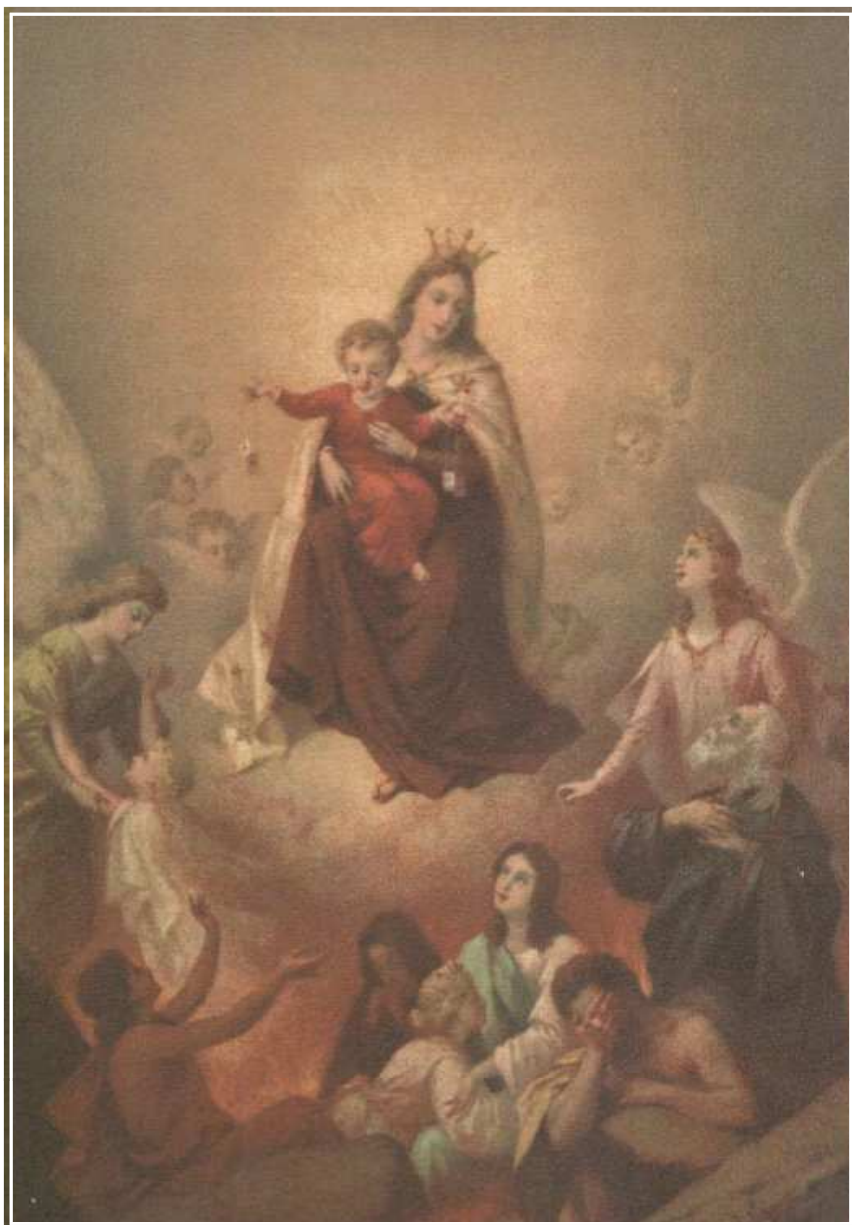


# THE SERAPH

November 2012

Vol. XXXIII No. 3



## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Right Order vs Demonic Anarchy .....        | 1  |
| Franciscan Saints .....                     | 9  |
| Surge Maria, Salva Nos! .....               | 11 |
| Religious Freedom.....                      | 15 |
| CONFERENCES ON THE BLESSED TRINITY. ....    | 20 |
| Could You Explain Catholic Practices? ..... | 23 |

---

### EDITOR

Bishop Louis Vezelis, O.F.M.

### PRODUCTION

Mr. Francis Y. No  
Bishop Giles O.F.M.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Rev. S.O. Park

### CIRCULATION

Bishop Giles Butler, O.F.M.

The **SERAPH** is published monthly except July and August by the Franciscan Friars at 3376 Mt. Read Blvd. Rochester, NY 14616.

The **SERAPH** defends the authentic doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, and the moral values upon which Godly nations were founded.

The **SERAPH** stands opposed to any and all heterodoxy, particularly as manifested in today's heresy of Modernism. It holds to the principle that good will without truth is a sham and that truth without good will is a shame.

The **SERAPH** seeks to serve and unite in spirit all Roman Catholics faithful to tradition and all men of good will for the betterment of society according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

USA: Free upon request.  
Suggested donation \$20.00.  
FOREIGN: Air Mail: \$40.00 per year

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO:

**The SERAPH**  
3376 MOUNT READ BLVD  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14616  
Tel. (585) 621-1122  
e-mail: friars@friarsminor.org

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Articles dealing with Roman Catholic doctrine, morals, history, and spirituality are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit and / or use articles submitted. Manuscripts returned with SAE. Opinions expressed in **THE SERAPH** are not necessarily those of the publishers.

© 2012 All rights reserved. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the publishers.

### Publishers

Order of St. Francis of Assisi, Inc.  
Rochester, New York 14616 USA

In essentia - Unitas. In dubio - Libertas.  
In omnibus - Caritas.

# Right Order vs Demonic Anarchy

(Part 2)

It seems preposterous that today, in the two-thousand and twelfth year of Our Lord, that we must speak of the existence of God. Our world has truly regressed to the point of foolishness. We read in Psalm 13: *“The fool says in his heart: There is no God. They are corrupt, and are become abominable in their ways: there is none that doth good, no not one. The Lord hath looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there be any that understand and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are become unprofitable together: there is none that doth good: no not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they acted deceitfully: the poison of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood. Destruction and unhappiness is in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes. Shall not all they know that work iniquity, who devour my people as they eat bread? They have not called upon the Lord: there have they trembled for fear, where there*

*was no fear. For the Lord is in the just generation: you have confounded the counsel of the poor man; but the Lord is his hope. Who shall give out of Sion the salvation of Israel? When the Lord shall have turned away the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.”*

Filled with a foolish pride and vanity, many in the name of science or reason deny the existence of God. The entire creation speaks to us of a Creator. The similarity of DNA among creatures does not speak of chance or evolution but rather of a single Creator; just as the similarity of strokes, colors, tone, style and mood in artwork speaks to us of the same artist who made it. Those who study such things in the art world can readily discern one artist from another by his artwork. While the discerning of an artist from his work requires labor and study, the discerning of God from His creation is open to all; from the uneducated to the wisest of philosophers.

It was once said that wherever one goes he will find that

people always have a god. We would sooner have found a city without walls than find a people without a god. The ancient Pagan philosophers even came to the conclusion that there must be a god; there must be only one; He must be perfect, etc. And they know this not from Revelation, but through natural observation and reason. Today's "philosophers" and "scientists" have gone to the opposite extreme declaring that there is no god. The devils are certainly to be found having a hand in all this.

In the primitive life of man – when he was not far removed from walking with God in the Garden of Paradise – the knowledge of God was solid and firm. The devils out of hatred for God and man began to present themselves in the place of God, and as man grew farther from God they began to embrace these devils as gods. (We therefore see the need of the first Commandment given to Moses: "Thou shall not have strange gods before Me.") As there are many devils, so paganism adopted many gods. This tactic of the devils was suited for the time and the people of that age who understood and knew that

there is and must be a god. Through time the devils have been perfecting their attacks against God and man. Today the temptation is to deny the existence of God and all the false ancient Pagan gods too. One might object that this requires a denial of the devils themselves. Why would the devils want this? It is very simple: If we deny the existence of the devils we cease fighting against them or resisting their evil suggestions. Their ultimate goal is our damnation, and today they can accomplish this best by getting us to deny all spirituality and live lives of mechanical materialism. We in essence are led by devils that we deny exist, and make ourselves our own gods and thus imitate and follow the devils who sought to make themselves God.

In order to move forward in the spiritual realm it is often necessary that we look back and learn what modern materialistic man has long forgotten. The natural world all around us speaks loudly of a Creator if we will only open our hearts and minds to listen. Literature is replete with the beautiful observations of men who sought to instill these same observations and ideas into the hearts of their

fellow men. A poem by Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918) readily comes to mind: *“I think that I shall never see, A poem lovely as a tree. A tree whose hungry mouth is prest, Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast; A tree that looks at God all day, And lifts her leafy arms to pray; A tree that may in Summer wear, A nest of robins in her hair; Upon whose bosom snow has lain; Who intimately lives with rain. Poems are made by fools like me, But only God can make a tree.”*

We see that all the creatures from the inanimate rock, plants, animals and even man have a purpose or goal; they have a design that they have not given themselves. Contained in the tiny oak seed is the germ and potential for the mighty oak tree. That little seed is without a doubt designed to not only germinate, but to grow and increase in size and strength from season to season and in time to bear fruit like itself season after season. In philosophy we have a principle that basically says that we first think of the end, or the completed thing, but this completed thing occurs last in time even though it was first in thought. For example when one decides to

build a house, he first thinks of a finished house and then he works back to where he must begin to accomplish this goal of building a house. He does not first think of digging a hole and laying a foundation and then decide that he wants to build a house. His first thought is of the house, his last thought was of hole and foundation even though, the hole and foundation are the first to be materially actualized. We see this same principle in the design of a simple acorn. This acorn is not the first idea, but it is the first step in the material actualization of an oak tree. Everyone knows that if we want to start an oak tree we have first to get our hands on an acorn. This is the way of nature. And we know that if we plant an acorn and it successfully germinates we will obtain an oak tree. It will not be a maple, or any other tree, nor will it be an animal, it will only be an oak tree. This is the design of the acorn and this design was not made by us. This design did not happen by chance, but by intelligent foresight and forethought; just as the building of a house does not happen by chance, but by intelligent foresight and forethought. We might call this idea a principle

of intelligent design. We see this design in everything. All the plants, animals, and people have always started out in a seed or germ state, moving through the process of fertilization, embryonic growth and development to reach ultimately the goal of maturity. There is an intelligent design in this process that is not placed there by any creature, nor could it have happened by chance. If we step outside and look at our homes, no matter how simple they may be, we will see that these homes did not make themselves nor were they created just by chance, but are the work of some intelligent designer.

There is a branch of philosophy known as Theodicy. It is a science that studies God as knowable by unaided human reason. In this science we examine from many directions how we know that God exists. This science is distinct from Theology which is the science of God as revealed to us through Revelation. Theodicy is therefore limited in what can be discovered, but it does discover enough so that based upon natural reason and observation alone every intelligent being must know that there is a God. Hence, we conclude with the

Psalmist as above that: "Only the fool says in his heart there is no God." One of the arguments of Theodicy may be outlined like this:

***"If the world exhibits a most wonderful and constant order and design, and is directed, in itself and in its parts, to an end, it has an intelligent designer and governor, and, ultimately, a First Designer and First Governor who can be no other than the First Necessary Being or God.***

***Now, the world does exhibit a most wonderful and constant order and design, and is directed, in itself and in its parts, to an end.***

***Therefore, the world has an intelligent designer and governor, and, ultimately, a First Designer and First Governor who can be no other than the First Necessary Being or God. Therefore God exists.*** (Theodicy, Paul J. Glenn, Ph.D., S.T.D. 1939)

There also appears to be something very integral in man that demands that he worship something. Even when man irrationally decides to deny the existence of God, he invariably

bows down before some false god of his or another's creation. The devils are always eager to step in and fill this profound need deep within the souls of men. We see in our own times the making of sports or recreation into a religion or a god. Sunday, the Lord's day has been diverted into a sports day. (Not a day of exercise and recreation for the body, but rather a day of idleness and indulgence.) The sports fan (fanatic) sacrifices the time, attention and devotion that even natural reason says belongs to God, so that he might dedicate it all to watching other people compete against one another. His "team" that he "supports" enraptures him in a useless pursuit of some fleeting "honor." Completely unable to aid his team in the contest he is reduced to cheering and recounting the plays with himself or his friends. This enthusiasm is very appealing to the materialistic person. He has a god that he can see and hear and follow without any concern of changing or improving himself. Added to this we have a continual round of sports for every season. As one sport draws its season to a close another has already begun its season, leaving the fanatic

chasing one sports religion after another and never leaving any room for the true God. They have basically proven the point that there must be a god even if they have to create one.

If you will listen to them talk and just change the sport terms for religious ones, I think it will be clear enough that this is a religion. They argue over whose god (team) is better, they argue over which god (sport) is better. When their player or their team god fails or suffers it is felt as a personal attack upon them. They readily condemn and criticize judges and referees, etc when calls are made against their "gods." We often hear the very term "idol" and "hero" used in sports. How many people today will be able to tell us the specific details of many different players' statistics, but will not know the most basic things of true religion? Many, who even call themselves "Catholic," will be able to tell us the details of last Sunday's game, but cannot tell us the what the Ten Commandments are, or the Seven Sacraments, and perhaps even worse, will not even be able to say what the sermon was about that they sat through earlier in the day.

It is not just sports, but many parts of our materialistic world that the devils have used to create false gods for us and lead us away from the One, True, God. We have also shopping, traveling, eating, drinking and gambling, etc. Each, in its own way easily become false gods or idols for us, if we allow ourselves to slip into these temptations and snares laid out for us by the fallen angels.

It may be easy for today's world to dismiss the foolishness and nonsense the Greek and Roman Pagan gods of antiquity, but if we are honest we will just as readily dismiss the modern materialistic gods our society has given us, even though they do not come right out and call them "gods." The tragedy is that in dismissing the Pagan gods of old or new, the demonic temptation is to dismiss the One True God along with all the false ones. This appears to be where our modern materialistic/mechanistic "scientists" are being led by devils who are filling their vain heads with such self flattering demonic pride. In denying all gods they attempt to make themselves into gods. They seek the praise, adulation, and even the worship of their fellow men. The devils do not

care. It does not matter if they drag us into Hell this way or that way – worshiping devils, our selves, or some other creature – as long as we do not worship the One True God the devils win.

The gods of "sports" and the gods of "science" are truly no different than the mythologies of Pagan Greece or Rome. They promise us ultimate happiness, but are never able to deliver it. What they offer is always nothing but a fleeting temporal amusement. It is a distraction and therefore an obstacle to the true worship that we owe to God.

The temptations to turn away from God are always near at hand. We must, therefore, be ever vigilant that while avoiding and rejecting one we do not fall into another. Our security is in focusing our attention solely upon God in and through His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. Outside of this True Church and True God there is no salvation, there is no real peace, and there is no real happiness. There may be fleeting temporal amusement as we stated above, but this is never to be considered true peace or true happiness. Our souls and our very nature seek and demand an



unending peace and happiness. The devils want us to look for this anywhere and everywhere except in the only place we can find it – in God.

We must protect ourselves from the defilement of worshipping any false gods, because this is an abomination and a lie that is most repulsive to God who is all Truth. Ecumenical worship at the altars of false religions and to false gods is something that every Catholic should understand is a terrible sin that may promise peace and happiness, but will ultimately only bring pain, suffering, and misery. Every day belongs to God, but one day is special that He set aside for us to fulfill our religious obligations. We must never lightly set aside these obligations in the pursuit of some worldly material temporal pleasure. God must come first every day but, especially on this day, we must place Him first. Our Sunday obligations are not just attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the morning, but the whole day must be made holy. It is not too much to begin the preparations the day before. If we were going on a vacation for worldly pleasure we would not wait until the morning before it was time to leave to get

everything prepared; likewise, we should not wait until just before Mass to prepare ourselves. Our preparation entails not only being properly groomed and attired but also time must be given to our souls (hearts and minds) to quietly reflect and prepare ourselves for where we are going and what we are doing. We should be in the Church well before it is time for Mass to begin so that we have ample time to quietly prepare ourselves for participation in this Holy Sacrifice and for receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. We must avoid the temptation to rush out as soon as the priest leaves the altar. Rather, we should seek to cultivate in our hearts a longing desire to remain there in Church (God's house) in the presence of God, and always leave rather reluctantly as we are departing from one who loves us so much. This is just the beginning. We must strive to keep the presence of God with us long after we leave the Church. Forgetting God and rushing home to watch the game or to sleep the day away is not a profitable way to honor God or keep the day holy; it is rather a way to participate in the worship of a false god; and may appear okay and very "ecumenical" in

the eyes of the rest of the world, but it is offensive to God. It is also a scandal to all. This day is a wonderful day to read and study the Catholic Faith so that we might grow in our knowledge of God and therefore in our love of Him. May we strive to only please God and enjoy moderate recreation that would never distract from the love and worship that we owe to God on this day.



## The Sunday Sermon

The Sunday Sermon is a biweekly paper that offers a few spiritual thoughts for each Sunday throughout the year.

The Sunday Sermon began with a desire of our people who could not get to Mass on Sunday.

The Sunday Sermon has now become very popular. Subscribers are asking that we send The Sunday Sermon to their friends and relatives.

We only ask the small donation of \$10 per year (or whatever you can afford) to help us cover the cost of production and mailing.

Why not subscribe today for yourself or a friend?

Write to:

The Sunday Sermon  
3376 Mount Read Blvd.  
Rochester, New York 14616

**THE MAKING OF A GOOD WILL OR TRUST:  
HAVE YOU REMEMBERED GOD?**

**LET YOUR BLESSINGS  
CONTINUE TO BLESS OTHERS BY  
REMEMBERING THE FRANCISCANS AND THEIR WORK IN  
YOUR  
WILL OR TRUST!**

**Our Legal Title is:  
ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Inc.  
3376 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester, NY 14616**

# Franciscan Saints

---

NOVEMBER 3

BLESSED RAYNER OF AREZZO

*Confessor, First Order*

Rayner was born at Arezzo, Tuscany, of the noble family of the Mariani. From his earliest years he was noted for his piety and humility, and when he asked to be admitted into the Franciscan Order, he desired to be only a lay brother. His thought was that he might thus be unobserved by the world and in a better position to lead a life entirely hidden in God.

In his efforts to attain to sanctity he took our Saviour as his model, and in turn his eminently virtuous life soon made him a model to all the brethren. He distinguished himself in a very pronounced way with fraternal charity, profound humility, perfect obedience, and truly evangelical poverty. That is why the servant of God Benedict of Arezzo, a missionary in the East, who had received the holy habit at the hands of St. Francis himself and had been named provincial of Syria, chose Brother Rayner as his constant companion on his apostolic travels.

Brother Rayner also formed a

close friendship with Brother Masseo, that one time beloved companion of St. Francis. He listened eagerly to whatever Masseo could tell him of the remarkable life and holy conduct of our seraphic Father, and he strove as eagerly to imitate the things he heard.

Blessed Rayner died a holy death in the year 1304 at Borgo near Arezzo. His mortal remains rest there in the church of the Friars Minor Conventual, and are highly venerated by the people even to this day. In 1802 Pope Pius VII approved the veneration accorded to him for the previous five centuries and entered his name among the blessed of holy Church.

## ON THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

1. Consider what a wise choice Blessed Rayner made when he chose Christ as his model, for Christ came into this world not only to redeem us, but also to enlighten us and to show us the way to heaven. That is why

He speaks of Himself as the light of the world, and says: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). He is the true and only certain way to eternal life. His teachings and His conduct on earth direct us how to act properly in every circumstance of life. Could we do better than to follow the lessons of our Divine Master? — Have the life and teachings of Christ been the rule of your conduct in the past?

2. Consider that imitating Christ differs widely from the life and the principles of the world. The world says: Make life comfortable for yourself, acquire fame and honor, amass money and worldly goods, then you will acquire prestige and be in a position to enjoy life. Christ, on the other hand, practiced and taught humility, poverty, self-denial, and carrying the cross. And so He tells the world: "I am not of this world" (John 17:16), and He says that His disciples, too, are not of this world. — When you reflect on your past life and its ambitions, what have you to say for yourself? Are you of this world, or do you belong to the disciples of Christ?

3. "To many this seemeth a hard saying," says Thomas a

Kempis (2:12): "Deny thyself, take up thy cross, and follow Jesus." "But it will be much harder," he continues, "to hear that last word: Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." And yet, he who will not listen to the words of Christ about imitating Him in self-denial and carrying the cross will be obliged to listen to those other words when eternity dawns. For there is no other way that leads to salvation than that of the imitation of Christ. "He who is not with me, is against me," our Lord Himself has said (Matth. 12:30). And, "he who will not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Matth. 10:38).

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst make Thy confessor Blessed Rayner admirable in imitating Thee and treading the hard road of humility, poverty, obedience, and patience, grant that we, through his intercession and the imitation of his example, may live in a manner pleasing to Thee. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

# Surge Maria, Salva Nos!

Bishop Bonaventure Strandt, OFM

How shall I begin? After all, it makes no difference what month it is, or what festival day the Church is now keeping. In fact, there is never an inappropriate time to write what will be written over the course of the next many months. There is no shortage of praises to be sung, or thoughts to be expressed. Even the greatest Doctors of the Church have never fully explained this great marvel, although they have filled our Catholic libraries most admirably. You can decipher by the title that I am, of course, trying to offer a sort of preface to describing the glories of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her titles, her honors, and her distinct and never-changing place in the realm of creation, all serve to fill us with wonder. How can it be that the Omnipotent God has filled this one humble soul with such an outpouring of tremendous graces? How can one simple and obedient maiden attain the astounding title of “Mother of the Creator”? And yet, every member of the Mystical Body of Christ, from Saint John the Apostle, down to each and every one of us, honors and reverences the Blessed Virgin with true and devoted love. It is

expressly God’s will for all of His children to show nothing but the purest and holiest admiration and respect for the crowning glory of His creatures, Mary.

To be certain, Catholics find themselves in a terrible state of mind these days. Don’t you tend to agree? Since the advancement of the hellacious decrees of Vatican Council II, the entire Catholic world has been shaken to very foundations. Its pillars of unshakable truth have been toppled by the Father of Lies with greater ease than those pillars which Samson threw down with his might. The cowardly have remained in the camp of the Antichrist (Modernist churches) out of sheer fright, and the spirit of dissension has increased with each passing year among those who believe that they can right these wrongs by themselves. The prophecy of the Apocalypse has come true, that the tail of the Old Dragon has dragged down to Hell the third part of the stars of Heaven. These stars are explained by the Church Fathers as the Bishops of the Holy Catholic Church, who were thrust down to Hell in one sweeping motion of Satan. How clearly we have

witnessed with our own eyes the near-complete destruction of the Episcopal power and authority that is derived from the Holy Spirit Himself! So many Bishops were either seduced or reprogrammed to ignore the Truth which they once vowed in the sight of God to defend with their lives if necessary.

We are wandering in this valley of tears, **“as chastised but not killed”**, tormented as Lot was with the wickedness of our fellow creatures. Day and night we find ourselves unable to escape the constant influx of evil into our lives. Each generation, each school classroom, each and every family, seems to grow further away from God, and further away from any thought of obeying His commandments or of pleasing Him. A constant stream of blood fills the earth, with brothers murdering each other in order to serve the god of greed. Infants are ripped from their mother’s wombs with horrible violence every single day. The blasphemies of brutish people spew forth into the streets, onto the airwaves, and into the minds and hearts of fresh and impressionable children. Our children are taught to be corrupt and evil before they even understand the purpose of their lives. All that is good and

holy is mocked and spit upon, with the true Sacrifice of the Mass now viewed as nothing but empty ceremony by nearly every darkened soul on the face of this earth. The one thing that is sparing mankind from the fullness of God’s wrath is most despised! It is just as though Our Lord is enduring His Passion all over again, only this time it is His Mystical Body that suffers the agony and the shame, rather than His physical body.

Yes, we cry out to Heaven, and sometimes it seems that we are not heard. The wicked seem to prosper, while those who struggle to maintain even a small bit of virtue have the most difficult time separating themselves from the harmful temptations of this world. Even King David’s struggle becomes our own, when he witnessed how the wicked seemed to be blessed, while he was banished from his own kingdom, persecuted by his own son, and hunted down like an animal. Where was the justice for King David? In several Psalms he questions this apparent paradox of God’s justice. Then, he is reminded, just as we are often reminded by the Holy Ghost, that the goods of this world are passing away right before our eyes. So often, we forget that God

sometimes allows the wicked to prosper, because these material blessings are the only goods that the souls of the unjust will be able to enjoy for all of eternity. Overall, the evil of this world seems to be so great that we are coming very close to the end of time. We know from the revelations afforded to us by the Holy Scriptures, that the Day of Judgment will be one of such terror and trouble of mind, that men and women will be crying out for the mountains to fall upon and crush them, so that they will be able to avoid the frightful gaze of the Divine Judge. The suicidal despair of a great number of millions of people shows that this prophecy is already beginning to come true.

Do I mean to tell you that the only prophecies to be fulfilled in our generation are ones of anguish and despair? Absolutely not! Think for moment: What did Our Lord teach to His disciples about the coming of the end of the world? He said: **“But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is at hand.”** Luke 21, 28. “Look up”, He says to us to console our hearts, “LOOK UP!” And to whom to shall we look up, Lord? We are suffering every kind of sorrow and misery in this 21<sup>st</sup>

century, and there seems to be no solution at all! What kind of a strange blindness our sorrows cause! Aren’t we very much like Philip, who was with the Lord for so long, and still did not recognize Him as the Messiah? We should know by now to go and look up to our Holy Mother Mary, whose every thought is consecrated towards every possible good and blessing she can possibly obtain for the world. Her thoughts, her tender love, her pleading, her joys and sorrows, are all intertwined with the souls of each and every human being. Her constant care and continual and immeasurable mercies cause us to look up to her open hands, those same hands that have filled our souls with every grace and heavenly blessing. Yes, we have never received a single grace without the mediation of the Blessed Mother. God has so loved her as to place the entire treasury of Heaven’s bounty at her disposal. There is no other place that we need to look for consolation, for guidance, for instruction, or for any type of help, except the throne of the Queen of the Angels.

It is fascinating to consider that we are an integral part of the greatest prophecy ever announced to the world. Yes, you and I are living the fulfillment of a prophecy

every day. Rest assured, I know the gravity of what I am saying. The greatest prophecy in the world is intimately connected with the greatest event of all time. The greatest of all events in the whole history of the world is the Incarnation of Our Holy Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest prophecy of all time is connected with His birth, but not in the simple announcement of the event. No, the greatest prophecy is magnified infinitely in its fulfillment, because of the radiation of extraordinary graces associated with it. This declaration has filled Heaven with deeply grateful saintly souls, has instilled in the holy angels a daily increase of love and gratitude, and it has even made the King of Kings rejoice again and again, each time it shows itself to be true. This is the prophetic proclamation of the Blessed Virgin herself, after she was overshadowed and filled with the Holy Spirit. She announced to every one of us: **“Behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.”** This was at one and the same time a mysterious prophecy, and a solemn command of the Lord. No one, not a single soul, can reach Heaven without paying their debt of proper honor and devotion to Mary. God has so decreed it until the end of time, that all who would wish to please

Him will also love, revere, and obey this most privileged of His creatures.

Mary is rightfully called the Ark of the Testament, because the Beginning, the Alpha and the Omega, God Almighty Himself, chose to be housed in the sacred and spotless chamber of her immaculately pure womb. She is called the Gate of Heaven, and even the serenely pious Saint Bonaventure styles her as a type of Jacob’s ladder, upon which all prospective saints must find themselves ascending towards Heaven. No one is able, therefore, to ever reach eternal paradise without the direct intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This means that all religions that exclude her from their theology are false and, in very fact, evil. How blessed we are to possess for our own Mother, the Refuge of Sinners, and the Consoler of the Afflicted. It was the advancement of both Saint Louis de Montfort, as well as Pope Pius XII, that it is entirely necessary for Mary to become stronger than ever in our days. She must rise up to rescue her children from the pitfalls of this life; and she must also guard and nourish the Church by the heavenly graces placed under her watchful eyes.



# Religious Freedom

Fr. Joseph Noonan, OFM

In today's world, religious freedom and religious liberty are used interchangeably. Many do not make a distinction between the words *freedom* and *liberty*. For the sake of clarity in this article, the words will have a very distinct difference in their meanings.

*Religious freedom* will mean the ability to live one's religious beliefs regardless of denomination without any type of restrictions or persecutions from the State. The reader should understand "State" as meaning the government at any level (city, county, state or federal). In this case, the State has no desire to interfere with religion in any way. For those who wish to reference the Amendments of the U. S. Constitution, it simply states, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; ...*"

*Religious liberty*, on the other hand, will be defined as meaning all religions, sects and denominations are equal. No one church or religion is to be

considered better or more correct than the other. In practical terms, religious liberty is the "father" of religious indifference. This definition has its origin in the French Revolution and Freemasonry.

Pope Pius XI, in his Encyclical Letter *Mortalium Animos* (On Fostering True Religious Liberty), confirms the effects of such liberty: "*How so great a variety of opinions can clear the way for the unity of the Church, We know not. That unity can arise only from one teaching authority, one law of belief and one faith of Christians. But we do know that from such a state of affairs it is but an easy step to the neglect of religion or 'indifferentism,' and to the error of the Modernists, who hold that dogmatic truth is not absolute but relative, that is, that it changes according to the varying necessities of time and place and the varying tendencies of the mind; that it is not contained in an immutable tradition, but can be altered to suit the needs of human life.*"

This error has become so

imbedded in the mind of the typical American that it has also poisoned the soul of the Catholic in the United States. It is, indeed, to a greater degree the fault of the Modernist clergy which preached this error among many others to the ignorant Catholic in the pew.

In their desire to be ‘ecumenical,’ as well as to be ‘obedient,’ the unsuspecting Catholic accepted these errors, while probably not understanding the implications of their actions.

The bigger problem which we face in the United States at this time, though, is that of religious freedom. It is having its effect on everyone who wishes to be associated with a parish, a church or synagogue, whether they realize it or not.

The so-called mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare is of particular concern in this area of religious freedom. This mandate, of course, affects anyone who is morally opposed to the regulations which require an employer to pay for the employee’s insurance. The

insurance includes “benefits” which will pay for abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization.

As many Americans know by now, this type of legislation has never before been forced upon the citizens of this country. The Marxists in the White House have used lies, half-truths and disinformation to deceive the ignorant.

Make no mistake about it, this is an immoral law that is being shoved down our throats in such a way that, many believe if it is allowed to be fully implemented, the nation will never recover from it. This is because the law involves much more than simply “health care.” Those who truly understand this law realize that the true purpose of this “care” is to “fundamentally transform” the United States. Many notables believe the nation will be transformed into a European socialist state. I disagree. I believe, if allowed to continue, *this law and others* will transform this once free nation into a country that more closely resembles Russia, China or Cuba.

Why do I make such a bold statement when no one else is?

Let's look at the facts. The mandate in this law is there to attack religion and morality itself. This is an attack in the broadest possible way. As already stated, it has the potential to affect a broad spectrum of Americans. The mandate is well understood. When the U. S. Catholic bishops pleaded for an exemption, Barack Obama flatly refused. It should be noted that the refusal came after a meeting with Timothy Cardinal Dolan where Obama led Dolan to believe the exemptions would be forthcoming. In other words, Barack Obama lied or purposely misled him. But should we be surprised, since when do Communists tell the truth?

Think about this for a moment. The "President of the United States" publicly refused to exempt the Catholic Church, which has a "membership" of about 60 million people. Put aside for the sake of the present argument, that these people are not true Catholics. In the eyes of the world, they are considered to be Catholic, and this is the important point in this

discussion.

Obama has looked at the Catholic Church face-to-face. Either he believes he can divide Catholics and win this fight, or simply call their bluff. His re-election would lead us to the conclusion that he has successfully divided Catholics. Will it become necessary for Obama to wait and see how the bishops will play the next hand? I doubt it. In all likelihood, Obama is "two or three hands ahead."

The reader must remember the Modernists bishops have put themselves in this position. Beginning in the 1960's, they compromised and remained mostly silent about artificial contraceptives. Precious little has been said about birth control in nearly 50 years. An occasional clergyman will speak out to little or no avail. It indeed is an "accepted fact." The "wink and nod" and confessional approval has brought with it a tidal wave of immorality among "practicing Catholics."

Lip service was given when Roe v. Wade was argued in the Supreme Court. A small number of priests and bishops

have consistently protested this “American Holocaust”- now at nearly 56 million.

I have said for several years that if the U. S. Catholic bishops in the early 1970’s had been fulfilling their responsibilities, they would have had their respective clergy preach against abortion from coast to coast in such a way that the public pressure and influence would have brought about a different result in the Supreme Court. Their near silence since 1973 has been overwhelmingly deafening!

From their lip service on the issue of sterilization, apparently they are not overly concerned with this moral issue.

It is quite interesting since the Obama administration announcement that the Catholic Church would not be given an exemption concerning the mandate, the media has chosen to focus on the issue of contraceptives more than that of abortion. Do I sense an opportunity for “anti-Catholic bashing” and open mockery of the Church? Understand dear reader, opposition against abortion has broader support

among many different sects or denominations. Artificial birth control is permitted by all such groups with few exceptions, including Catholics.



# The Sunday Sermon

**The Sunday Sermon** is a biweekly paper that offers a few spiritual thoughts for each Sunday throughout the year.

**The Sunday Sermon** began with a desire of our people who could not get to Mass on Sunday.

**The Sunday Sermon** has now become very popular. Subscribers are asking that we send **The Sunday Sermon** to their friends and relatives.

We only ask the small donation of \$10 per year (or whatever you can afford) to help us cover the cost of production and mailing.

**Why not subscribe today for yourself or a friend?**

**The Sunday Sermon  
3376 Mount Read Blvd.  
Rochester NY 14616**

## **THE 2013 FRANCISCAN CALENDAR.**

**This simple, attractive calendar lists all the traditional feasts of the Roman Catholic Church and the traditional Franciscan feasts.**

**This year's calendar is filled with many inspiring prayers.**

**Order yours today!**

**The suggested donation is \$20.00 per calendar.**

**Write to:**

**The SERAPH  
3376 Mount Read Blvd.,  
Rochester, New York 14616**

**CONFERENCES ON THE  
BLESSED TRINITY.**

**BY  
THE REV. DR. J. J.  
O'CONNELL, O.S.B.,  
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE,  
GASTON CO., N. C.**

CONFERENCE VI.

*ON THE BLESSED  
TRINITY — ONE GOD  
IN THREE DIVINE  
PERSONS.*

*(Continued)*

The Most High, in order that the human race should not perish here and hereafter, and that He might not be defeated by Satan in the object of creation, thundered forth the fundamental truth in the startled ear of mankind, whether in the stern glens of Sinai, the brickfields of the Nile, by the pyramids, or under the patriarch's tent. From among all the nations of the earth He selected one people, whom He made the guardian and depository of this grand mystery and His other promises. The Holy Ghost inspired the prophets, who incessantly announced it by the swift waters of Babylon, amid the palaces of Jerusalem, or in the populous streets of gorgeous Ninive: *I alone am, and there is no other God besides me* (Deut:

xxxii. 39).

This belief, without which salvation is ordinarily impossible, was not only taught in human language but indelibly written in type and sacrifice. There must be but one priesthood, one temple, one holy city, one altar, one sacrifice. It was exhibited still more perfectly in the Church, according to St. Paul: one Lord, one faith, and one baptism; one God, the Father of all (Eph. iv. 5). If, blinded by their passions and seduced by the surrounding nations, the chosen people at times staggered in their faith, they were again recalled to its profession by the most frightful chastisements.

II.

Lest it might be an occasion of idolatry to a people always prone to that crime, the mystery was only hinted obscurely from the beginning. It was said: *Let us make man to our image and likeness. . . Behold, Adam is become as one of us* (Gen. i. 26; iii. 22). In many other places in the Old Testament the faith is more or less openly suggested. It was reserved for no less an envoy than the Son of God, the Second. Person, to announce the plenitude of the divine nature to the world, lay the foundations of Christianity, and usher in religion in all its unclouded splendors.

Never was truth more clearly or solemnly promulgated than the doctrine of the Most Adorable Trinity on the banks of the Jordan. The Son is baptized, the Holy Ghost visibly descends in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father is heard saying: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased* (Matt. iii. 17).

*There are three who give testimony in heaven, says the evangelist — the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. And THESE THREE ARE ONE* (1 John v. 7).

Frequently in the Gospel the mystery is announced in the most solemn manner, and always in the plural number and under the most striking circumstances. Invested with the same power and authority which He had from the Father, Christ commissions His apostles to announce this great truth to the world: *Going, therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost* (Matt. xxviii. 19). *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned* (Mark xvi. 16). St. Hilary, a Father of the fourth century, commenting on this passage, clearly expresses the doctrine of the Church in this manner: "They who possess in common the same nature bestow the same gift, for the name of the Trinity is God." *Believe you*

*not, said our Lord, that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?* (John xiv. 11). Commenting on this remarkable passage, St. Fulgentius says: "All the Father is in the Son and in the Holy Ghost, all the Son is in the Father and the Holy Ghost, all the Holy Ghost is in the Father and the Son."

It is unnecessary to multiply proofs. Invested with authority from above before their departure from Jerusalem, the apostles incorporated the divine doctrine in their Creed and made it the groundwork of all their teachings: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; I believe in the Holy Ghost." Their successors in the Church, inheriting their promises and clothed with their mission, have guarded the august mystery for nineteen hundred years, have taught it to the entire world, and will continue to teach it until time itself shall cease to run and the human race shall be gathered into its eternal home.

Whenever denied in any age the Church has always reaffirmed her doctrine by the decrees of general councils, explained it by the writings of her doctors, propagated it by the toil of her missionaries, honored it by the lives of her religious men and women, and illustrated it by the blood of millions of martyrs.

Every prayer, all rites and ceremonies, pious undertakings, good works, and all the operations of the religious life are begun and ended under the invocation of the august name, and for the simple reason that *the name of the Blessed Trinity is God*. It is in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost that we are made children of God in Baptism, that we are made soldiers of Christ in Confirmation, ministers of religion in Holy Orders, indissolubly united in the Sacrament of Matrimony, and it is in this name our sins are forgiven in Penance.

In this holy name are all temptations subdued, the fiery darts of the most wicked one turned away, enemies conquered, dangers overcome, virtues acquired, prayers offered, petitions granted, and miracles wrought. Constantly holding the most profound mystery before our face while living, our most tender mother, the Church, bids the trembling soul depart in peace at the dread hour of death in its invocation: "Depart, O Christian soul! out of this world, in the name of God the Father who created thee, in the name of God the Son who redeemed thee, and of God the Holy Ghost who sanctified thee." It is in this omnipotent name that she commits to the earth, the common grave of all mankind, the cold remains of all her children who have died in peace. Invoked

with the sign of the cross, this venerable name is the monogram of Christianity, the test of the true faith, and the banner of man's redemption. God knows Himself, else He would be ignorant; He loves Himself, or He would not be holy. He is incessantly the subject of His own contemplation. This science of Himself never passes away or changes, and is a divine Person, consubstantial and eternal. This is the Father, the First Person, who thus knows and contemplates Himself.

He is called the Father because from this knowledge of His being and perfections is formed a full and perfect similitude of Himself, a real, subsisting person — the Son, consubstantial to the Father, and the Second Person.

The knowledge and contemplation of His infinite perfections is the bliss of the Father. It is mutual, and is returned in the self-same way by the Son. Love meets love. The act is consubstantial to both, because *all that is in God is God*. It produces the Holy Ghost, the Third Person, who is co-eternal and co-equal, the eternal bond of union, the limit of the Deity, and who proceeds from the Father and the Son as one principle.

*(To be continued)*



# Could You Explain Catholic Practices?

*Rev. Charles J Mullaly, S.J.*

---

## THE CONSECRATION OF FAMILIES TO THE SACRED HEART

The Consecration of families to the Sacred Heart is a practice strongly urged upon all Catholics. The Consecration of the family is performed in the privacy of the home, on any day that may be convenient. The presence of the pastor or other priest, though desirable and blessed with special Indulgences, is not necessary. In His revelations to St. Margaret Mary, our Lord promises to souls devoted to His Sacred Heart to “establish peace in their houses,” to “comfort them in all their afflictions,” and “to bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up and honored.” We give here the form prescribed for the Consecration :

### PRAYERS FOR THE CONSECRATION OF THE FAMILY TO THE SACRED HEART

*Sacred Heart of Jesus, who didst manifest to Saint Margaret Mary the desire of reigning in Christian families. we today wish*

*to proclaim Thy most complete regal dominion over our own. We would live in future with Thy life, we would cause to flourish in our midst those virtues to which Thou hast promised peace here below, we would banish far from us the spirit of the world which Thou hast cursed; and Thou shalt reign over our minds in the simplicity of our faith, and over our hearts by the whole-hearted love with which they shall burn for Thee, the flame of which we shall keep alive by the frequent reception of Thy Divine Eucharist.*

*Deign, O Divine Heart, to preside over our assemblings, to bless our enterprises, both spiritual and temporal, to dispel our cares, to sanctify our joys, to alleviate our sufferings. If ever one or other of us should have the misfortune to afflict Thee, remind him, O Heart of Jesus, that Thou art good and merciful to the penitent sinner. And when the hour of separation strikes, when death shall come to cast mourning into our midst, we will all, both those who go and those who stay, be submissive to Thy eternal decrees. We will console*

*ourselves with the thought that a day will come when the entire family, reunited in Heaven, can sing forever Thy glories and Thy mercies.*

*May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious Patriarch, St. Joseph, present this consecration to Thee, and keep it in our minds all the days of our life. All glory to the Heart of Jesus, our King and our Father!* (Indulgenced May 19, 1908. Prescribed for the ceremony of Consecration, March 1, 1918.)

A Plenary Indulgence may be gained by the members of the family on the day of Consecration, and every year on the day of renewal, on the usual conditions : Confession, Communion, Visit, and prayers for the Pope's intentions.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home is also another beautiful Catholic devotion similar to the Consecration of the family. It is a result of the zeal of the Reverend Matheo Crawley-Boevey, a priest of the Society of the Sacred Hearts.

---

## **The Catholic Faith Radio Program**

<http://catholichour.org/>

**Teaching the True Catholic Faith  
and condemning Modernist errors.**

**The Catholic Faith Radio Program is broadcast live each Friday from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) in the studio of KRFE AM580, Lubbock, Texas. It is streamed live on <http://catholichour.org/> If you are unable to listen live, you may go to the website anytime and listen to the recorded broadcast at your leisure.**

**The Catholic Faith Radio Programs are available on CD for \$10.00 each (one program):**

**To order by the month they are \$25.00 per month, which includes domestic postage Foreign orders should add an additional \$10.00 for postage.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The SERAPH is sent FREE anywhere in the United States upon request. Cost of production and mailing is borne by your fellow - Catholics who are concerned for your soul. They desire that you, too, would become informed as to TRUE DOCTRINE AND SOUND SPIRITUALITY as Roman Catholics totally loyal to the Apostolic See.

Won't YOU join them in this world wide apostolate?

### SUBSCRIPTION

Please note the expiration on your label.

- A1 Benefactor Subscription donation of \$50 or more.
- B1 Supporting Subscription \$20 donation.
- C1 Free requested Subscription.
- Tr Trial Issue. You will receive only 3 issues unless you request to receive more.

Example: 01-08 A1 indicates a subscription which will expire in January 2008. The A1 indicates that it is a benefactor subscription.

Please Note: There is an annual request for renewal.

Back Issues: Due to the extra cost in postage and handling, we must ask a minimum donation of \$5.00 for available copies, and \$6.00 for any copies that must be photocopied.

---

Most Rev. Bishop Louis Vezelis O.F.M.  
SERAPH - 3376 Mount Read Blvd  
Rochester, NY 14616

Your Excellency: Here's my offering of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray the cost of publishing the SERAPH - to help you keep on sending it to someone who might otherwise never be able to benefit from it.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# **ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

The **SERAPH**  
3376 Mount Read Blvd  
Rochester, New York 14616-4344

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

ROCHESTER, NY

PERMIT NO. 27