholic Church.

The researches of the learned Jesuit, Father Marchi, and of his celebrated pupil, De Rossi, have explained the origin and the mode of construction of these underground cemeteries and meeting places of the early Christians of Rome. They were not mere abandoned sand-pits occupied by the followers of Christ. They were cemeteries, and were excavated under a privilege of the laws of pagan Rome which rendered the tombs of the dead inviolable. They began in times of persecution after the first century. Their subterranean galleries offered a secret

refuge, and a place for Holy Mass and the reception of the Sacraments. Secret chapels were dug and intricate galleries were made that seemed to lead nowhere, for pagan spies had to be baffled. Entrances were concealed by connecting them with old, disused sand-pits.

Cardinal Wiseman in “Fabiola” gives us a beautiful picture of the Church of the Catacombs: of the faith of the early Christians and the dangers besetting them. It is a story that should be known by every Catholic.



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Editorial

(Continued)

the Blessed Mother’s powerful intercession.

The Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure has said: **“hat whoever neglected Our Lady would perish in his sins and would be damned”**.

There should be no doubt as to where Jimmy Swaggart is going along with his entire family and everyone who listens and supports his “family business” of doing Satan’s work.

It is not too late to repent – no matter who you are. Especially will the punishment be greatest for tepid Catholics.

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