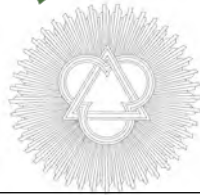

Most Holy Trinity Seminary Newsletter



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My dear Catholic people,

Over the past few weeks I have been getting some reactions to my comments concerning the MeToo movement.

I said in my November newsletter that a woman who was dressed impurely was partially responsible for the assaults upon her by predatory males, although the principal responsibility rested with the man. This section of the newsletter went up as a blog posting on the internet. I received a good deal of messages on the phone responding negatively to this point.

What characterized these responses was the use of the f-word and the s-word.

This was also true of the negative responses to a piece on my blog earlier. I said that, in relation to the then Judge Kavanaugh, if it is his word against hers, his word would have more weight because he is a federal judge. It is a general principle of Catholic moral theology that a superior has more credibility — all things being equal — than an inferior. A judge is obviously superior in society to a private citizen. My statement had *absolutely nothing to do* with the sex of either party. If it had been a female judge and a male accuser, I would have said exactly the same thing.

Nonetheless, the MeToo-ers descended upon me with wrath. Opposition, even rage, however, does not bother me in the slightest. I am used to polemics, and a forceful presentation of a thesis opposed to my own is for me a normal part of life.

What is alarming, nonetheless, is the growing violence of the Left. Whereas the Leftists, in the

1960's, were the vocal promoters of freedom of speech, they are now refusing freedom of speech to anyone who would contradict them.

The use of expletives, for example, is a form of violence. It is meant to hurt and do damage. It is a form of abuse. It is also an indication of the low intellectual level of the user, if “f” and “s” are the extent of the logic of his argument.

Worse is the fact that our website was hacked, no doubt in retaliation for my comments about MeToo. Hacking is a violence. It is a damage, and it is a repression of the freedom of speech which is so touted by the Left. It is censorship. It is to make dogmas of leftist ideas, an exclusive ideology. It is reminiscent of both nazism and communism.

The dying Novus Ordo religion. Recently a Novus Ordo priest in Maryland tweeted the following:

Simply put: every diocese is full of parishes that have much smaller, now mostly older, congregations, in aging buildings with less money, and in a few short years we will hit the bell curve with both people and money. And we're barely talking about it.

Our schools are closing, and those that remain are becoming “private” schools for those who can afford them, as we struggle to understand what “Catholic Identity” means for a student body, most of whom do not attend Sunday Mass.

The average knowledge of the faith in most Catholic communities is at a low point, though it will probably get worse. Meanwhile, the prac-

tice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation has virtually disappeared, as have other traditions that had culturally marked Catholics in the past.

The priest's name is Fr. Matthew Fish, and is the pastoral administrator at Holy Family Catholic Church in Hillcrest Heights, Maryland. He assigns the cause of all of this to the "collapse of Catholic culture."

As horrifying as Fr. Fish's analysis is, and accurate, I am forever aghast at the failure to assign this decomposition to Vatican II. All of the Catholic culture, of which he laments the passing, was very much present before Vatican II, e.g., Catholic schools accessible to all (because of the plenitude of brothers and nuns to teach in them), Catholic hospitals, Catholic orphanages, Catholic Youth Organization, Catholic lawyers' and doctors' associations, Holy Name Societies, Confraternities, Rosary Societies, and many other similar organizations. There were long lines for confession every Saturday with many priests hearing. Seminaries and novitiates were loaded with vocations. There were public processions with the Blessed Sacrament. There was the Legion of Decency. In other words, there was a whole world of Catholicism which preserved Catholic morals and culture in every aspect of life. I am witness to this, since I lived it as a child. Then Vatican II blew it all up. Why do not any of the Novus Ordo clergy say this? When will they say that the Council was the work of the enemies of the Church, the Modernists, called by Saint Pius X the *worst* enemies of the Catholic Church? Never in her history has the Church seen such devastating destruction of the faith in her people and her institutions.

Before the Council, the Catholic Church was very careful to protect the faithful from the influences of the non-Catholic world in which they lived. The reason for all of the institutions and organizations which I mentioned above was, precisely, to make a Catholic world for Catholics living in a non-Catholic, even anti-Catholic, culture. The very notion of protecting Catholics from bad influence was destroyed by Vatican II, embracing as it did the Modernist idea of adaptation to the modern world.

I even remember sitting in a religion class in 1966, in which the teacher, a religious Brother, was talking about the change in thinking about protecting Catholics from the modern world. He spoke

about all the organizations which I mentioned, and said that the trend now is to dismantle these, and to let Catholics mix in with non-Catholics. The fact that I can remember it, now 53 years later, shows that I was very bothered by the whole idea.

Vatican II is, of course, the cause of the decomposition and collapse of which the Novus Ordo priest speaks. For one thing, the gradual decline over the past sixty years of Catholic faith, morals, and culture, accelerating as it goes, is absolutely coincidental with Vatican II and its subsequent reforms. But someone may say: "You cannot accuse Vatican II just because these problems are coincidental with it." True, but nevertheless the phenomenon does draw our attention. So let us look at the intrinsic causes. Modernism's basic principle is that the Catholic Church must be adapted to the modern world. This idea is what has dominated Vatican II and its reforms. But the modern world embraces perverse, atheistic, relativistic, agnostic, and immoral ideas and practices, *to which Vatican II has conformed the Church*. But to conform the Catholic Church to these things is to kill it. This is precisely what is happening before our eyes.

The Novus Ordo religion is still operating on the immense strength of pre-Vatican II Catholicism. Just like a hurricane over land continues to turn even after it has lost its source of power, so the Novus Ordo is still functioning as an institution because it is still drawing from pre-Vatican II power. But just as the hurricane eventually dissipates, so too will this new and false religion of Vatican II dissipate. The young people, for the most part, just have no interest in it.

The recent abortion laws. There has been a good deal of outrage recently about the very liberalized abortion laws which were passed in New York and Virginia, permitting the child to be murdered even as it is in the process of being born. In Virginia the governor said that, even if the child survived the abortion, the parents and the abortionist "would have a discussion," implying very clearly that if the parents did not want the child, the abortionist would kill it.

I do not understand the outrage, since all of the logic for performing the heinous crime has been with us since *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973. In fact, it has

been with us since the legalization of artificial contraception.

The Catholic doctrine is that sexual intercourse has a single purpose, which is the *procreation of a human being*. Notice that the word is *procreation* and not creation, since the prefix *pro* means that the parents are accomplishing the creation of a child *for* God. This means that the parents are given a role in the production of a human being, in which they provide the flesh, whereas God provides the immortal soul. The result is a human being, who has, on the one hand, a body, like that of the animals, but on the other hand, an immaterial and immortal soul, like the angels. This soul is what makes human beings different from animals, possessing as it does an intellect and will. These faculties enable the soul to know immaterial things, and to *freely* choose to do good things. Animals choose their good things by being programmed by God through instinct, and their choices are not free.

Hence the Catholic doctrine sees the child as primarily and essentially the work of God the Creator, and as something which is rightfully God's. The parents have a merely vicarious role in the order of creation, permitted as they are to provide the material part of the child. Consequently, the entire reproductive process is under God's direct control, and must be ordered according to God's law, which is the natural law.

God the Creator has attached pleasure to the reproductive act in order that human beings be motivated to propagate the human race. The pleasure is therefore something entirely subject to the use of sexual activity according to the rules of nature.

Pope Pius XI, in his encyclical *Casti Connubii*, said that the parents act "as ministers, as it were, of the Divine Omnipotence."

Listen to the same pope in the same encyclical:

Since, therefore, openly departing from the uninterrupted Christian tradition some recently have judged it possible solemnly to declare another doctrine regarding this question, the Catholic Church, to whom God has entrusted the defense of the integrity and purity of morals, standing erect in the midst of the moral ruin which surrounds her, in order that she may preserve the chastity of the nuptial union from being defiled by this foul stain, raises her voice in token of her divine ambassadorship and

through Our mouth proclaims anew: any use whatsoever of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offense against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin.

To sum up: (1) Sexual intercourse is essentially ordered to reproduction; (2) the pleasure associated with it is essentially ordered to reproduction, and exists only to promote reproduction; (3) the entire reproductive act, from conception to birth, is completely under the control of God, and must be carried out in accordance with the natural law; (4) the child, from conception to birth, is God's child primarily, and continues to be God's child forever; (5) The parents have a merely vicarious role in the creation of a child inasmuch as God permits them to partake in His creative process; (6) it is therefore the role of the parents to conceive according to nature, and to protect the unborn child until birth, and thereafter to rear the child both in regard to his or her spiritual needs and temporal needs.

The atheistic/materialistic/secularistic/evolutionistic view is the complete opposite. Human beings are essentially animals, having evolved from gorillas or gorilla-like animals. They have no immaterial or immortal souls. Their intellects and free wills are functions of their material brains. There is no judgment after death, no reward for virtue, and no punishment for moral depravity. Like animals, human beings exist to have pleasure, and the most pleasurable thing is sex. Reproduction is a side effect of the pleasurable sex act. The conception and bearing of children is completely under the control of the woman, who bears a child as a part of her own body. It is entirely her possession and she makes all the decisions concerning its conception, and its survival after conception.

So it is evident that contraception is at bottom the cause of abortion. If reproduction is entirely under the control of the woman, and if we are merely animals, then what is the harm in terminating the life of the child, either through contraception or by abortion? Why should there be any limit on the time of abortion? Indeed, what stops a mother, in this macabre logic, from ordering the death of her child even when it has exited the womb, and has

become physically independent from her? How would it differ from putting a litter of unwanted puppies to death?

The only reason why some are horrified by these new abortion laws in New York and Virginia is that a late term abortion *seems* more grotesque and monstrous. The steely liberal logic, however, puts its blessing upon it.

Bergoglio: God wills the pluralism of religions. On February 4th, Bergoglio signed a document, together with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, entitled *A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together*. Most of it is what we heard over fifty years ago from Paul VI: what we call *bom-fog*. This is short for “brotherhood of man; fatherhood of God.” Put simply, it means that the naturalistic (and masonic) brotherhood of man cannot succeed without the help of religion. It is an implicit denial of the royalty of Christ, and of the necessity to be submitted to His rule in order to be saved and in order to achieve peace in this world. It is to affirm that the brotherhood of man can be achieved on purely naturalistic principles, but that it needs a spiritual dimension which only religion — any religion — can give. The Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* is loaded with this idea. It places the Church at the service of the naturalistic world which is trying to save itself without Christ, a fallen race placing its hope in its own ability to pull itself up from the depths of sin and its effects. It is atheistic inasmuch as it sees as the goal to be achieved only the purely natural goal of man: international peace, prosperity for all, human rights, and so forth. This is why Paul VI in 1965 told the United Nations that it was “the last hope of the world.”

Bergoglio, however, used the occasion to create a new heresy and blasphemy, namely that *God wills the pluralism of religions*. Here is the quotation:

Freedom is a right of every person: each individual enjoys the freedom of belief, thought, expression and action. The pluralism and the

diversity of religions, color, sex, race, and language are willed by God in His wisdom, through which He created human beings. This divine wisdom is the source from which the right to freedom of belief and the freedom to be different derives. Therefore, the fact that people are forced to adhere to a certain religion or culture must be rejected, as too the imposition of a cultural way of life that others do not accept.

Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, in the encyclical *Mirari Vos*, condemned freedom of conscience: “This shameful font of [religious] indifferentism gives rise to that absurd and erroneous proposition which claims that liberty of conscience must be maintained for everyone.” Pope Pius IX reiterated this condemnation in 1864, in the encyclical *Quanta Cura*.

To my knowledge, however, no Modernist has said, to date, that God *wills* the pluralism of religions. This means that God wills heresy, blasphemy, and error in both the dogmatic and moral spheres. Can any blasphemy be more grave than this? Where does it say such a thing in Sacred Scripture? The Fathers? The teaching of the Church? Listen to Pope Pius XII in the discourse *Ci Riesce* of December 6th, 1953: “That which does not correspond to truth or to the norm of morality objectively has no right to exist, to be spread or to be activated.” How then could God actually *will* the existence of a false religion which denies His own revelation, and which places its blessing upon immorality?

This new heresy and blasphemy of Bergoglio’s, however, is nothing but the logical offspring of Vatican II’s ecumenism, and its affirmation of the relativism of truth which underlies ecumenism.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Donald J. Sanborn
Rector