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“A Catholic by prayer and penance”

Today, both Modern Church and Civil Society want to adapt the Gospel's preaching to materialistic science of the human body and psychology. As Jacques Marteaux said: *“striving to render Christian truth accessible to minds trained to refuse the supernatural.”* It is an immanent twist what makes the trick- it is to one's opinion and application, even in prayer and penance.

As a matter of fact, in order to convert people who do not believe in the supernatural faith, a make-believed world must be installed; namely, it should be a different attitude reflecting a new way of believing and doing, with appearance of Catholicism.

With this “attitude” non-Catholic and Catholic believers would not know how to be understood in the concrete sphere where it must accomplish its divine mission, placing oneself into harmony with the modern world. These are some pastoral applications confronting of today's Church: same sex partners or re-married couples among others.

The New Evangelization incubated in Vatican II Council, and now launched even more by the actual Pope, could project a 180 degrees reaction. In fact, Apostasy is a complete rejection of the truths of the Catholic Faith by one who has been baptized. A vicious and sinful life often leads to apostasy; a good man has suddenly fallen away from Catholic Faith, but a person who little by little sinks endangering his faith and morals compromising his beliefs and deeds. An apostate denies or gives his religion through fear or shame, or through worldly motives or human respect, including denying Jesus Christ Himself. It may happen that a Catholic gives up his religion because he had a quarrel with a priest begetting not only anger but also hatred against God.

Often, the Vatican II attitude versus Religious Liberty has fostered a revolting spirit in our wounded human nature, confronting our supernatural means of eternal salvation. As result of a weakened attitude of morals and teaching in our Catholic Faith, one can fall into HERESY, which is the refusal of baptized persons to accept one or more of the truths revealed by God and taught by the Catholic Church. If this refusal is voluntary and obstinate, then it is a formal heresy. If it is involuntary, then is a material heresy.

A “heretic” claims to be Christian but denies one or more truths revealed by God. Members of Protestant denominations are heretics. Actually, the word in a literal sense means: “to choose”. They choose to believe part of the faith denying the other or other(s) part(s). It is imperative to discern if there is obstinacy in one's will or not, as a person who had not learned otherwise.

In this perspective, a Catholic person sins against Faith by infidelity when willfully doubting truths that have been revealed to the Church. For example, one doubts the doctrines of the Church when reading books - endangering both teaching and morals. In addition, religious ignorance is told when someone is not learning well why and how he must be Catholic. That's why infidelity is a rejection of the Faith by one who had received it. People who do not believe in Christianity as a divinely revealed religion, whether they have been baptized or not, are commonly referred to as “infidels,” because they refuse to believe in anything that cannot be perceived with the senses, or comprehended with the understanding.

Therefore, it is imperative that we serve God in the way He requires, not in the way it may please us to do so. For this reason, we must practice the religion revealed divinely (by Holy Scripture and Oral/written Tradition), and avoid making up our own religion according to our fashions and whims. Buddhists, Moslems, Hindus, Jews, and pagans are infidels, as said some Christians can become as well.

Doubtless to say, Modern World has been imbued in the revolutionary attitude (interreligious) ecumenical services of believing. It is said that all religions are equal for worshiping the ONLY one God but with different names, which it is absurd to accept. Further, to this non-sense thought, there is that spirit of ruling the Church. It is that way of thinking that the “Catholic Church” is a perpetuated COLLEGE of bishops working 24/7 in the world in moral union with the “bishop of Rome,” acting as ONE bishop more. This thought was brought up during the Vatican II Council. (Absolutely, Archbishop Lefebvre clearly refuted, as we can read his book “A Bishop Speaks”). These two-fold principles completed the Religious Liberty false ruling of Faith, which comes from man and ends in man, forgetting Our Lord Jesus as the Son of God sent as the ONLY Redeemer of the

world. When ignoring the true Messiah, the Modern Attitude of INDIFFERENTISM takes all over the walks of the Catholic life. It teaches that all religions are equal, that there is no absolute Truth (God) and everything is just relative to the human conscience. It is a result of a lack of interest not only in religion but also common sense.

However, many people do not want to trouble themselves about studying their religion, or to face the consequences of practicing religion so that by excusing (most of the times purposely) ignorance, they do not act accordingly with what they suppose to do. Then, slowly but surely, and gradually they lose the Catholic Faith.

Besides, a Catholic person sins against Faith by taking part in non-Catholic worship because he thus professes belief in a religion he knows is false. Therefore, it is wrong to be present at Protestant or Jewish services when we do actively participate in them because such services are intended to honor God in a manner He does not wish to be honored. A passive participation has to be granted for a very important reason. In addition, when we give bad example of our public profession of faith, then we expose ourselves to the danger of losing our faith and/or somebody's faith. When necessary, for "social obligations," a Catholic could be present at a non-Catholic wedding or funeral, but he must not actively participate in the services.

Let us be aware that the spirit of the Catholic Church, the spirit of truth seemingly undergoes a metamorphosis when adapting it as principle of "spirituality" in tradition, with sympathy without limits. The psychology of these people is rather liberal for convenience sake, but it is more difficult to uphold such an attitude. This way of thinking places in a delicate position the keeping of Catholic principles versus of pursuing a political correct standing, as Traditional Congregations are doing now. Thus, through this psychological weakness the enemies of the Church have taken advantage: all the while keeping one face half-Catholic, they did not hesitate to contradict Tradition. (Sounds familiar?)

Finally, let us remember that it is a sin to belong to any society, which is opposed to the Church. Many charitable persons, who have joined some un-Catholic associations merely for social or business reasons, do not understand the stand of the Church. Most of them serve only to a certain degree but they are lying up for more compromises between their belief and deeds accordingly to Catholic tenets.

Therefore, as Catholics professing privately and publicly our faith we can best safeguard our faith by making frequent acts of faith, by praying for a strong solid faith, by studying our religion earnestly, by living a good life, by fostering Catholic literature and good books, by refusing to associate with people who attack or undermine our morals, customs, teachings. Catholic Tradition has endured to believe and to practice during twenty centuries such tenets, by not reading dangerous books, magazines, printed or online web services, which opposed to the Catholic Church, in our teaching, ministers, and infra-structure.

But most of all, a strong bulwark to faith is a good Catholic life. Never does a just man, living according to the teachings of the Church, gives up his faith. Hence, to increase in faith, let us go to Confession and receive frequently Holy Communion so that our soul may be strengthened by the grace of God, and be protected from evil. More than ever, the attendance to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is needed. It is there that we received the fortitude to persevere in our path to heaven fighting the temptations from the world, the devil and the flesh. Let's make a Lenten Season in prayer and in penance.

Concluding, let us remind what Dom Gueranger taught us: *"Show yourselves, therefore, to be such as you are in reality, convinced Catholics. There is a grace attached to the full and entire confession of the faith. This confession, the Apostle tells us, is the salvation of those who make it; and experience demonstrates that it is also the salvation of those who hear it."*

Viva Cristo Rey

Father Zendejas