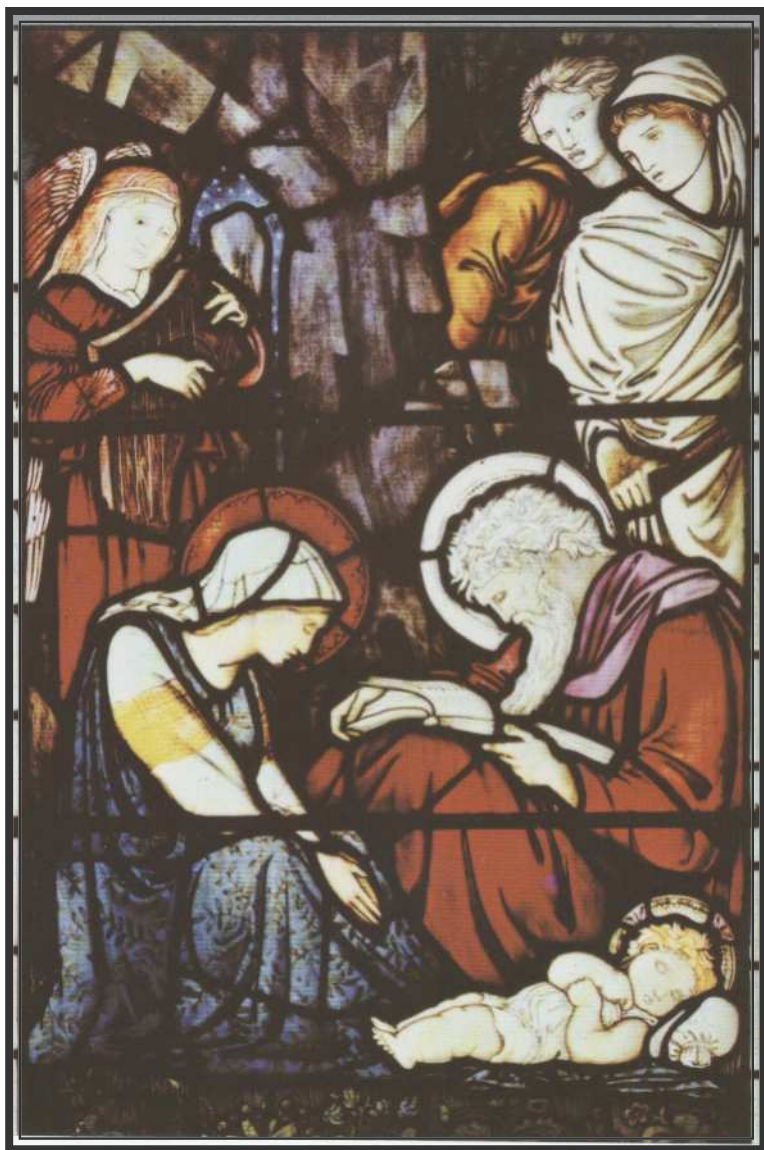


THE SERAPH

December 2012

Vol. XXXIII No. 4



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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.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

USA: Free upon request.

Suggested donation \$20.00.

FOREIGN: Air Mail: \$40.00 per year

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO:

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Publishers

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

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Christmas

The angels sing and worship God Himself in the new born Christ child. The angels who are far superior to men, appeared to simple humble shepherds to proclaim the birth of Jesus; the angels guided the Magi with a star; and the angels sang. Even to this day the angels stand beside us to encourage us in the love of God. These heavenly beings want us to realize and to appreciate the tremendous gift that God has given to us in becoming one with us. God chose not to become an angel, rather He chose to become man.

In the Old Testament we see that men bowed down before angels, but after Christ was born the angels refuse to allow men to bow before them, reminding men that they (the angels) are creatures just like men and both must bow before God.

The song of the angels on this day is clear “Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to men of good will.” Every true Catholic receives the peace of God. The angelic song however has been methodically distorted. Modernists would have us believe that the angels sang and continue

to sing of peace for all men. It is illogical to desire that evil should be rewarded. The angels could never sing of, much less desire an injustice where men of evil or perverse will should obtain peace and joy in Heaven or even in the presence of God on earth. We see in the Gospel of St. John for the Third Mass today that Jesus – The Word – is Light, and was born into the darkness of the world. He came to His own, but His own received Him not. There was not to be any peace for those who refused Him. The peace and the light are only for those who welcome Him and thus become sons of God.

The angels appeared to the shepherds to reveal to them this great joy because the shepherds were humble and receptive of the Light. The proud and worldly were rejected by the angels and God, and so it was not to them that Christ brought peace, nor did the angels sing of peace for these. These poor souls are the darkness that Christ entered among when He came to this earth but St. John informs us that the darkness grasped not the Light. Sin and darkness cannot comprehend the Light. Though

Christ came among them they would not receive Him and therefore they made themselves incapable of receiving Him so we can also say that they (the darkness) could not receive the Light.

The Modernists have twisted the words and meaning of this angelic song so that everyone (both good and bad) should receive equally a divine grace of peace. This is an idea that is repulsive to reason and justice, as even the smallest of children can see. God's peace and light is for those who receive Him. The shepherds, the Magi, the poor, the humble received Him and His peace and light. The proud and vain rejected Him and continue to this day to reject Him and consequently they reject His peace.

We have seen many deliberately false translations of this angelic song, all with the obvious intent to deceive people into denying the justice of God and logically: the punishment of sinners; the eternal damnation of sinners; the very existence of Hell; etc. Many in the world today therefore celebrate the birth not of true God made Man, but rather of a false God made to accommodate

the illogical fancies of evil man. They use the name of Jesus but the "Jesus" they worship is not the True One. Their god is not the same Jesus who said: "What God has joined together let not man put asunder;" (Mark 10:9) "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he that does not believe will be condemned;" (Mark 16:16) "He who does not gather with Me, scatters;" (Luke 11:23) "Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man you shall not have life in you;" (John 6:54) "Unless your justice exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees you will not enter into the Kingdom;" (Matthew 5:20) "Deny yourselves and take up your cross daily and come follow Me;" (Matthew 16:24) etc.

Jesus clearly came to bring a sword and to divide. It is only to a few that His peace comes as we see that it was only a few who came to Him at His birth. Therefore, it is imperative that we make ourselves numbered among these few. In doing this then we may rejoice with the angels, humbly seeking the peace of God in our lives to the extent that we are truly of good will.

Right Order vs Demonic Anarchy

(Part 3)

God's right order is constantly under attack as we saw last month in the many Pagan beliefs and practices where demons set up idols and false gods either of themselves or others. Many of the "mono-theistic" religions, while avoiding the extreme crudeness of this openly demonic Paganism have fallen into a more subtle form of the same thing. While not openly worshipping idols or demons they have a false perception of the one true God, so logically they have created a false god whom they now worship.

The next set of demonic inspired religions to be considered after Paganism is the false mono-theistic religions. God having chosen Abraham to be the father of His chosen people, the devils set out early and consistently to corrupt and undermine the divine communication from God to men. No sooner than Abraham in his old age is told that he is to be a father, then the devils inspire a more "natural" means than his elderly wife (They inspire him to have a son through a young fertile slave girl). In this manner two separate lines are produced

that both claim Abraham as father and therefore the title of chosen people. The Ishmaelites (or at least their alleged spiritual adherents) claim to survive even to this day in the Muslim world. There were two sons of Abraham as Scripture tells us, but we are also informed that the son of the slave girl did not inherit with the son of the free woman. (Gal 4:30) One son was chosen and blessed by God and the other by the devils. One son was charged with keeping the knowledge and faith of the true God alive, while the other son, guided by the devils, was commissioned to corrupt, deceive, and confuse men as to who the true God is and how He expects us to live.

Abraham's trust and faith in God was put to the ultimate test when (prefiguring Christ's sacrifice) God asked of him the sacrifice of his own son. Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice as Christ carried his own cross. Abraham was left alone as he could not tell anyone else of what he was about to do, and in this state he too prefigured Christ in feeling abandoned as Christ hanging on the Cross: "My God,

my God why have you forsaken me?" (Matt 27:46) Though the sacrifice was interrupted by an angel sent by God, it nonetheless served to symbolize and prepare everyone for the sacrifice of Christ.

We see God's hand and guidance in this son of Abraham and his children throughout the Old Testament. We also see the devils constantly attacking these children and dividing from them any and all who would listen to their evil suggestions. Isaac's two sons, Jacob and Esau were divided even from the time they were still in their mother's womb. Jacob was loved by God, but Esau God hated. (Malachi 1:3; Romans 9:13) God changed Jacob's name to Israel and his sons also were attacked by the devils. Brothers filled with envy and jealousy of their younger brother, sold him into slavery, just barely refraining from murdering him. As a punishment for their crimes their children also became slaves in the land of Egypt. God had mercy upon these children of Israel and sent Moses to save them. Again we see the devils constantly attacking and dividing these people for forty years in the desert. Only a few remained faithful and preserved

the faith in the One True God. In the Promised Land we see the devils' continued attacks, dividing the tribes, and inspiring many to depart from the worship of God. Throughout their history we see the influx of Paganism, and the idolatry of the various demons as gods. These people were almost to the bottom of their downward spiral when Jesus came to this earth, and as proof of this bottoming out of the downward spiral into demonism, we read that: "Jesus came unto His own, and His own received Him not." (John 1:11)

Somewhere in history these Israelites converted to demonism and created a new series of beliefs in addition to or in opposition to the Laws that God gave them through Moses. (See St. Stephen's account of history in the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 7:43) The Demonic Talmud superseded the Law of Moses. The people of the Talmud somewhere along the line became known as "Jews." They, with demonic craftiness, soon arrogantly assumed the titles of the Israelites as Chosen People of God. The deceptive craftiness is shocking when we consider that most of the world believe the "Jews" to be the

descendants of Judah (only one of the sons of Israel), and all of the other sons have somehow ceased to exist or were absorbed into this one tribe. When we consider that most of those who call themselves “Jews” today are not biologically descendant from Judah but, are rather, Ashkenazi converts to Talmudism, we see the demonic influence even clearer. Today, these people are dispossessing Palestinians of their lands and killing many of them in an alleged ancestral right to that land, even when they have no ancestral tie to the land because they are not children but converts.

These are not the same people of the Old Testament, nor do they preserve the belief and laws God gave to us through Moses. Many use the name of “Jew” in various ways depending on their own particular need or whim at the moment. Consider when someone says that he is a “Jew,” what does it mean? Is he a descendant of Judah or one or other of the brothers of Judah? Is he a resident or a citizen of a particular place? Is he a believer in a Talmudic creed? Is he an atheist? Etc. This one simple word with its multiple demonic inspired meanings only seems

to confuse and hide the demonic influences in the world today.

If we have any doubt that this sect is not God’s chosen people we need only consider the Scripture that says “His own received Him not,” so even if they were once the people of Israel they are no longer. They have refused Christ and therefore refused God and have sided with the devils. Also, the priesthood of the Old Testament is dead, as even these people are forced to admit. There is no longer an inherited ancestral priesthood, but rather a priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek.

The right order of God has been, and continues to be under attack by the devils and all who will listen to them. God no longer works with one genetic line of people, but rather works in His Church, where any and all have been invited to unite themselves into One Mystical Body of Christ. The only true monotheistic religion is the Catholic Church.

The “Jews” now have made a god of themselves and worship their “ancestry.” They have made themselves the Messiah and the Christ. A prescription of Talmudic customs and laws has

been substituted for true faith and worship. The devils have created this corrupted faith in pretty-straightforward imitation of Christ and the true Faith and doctrine. The “Jews” are still awaiting the Messiah when He has already come. Having missed and rejected Him, they now strive to create their own version of a Messiah. They demonically think and claim a land that is not legally theirs. By some “divine” right they are entitled to murder Palestinians, destroy their property, and drive them from their fatherland. This disorder and chaos is not from God but from the devils who are the authors of death and disorder. Some may argue that the Israelites did this exact same thing. It is not the same. The Israelites had revelations from God, and promises from God, they had a sacrificing priesthood, etc. God gave the Israelites obvious victory over those they were to dispossess; the devils only give the “Jews” constant conflict and battle. They have not God but devils helping them so there is always a demonic disorder. The devils and their dupes the “Jews” may appear to succeed in this world, but this is really an illusion

because it is only temporary. The blood of all that they have spilled upon the earth is crying to Heaven for vengeance, and because vengeance belongs to God, He will hear and grant them this vengeance.

The injustice that demonically reigns in our world today will ultimately be righted. The injustice is only momentary when considered next to eternity. Not only people as individuals but also people as societies, businesses, communities, governments, countries, etc. will all be punished or purified.

There is no doubt that we are drawing closer to that day of chastisement than we have ever been in the past. The atrocities of fornication, adultery, divorce, murder of the pre-born (abortion), homo/hetero-sexual sodomy, etc. all merit a divine punishment upon us individually (as far as we may be guilty) and collectively. With the false Israelite Talmudic Jews in possession of a certain piece of land and noting the many transgressions that must be punished, it seems that the signs are clear that those who are wise will flee this false religion, heading for the hills of Christ in

His Church.

The Muslims, likewise in their worship of Allah are just as fanatical and violent as the “Jews”, if not more so. They are truly cut from the same cloth. Both are demonically inspired forgeries of the One True God, faith, and religion. They, like the “Jews,” imagine themselves authorized and commissioned by their god (demons) to violently kill and displace any and all who oppose them in any way. The devils are the authors of death, not God. And so, if we are logical, we see that the murderous ideologies of these two sects and all the others like them have devils and not God for their gods.

Alongside the “Judaic” Talmudists and the Muslims we should perhaps join many, such as Buddhism, that might be labeled “religious philosophies.” These seek a denial of self and an approach to nothingness (nirvana) which is obviously inspired by devils, seeking the emptiness of soul of the demons rather than a soul filled with the grace of God. In this striving for nothingness they developed a belief in re-incarnation or the trans-migration of souls. The

demons have inspired them with a denial of God and His grace, and have filled them with a vain demonic pride that is often hidden under false humility; but nonetheless convinces them that upon their own efforts, without any help, they can reach their nothingness that they confuse with happiness in Heaven. This Eastern “mysticism” which might also include the Pagan religions like Hinduism seems to be very attractive to so many misguided Western souls today. Many try to reconcile these false religions and “philosophies” with Christianity. The devils do present many truths in these Pagan and false mono-theistic religions and philosophies, but these truths are only the bait that entices unassuming souls to swallow the poison too. There is no, and cannot be, any reconciling God and the devils. This earth in its current state cannot be reconciled with Heaven. The ways and mind of the world are at odds with the ways and mind of God.

When Christ came upon this earth, He made it clear that the only way is through Him. All those who will not unite with Him are damned. We must, so far as we have exposed, conclude

that the Pagans (worshippers of devils) are not to enter into Heaven; the false mono-theistic religions that rejected the law of Moses are rejected; the false “philosophical” religions also have excluded themselves from Heaven. Already we can see that “many have been called, but few have been chosen,” (Matt 22:14) but the winnowing fan of God’s truth is not finished yet. In the next series we must consider so many false “Christian” faiths.



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Religious Freedom

Fr. Joseph Noonan, OFM

Continued from the November Issue

In early 2012, after the announcement mentioned above (the “Catholic” Church would not receive an exemption from the mandate), the “bishops” began howling publicly in such a way most “Catholics” had never witnessed in their lifetime. At the time I thought to myself, it was good to see them so united on an issue, but what really would become of it? Will they continue to fight, or will this be the “weeping and gnashing of teeth” as carried out so well by the hypocritical Pharisees?

In addition, as Barack Obama knows well, “Catholic” health care makes up about 12% of the total health care in this country (600 health care institutions; 1 in 6 persons is treated in a “Catholic” health care institution). Also, there are 244 “Catholic” universities in the United States.

Think of the disastrous effects it would have if all of these facilities and schools were forced to close. Yet, Obama is adamant that no exemptions will be given for “Catholics” or other denominational institutions.

Politically speaking, why would a man in his position be so unwilling to bend? Remarkably, he told us why before he was elected the *first* time. He spoke publicly about wanting to “fundamentally transform” the United States.

It would seem reasonable, that, in order to know what a person means by such a phrase there is one or two ways of finding the answer. The first and easiest way is when the person who has made the comment provides a full explanation. In this case, no explanation was forthcoming. Therefore, to have an idea of how a person might act, we should look to his past for possible answers.

For the patriotic American (True Catholics ought to be still more discerning), Obama’s past is literally filled with “red flags.” According to the information I have come across, his parents and grandparents were all Communists. The man his mother recommended as a mentor, (and in fact was his mentor), Frank Marshall, was a known card-carrying Communist. In

Obama's book, "Dreams of My Father," he openly admits that he chose to openly associate with the Marxist professors on campus. He attended classes in Chicago to learn the "ways and means" of Saul Alinsky. His teacher admitted Obama was one of the best students he had ever taught. He learned the Communist tactics so well that Obama became a teacher.

For those who are not familiar with Alinsky, he was a Communist who worked as a "community organizer." He went from city to city, using Communist coercion tactics to force businesses to unionize. He usually left a riotous trail. Alinsky's influence among the U. S. "Catholic" bishops is quite embarrassing to Catholics who are aware of who he really was. One can only reasonably assume that these clerics were not naïve, but agents of the Communist/Socialist agenda.

So what, indeed, does this tell us about the man known as Barack Obama? The only honest answer is that he has cleverly and diabolically hidden his past because he is most assuredly a Communist. To say it any other way would be disingenuous.

The media, of course, has been a willing partner in this treason.

In other words, it would not make political sense to push forward with this socialized medical program if one had the best interest of the country in mind. The law itself states that many persons will be refused care for reasons to be determined by the "elite." In addition, the amount of money this law will require is a true injustice to those who will suffer medically, physically and monetarily.

I have learned recently of patients in Lubbock, Texas who have been refused what most would consider is rather routine health care – kidney dialysis. The reason given for this refusal was Obamacare.

On the issue of life, this law will make abortion nothing more than, "*normal, everyday health care!*" It says a lot about a person who considers the "slaughtering of innocents" nothing more than "normal everyday health care."

Little do people know there are some 20 to 25 additional taxes built in to this law. That in itself is an act of injustice upon the workers of this country who are already feeding the other half of

this nation who are largely either too lazy or just simply unwilling to work.

Only a person with an agenda would pursue this law, as though the country would not survive without it. The agenda includes much more than that which I have included here. Those things which have been described are tied to the new health care law. This brings us back to the focus of this article – religious freedom.

It is quite interesting, Catholic health care existed prior to the discovery of this nation, and obviously prior to Obama's unfortunate birth. Yet, he, unlike any previous president is going after religion, Catholicism and its health care with the stroke of one signature of his Islamic name.

Yes, do not dismiss his desire to further weaken Catholicism, so as to make it easier for Islam to have a "greater influence." His desire to divide Catholics is a clever way to conquer them. Please note the "Catholics" which are a part of Congress and his administration – Vice President Joseph Biden, Nancy Pelosi, Charles Rangel, Claire McCaskill, John Kerry, Barbara

Mikulski, Mary Landrieu and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. These are examples of those who have betrayed their "faith" and country. All such "Catholics" ought to be publicly excommunicated and charged with treason.

One ought to be warned not hold your breath. Neither action will be taken, for the Modernist clergy has long ago sold its soul for thirty pieces of silver and the "right" to "go along to get along." On the other side of this one-sided coin, there are far too many traitors or otherwise weak "characters" in Congress to expect any talk of treason. Hell might yet freeze over first ...

With a growing number of proclaimed atheists (1.6 million or 1.6%) and non-denominational church members (over 8 million or 11.8%), is there any wonder why so little is said about the continued loss of one's ability to practice religion freely?

We should remind ourselves that this present crisis (and it most certainly is a crisis) of this basic freedom may be new to us as Catholics in America, but it is not new to the Roman Catholic Church. Do we need to remind

ourselves of the thousands of souls who have given their life for Christ? Our illustrious Catholic history is filled with those who stood tall when the enemies of God and His Church were persecuted.

It is, indeed, important to see the “big picture.” Understand we are fighting a spiritual war in the person of Barack Obama and his comrades. This is not about politics or parties, the rich or the poor (class warfare) or jobs or welfare. It is about right and wrong; good and evil; the Christian Order in Society versus the New Satanic World

Order; the Mystical Body of Christ versus the Mystical Body of Satan; Heaven and Hell; the loss of your soul or its salvation.

It would be nice to think this situation will pass, but there is no guarantee of that. If history teaches us anything, we should recognize the clear signs and spiritually prepare ourselves. True freedom from a Catholic standpoint means we need to separate ourselves from the world’s attachments and sin. If we are able to accomplish this, the decisions of a Communist Moslem are of little consequence.



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Franciscan Saints

DECEMBER 24

BLESSED JACOPONE DA TODI

Confessor, First Order

About the year 1235 a son was born to the noble family of the Benedetti at Todi in northern Italy. He received the name of James in Baptism. As a young man he devoted himself to the study of law and soon became a very capable and celebrated lawyer. At the same time he was very proud, vain, and worldly-minded. His young wife, on the other hand, was humble, devout, and generous. She regretted the worldly disposition of her husband, and endeavored to make amends before God for many of his failings.

One day in 1298, yielding to the wish of her spouse, she attended a public tournament which was being held at Todi. Suddenly and unexpectedly, the stand in which she and many other noble women were seated, collapsed, and she was fatally injured. When her clothes were removed, it was seen that she wore about her waist an iron girdle studded with sharp points. James was

deeply shaken at the sight. It was surely for me, he thought to himself, that she was doing such penance.

On the spot he resolved to leave the world and its vanities, to live in extreme poverty, and for Christ's sake to become a fool. He divided his possessions among the poor and entered the Third Order. Clothed in rags, he went about the streets of the city, an object of derision to the children and of horror to the adults, mocked at as a fool and despised as a penitent by many who had once admired him as a learned and prominent man. In derision he was given the name of Jacopone, that is, "Crazy Jim." He rejoiced in the name so much that he never wanted to be called otherwise.

After eleven years of such humiliation he asked to be admitted into the Order of Friars Minor. The repute of his folly, however, had gone ahead of him to the convent, and so he met with difficulties.

He then composed a beautiful poem, which is still extant, on the vanity of the world, and its merit opened the way for his admission into the order. From that time forward he lived an unusually rigorous life, striving hard to achieve perfection in all virtue. Out of humility he declined to be ordained a priest, yet he accomplished much good with his thoughtful and tender hymns, the crown of which is the incomparable *Stabat Mater*.

As a tireless and dauntless champion of all that is good, he set himself vigorously against all injustice. He had much persecution to endure on that account and was even cast into prison, where he was detained for five years, notwithstanding the fact that he was already an old man. But he rejoiced in this treatment because he saw in it a powerful means to purify his soul. He obtained his freedom a year before his death, and went to live in the convent of Collazone.

There he felt that his last hour was fast approaching, and received the last sacraments at the hands of his beloved fellow friar, Blessed John of

La Verna. Then with a loud voice he intoned a hymn he had composed: Jesus, my hope, Thou comfort and light of my soul! Admonishing the brethren who stood about him to lead a holy life, he departed with the words, "Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit." It was on Christmas eve, 1306, at the very hour when in the nearby church at the solemn high Mass the hymn of the angels was being sung: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE

1. The Christmas tree is a Christian custom. Recent investigations prove that there is no vestige of anything pagan or Protestant about it; rather, it originated in Catholic Alsace. In fact, when it was first introduced, which was in the middle of the seventeenth century, it was strongly opposed by the Protestants. Nevertheless, it has come to be at home with both denominations and cannot be separated from the feast of Christmas. One is tempted to apply to it the words of Scripture: "The tree was great and strong, the sight thereof

was even to the ends of all the earth” (Dan. 4:8). — Let us then take holy pleasure in the Christmas tree.

2. The Christmas tree is a custom full of meaning. Being a tree of the kind that does not wither, it is a figure of the tree of life in the midst of Paradise (Gen. 2:9). Its fruits were to give us eternal life, which sin prevented us from securing. But through the Babe lying in the crib we were again to partake of its fruits, for He is the Life, who has come that we may have life. The lights on the Christmas tree remind us of Him whom St. John calls the “true light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world” (John 1:9). This Light is for the time being hidden in the stable in the form of a little child. — How well crib and Christmas tree fit together!

3. The Christmas tree is a consoling custom. Many beautiful as well as tasty things are hung on its branches, and Christmas gifts lie at its base. Why all this? In order to direct our thoughts to the many graces we receive through our redemption, from the Child

lying in the crib, God’s gift to us, without whom we should have been lost. — In the spirit of Blessed Jacopone thank Christ, as you stand before the Christmas tree, for all His love for mankind, and vow sincere counter love.

O God, who dost rejoice us annually with the expectation of our redemption, grant that we may confidently look upon Thine only-begotten Son, whom we now cheerfully embrace as our Redeemer, when He shall come as our Judge, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth forever and ever. Amen.



**English text of Bishop Bonaventure Strandt, OFM's
message to the Spanish-speaking Catholics of the world**

My dear friends in Jesus Christ Crucified,

To all of the countries of Spanish-speaking Catholics, I extend my most heartfelt and loving Episcopal blessing. Rather than addressing you as a Prelate of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, I would rather seek to come to you as a poor son of Saint Francis, and a spiritual descendant of the Spanish Franciscan missionaries who brought the light of the Catholic Truth to the New World. Yes, my heart rejoices to reflect upon those courageous and devoted religious who evangelized the native people of the vast extent of land known today as South America, Central America, and Mexico. So many brothers and priests of the Order of Friars Minor, and the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans, spread the graces of Heaven to Gentile souls who willingly received the Faith that the disobedient Jews had rejected 1,500 years earlier. The 16th century became another Pentecost for our part of the world, thanks to the crucified love of the fearless Apostles of the New and Everlasting

Covenant. Who can recall the zeal and holiness of Bishop Fray Juan Zumarraga, without being inspired to a life of greater virtue? Or how can we remember the never-ending sacrifices of the Capuchin and Dominican educators and martyrs, without returning thanks and many blessings to Almighty God?

You have much to rejoice about in considering the greatness of the blessings that the good Lord has bestowed upon your lands. You are not, however, ignorant of these blessings, and that is why you continue to this day with a faith and good works that are much stronger than the lamentably Protestantized regions of the United States. The Faith delivered to you was retained with greater care, often resulting in the shedding of much blood for the Faith, rather than compromising with the enemies of Jesus Christ the King. Some of you are perhaps in the blood line of martyrs without knowing it. In the same way that Saint Paul reminded the Hebrews, I offer you today a solemn reminder of the great struggle endured for the Faith by your ancestors, and the

great rewards that are promised to those of us who persevere in this same fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil. There is no comparison, the Great Apostle said elsewhere, between the trials and tribulations of this life, and the greatness of the glory to come. He later said to Saint Timothy that this crown of greatness is not given only to him alone, but to ALL faithful souls who love the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We can only LOVE His coming when we take care to observe His Holy Commandments. For Our Lord taught us: “He who loves Me, keeps My Commandments”.

With these truths in mind, I ask you to remember the Holy Gospel for the Last Sunday in Pentecost. The fig tree, says Jesus Christ, shows signs of bringing forth its fruit. Before the fruit appears, you are able to see leaves and flower buds. He uses such a simple and natural example to explain a deep mystical reality. We are commanded to use His analogy to understand what is happening today in our world. It is true that there has never been so much wickedness in the world before. There have never been so many evils committed so constantly that grieve the Sacred

Heart of Our Lord so much. What He is saying, my dear Catholic brothers and sisters, is that we should know most definitely that the world will end very soon. It is God’s mercy that causes scourges to befall us, such as natural disasters. He allows these things in order to turn mankind to repentance. But when the hearts of men have become like those of Sodom and Gomorrah, He must strike in all of His furious Divine Justice. We are not safe, simply because we belong to the Mystical Body of Christ. For, the Apostle Saint James reminds us clearly that “IN VERY MANY THINGS WE ALL OFFEND.” And the Beloved Disciple Saint John also urges us to humble ourselves when he says: “If anyone says that he has no sin, he is a liar, and the Truth is not in Him.” Therefore, we are called to be those faithful souls who fulfill the First Beatitude: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.”

How exactly will we obtain salvation in these frightening days? When will the promises of the Lord be fulfilled? Where is our hope? It is exactly for this reason that the Holy Spirit has moved me to address those of

you whom I cannot see with my eyes, but yet whom I know with my heart and soul. It is the Great Lady who will deliver us! It is the Blessed Virgin, the Queen of Heaven, the Refuge of Sinners! She is the one to whom God has confided all of the treasures of heavenly grace. She is the one who overcomes each and every assault of the evil spirits. She is the one whom the devils have been forced to admit has supreme power over them; and even Satan himself cowers in fear at the mere mention of her holy name.

I take this opportunity to implore the spiritual aid of Mary's children in praying more diligently for the Church. Our ever-increasing devotion to her will be the cause of our salvation in this generation. No one comes to the Divine Son without honoring the Holy Mother, and we must make certain that we are standing firmly as valiant soldiers of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is why we must redouble our efforts, and inspire each other to an increase of love for the Virgin Mary. She will spare us if we fly unto her with humble confidence. For those of us with the gift of true supernatural Faith, she is everything that

we need, the Mediatrix of All Graces.

Some of you have received the sublime privilege to belong to the Franciscan Order. Rejoice, because she is the Queen of the Order of Minors, and no one else can give us the all-powerful virtue of humility. No one else has as much tender care for our souls, or as much compassion for us in our sufferings and trials. Whether we are in Guadalajara, in the deep south of Chile, or in the frigid north of New York, we have one and the same mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe. She was declared by Holy Mother Church to be the Patroness of the Americas. This is a beautiful reminder that we have more in common with each other than the name "Catholic". We share the watchful protection of the great Mother of the Savior. We share in her marvelous appearance to the humble souls of this truly blessed continent. We share a common bond of charity, love for God, that unites us mystically in a stronger unity than we share with those in our own households.

In the eternal plan of Divine Wisdom, this land has been especially chosen for a great

mission in the last days of the world. Let us, then, recognize that we will begin to fulfill God's will for us, OUR SANCTIFICATION, when we begin to boldly and continuously implore the intercession, the compassion, and the merciful protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, together, as one Family of Faith. Viva la Guadalupana!

I have confidence in the Lord that the motto "Surge Maria, Salva Nos!", will echo from one end

of the world to the other, before the Second Coming of the Great Judge, the King of Kings. May the peace of the Lord remain with you all, and may the Virgin of Guadalupe shield you from all evil, and fill you with every heavenly gift. Benedictio Dei Omnipotentis +Patris, et +Fili, et +Spiritus Sancti, descendat super vos, et maneat semper. Amen.

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**CONFERENCES ON THE
BLESSED TRINITY.**

BY

**THE REV. DR. J. J:
O'CONNELL, O.S.B.,
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE,
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CONFERENCE VI.

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

(Continued)

The Blessed Trinity is God. Man, having been made to the image and likeness of God, illustrates in the three faculties of his soul the august mystery. Our self-knowledge and our affections, the operations of our understanding and will, shadow forth the mystery, evanescent in us, but in Him permanent and immutable. The generation of the Son is produced by God's knowledge of Himself; the procession of the Holy Ghost by God's love of Himself — by the love of both Persons united. It is the participation of this unspeakable mystery that constitutes the felicity of the saints in heaven; its adoration the consolation and dignity of the Christian, his truth and worth, on

DECEMBER 2012

earth.

Eminent divines show that everything in all creation is an image of the Triune God. The world shadows forth this astounding doctrine. The free acts of God outside are a likeness of the necessary acts of God within Himself.

All creation is, in a manner, a son of God — a knowledge of Himself made manifest. It reflects His image and represents His perfections so clearly that we are inexcusable if we do not see God by the things that are made (Rom. i. 20). Preservation, which is only a going-on or a continuation of creation or the creative act, and distinct from it only in our conceptions — an indivisible continuity — still more strikingly adumbrates the perpetual generation of the Son and the incessant procession of the Holy Ghost. The First Person is always and eternally generating the Son; the Second Person is always and eternally being generated; the Third Person is always and eternally being produced. This process must exist and never cease from all eternity, for God is an act, a simple act.

Creation, grace and glory,

21

the Incarnation, the Blessed Eucharist, the beatific vision, all that we see around us, are the emblem of the Trinity in unity.

From its birth the sun simultaneously emits light and heat, exemplifying that even in nature there exist effects co-existent with their principle. The soul is simple and a spirit, yet it possesses three faculties — the memory, the understanding, and the will. In reasoning, the understanding soul is exercised; in remembering, the recollecting soul; and in loving, the willing soul. These are not three souls, but one with three distinct faculties, illustrating the adorable Trinity of Persons in the simplicity of the divine Unity, for “He made man to His own image and likeness.”

While these illustrations do not pretend to unravel the unfathomable mystery, they, nevertheless clearly prove, what the Church teaches, that this mystery is not contrary to but above and beyond reason. *As the heavens are exalted above the earth, so are God’s ways exalted above our ways, and His thoughts above our thoughts* (Isaias lv. 9). *O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible*

are His judgments, and how unsearchable His ways! (Rom. xi. 33).

All the sanctities of heaven are incapable of comprehending this august mystery; and after millions of ages passed in the enraptured contemplation its infinite ocean will remain unexplored. There remains the unknown life of the Blessed Trinity, whose waves never have broken on the shores of time. Faith supplies the defects of reason, and we unhesitatingly believe what it is impossible to understand on the authority of God’s own word made known to us by His Church, the infallible teacher of the human race and *the pillar and ground of truth*.

Impiety in every form has assailed this most profound mystery; but its principal objections, as silly as they are impious, are directed alike against all religion, against the very being of our merciful Father, and even against natural truths and scientific facts.

The mysteries contained in a grain of sand have never been fathomed by man’s intellect or explained by science. The last analysis of the raindrop baffles the skill of the chemist

and scorns the tortures of his laboratory in the persistent efforts to extort its secrets. Based chiefly on a false interpretation of some verses of Holy Writ, a specific reply is not only not necessary, but would be an insult to good sense and to the settled convictions of our race.

I select one, not because I consider it important, but its apparent plausibility is calculated to impose on the unwary and unsuspecting non-Catholic, whose faith rests on human opinion only and is unprotected by the aegis of the Church. It is blasphemously asserted that the adorable mystery of the most Holy Trinity contradicts the vulgar axiom: "Things which are equal to the same or to a third are equal to one another," and there may be no distinction of persons. This paltry fallacy not only ignores but positively misstates the Catholic doctrine and does not apply at all to the question. It would force paganism on us; it creates three gods for our acceptance instead of the most HOLY ONE.

The divine nature is simple and indivisible. It is possessed totally, and not in part, by each Person. There are not three but

only one God. There is no third at all to which a comparison can be made. "The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Ghost is eternal; and they are not three eternals, but one eternal. The divine nature and all the attributes are common to each adorable Person. *Show us the Father, and it is enough for us*, said the apostle. Then our Lord said to Philip: *So long a time have I been with you, and have you not known me? Philip, he that seeth me seeth, the Father also*. And in another place: *The Father and I are one*. The personalities are not absolute perfections; they are most assuredly proper; they are relations of ineffable tenderness, and are virtually possessed by each divine Person.

In the divine communications that are inward each imparts indivisibly and totally all Himself without losing aught, while still retaining the propriety of the personal relation.

Petavius, in his sublime *Tract on the Blessed Trinity*, and other doctors who treat the great mystery extensively, prove the essential absurdity of this objection and its fallacy in the

sense in which it is offered by infidel impiety.

We must ever remember that this ineffable mystery is unquestionably taught us by the Almighty, that it is truth itself and the manner of God's existence, and that it is impossible that He could exist in any other way.

It has stood the test of human reason and science for nineteen centuries of civilization, and has triumphed over the world. It has converted the nations, given a new and more vigorous impulse to science, literature, and art, banished the reign of idolatry, vice, and superstition. Like the sun in the heavens, it enlightens the universe and it can never perish; for the Blessed Trinity is God and His holy name.

Our divine Lord never undertook to explain this adorable mystery; no illustrations could reduce it to the grasp of created intellect, not excepting even the human soul of our divine Lord — how much less the angels of heaven! God alone knows Himself, and faith alone can comprehend Him; it is the light of His face shed on man's soul, and by which alone can we see or

understand Him who *inhabiteth light inaccessible*.

The unbeliever will find humble and fervent prayer the shortest road to God and a most convincing proof. Let him ask our Lord, Jesus Christ, who *enlighteneth every man that cometh, into this world*, and who first announced to us in its fullness this adorable mystery. His prayer will not remain unanswered, for the Promise is made.

It is our duty and our privilege to honor and adore the most adorable Trinity, to thank Him for making Himself known to us; and for this knowledge, which *surpasses all human understanding*, we should practice all it inculcates, especially charity, the golden bond of union between God, ourselves, and our brethren, that we may see Him hereafter, face to face, whom we now believe and venerate on earth.

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, one God forever and ever. Amen.” This is the grand doxology of the Church, in which are gathered

all her belief, all her love, all her adoration in the most succinct manner. Such is the termination or all her hymns, her psalms, and her canticles. The universal anthem resounds from age to age, uttered by the lips of all her children until silenced by the cold fingers of death. But the ransomed spirit resumes it in a higher state, and joins the heavenly hosts in singing it for evermore before the throne of the most holy and undivided Trinity.

Loving us as He does, there still exists a greater mystery than even the TRIUNE GOD — that, His rational creature should not return His love, but refuse to serve Him and spurn His service. I speak of a mystery in the moral order — the mystery of sin and of a hard heart.

The Blessed Trinity created us and made us to His own likeness; He has given us an immortal soul and a body with its marvelous senses. Heaven and earth, time and eternity, all He has is ours — the Church, the angels and saints, the sacraments, the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus: in short, all He has and all He is belong to His children, on condition that they accept them.

Surely to reject God and turn away from the end of one's creation must, be an inconceivable disorder. When man defeats the Blessed Trinity, sets himself up as his idol, adores some base or paltry passion, and says, *I will not serve*, his sin is great. Sweet Jesus, save us from the dread impiety!

The Blessed Trinity is our Father and our Creator; His very bosom is our home, and unless we live there forever our unhappy lot will be with the hopelessly lost. Yet to make this sad choice costs more than our salvation. The separation from God is an ineffably great evil. If we have sinned — and who has not sinned? — let us return to Him, with confidence. He who sent His Son to suffer and die for us will not reject us; a contrite and humble heart He will never despise; and even there is joy in heaven before the angels of God when the sinner repents of his sins.

Blessed be the MOST HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY, now and for evermore! Amen!

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In this treatise by Silliman Ives, we are given an insight into the trials and tribulations of his mind as he found his way back to the true Church of his fathers – The Roman Catholic Church.

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He gives us insights into the difficulties inherent in the Protestant religion. Things that can not be reconciled with historical facts, sound reason, and the Faith espoused in the early Church. We are given an insight into the temptations that Protestants must overcome if they are to come to the true faith. An understanding of their prejudices and the obstacles that they must overcome may prove to be just what we need to help those who have had the misfortune to be raised in a false religion. There is not only much that is of use to the traditional Protestant sects but even those who have been raised in the Modernist Novus Ordo will, if they are humble and honest, find grounds for them too to return to the Church of their fathers.

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Could You Explain Catholic Practices?

Rev. Charles J Mullaly, S.J.

THE SODALITY OF OUR LADY

Though the majority of actual Sodality of our Lady at the present time are those of women, the Sodality itself was started for men and boys. Its history is an interesting one. We learn that Father John Leunis, S.J., a teacher in the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, conceived the plan of “fostering piety among his pupils by means of a Sodality. He erected an altar in a classroom, and there gathered such as wished of the students from the class of Humanities down. At the end of class each afternoon they met in this place and occupied themselves partly in prayer and partly in spiritual reading. Besides, in the afternoon of Sundays and Feasts, they came together and recited the Psalms of Vespers with a certain amount of singing.” This was in 1563, a date commemorated three hundred years later by the solemn celebration of its tercentenary by the *Prima-Primaria* Sodality of the Roman College.

The members of the first Roman Sodality of our Lady, as was expected, soon became distinguished in studies and in general conduct, as well as in piety. The Sodality founded by Father Leunis, S.J., had the characteristic marks of all true Sodality of our Lady. It was devoted to our Lady, and had for its aim extra goodness in its members. This extra goodness was quite definite in its manifestations; it was to be exercised in the frequentation of the Sacraments and the hearing of Mass, and by holy meditations, exhortations and prayers, and was to bear fruit for the neighbor in the practice of charity. To do these things the body was necessarily a select one.

The Roman College Sodality was favored in 1577 with Indulgences granted by the Sovereign Pontiff. It spread far and wide and the good it was doing led the General of the Society of Jesus, Father Claude Aquaviva, to secure for it a more extended influence by having it created a Head Sodality with the power to

affiliate others. But its growth was not confined to students of Jesuit colleges. Others also were added who had never been Jesuit pupils, men from all conditions and vocations in life. Thus it soon became evident that, in college and out, Sodalities were the principal means employed by the Jesuit Fathers for deepening and widening the very wholesome devotion to the Blessed Mother of our Savior.

There are on record, as early as 1617, Sodalities of women with the Indulgences of, but not aggregation to, the *Prima-Primaria*, but it was only in the time of the Sovereign Pontiff Benedict XIV, in 1751, that general faculties were given for the aggregation of Sodalities of girls and women to the Roman *Prima-Primaria* Sodality. Women Sodalities, generally known as "Children of Mary," came into existence chiefly after 1825 and, when they once began to grow with full sanction, they soon rivaled the Sodalities of men. All ages and conditions were gathered into them. There were Sodalities for married ladies, for single ladies, for young women, for girls in the world, for children

in convent schools, etc. The grand principles were still the aim of them all, devotion to our Lady showing itself in marked goodness of personal life and in work for the neighbor.

Any Bishop can give permission to establish a Sodality in his diocese. If it is desired to have the organization aggregated to the *Prima-Primaria* of Rome, in order to share its privileges, his written consent must be obtained before the application is made.



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