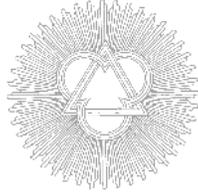


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# Most Holy Trinity Seminary Newsletter



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AUGUST 2020

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My dear Catholic people,

At this writing, there will be a total of eighteen seminarians enrolled for the coming academic year. Not all, however, will be here in Brooksville. There is one who will attend our French language branch in Lévis, Quebec, that is, Henry Chappot de la Chanonie, who already has a visa for Canada, and will be there at the end of this month. The other who is prevented from coming is our new Nigerian seminarian. His visa is blocked because of coronavirus concerns. The embassy said that they may issue visas in December, which means that he could come for the second trimester in January. In the meantime, we can follow his courses in Nigeria by means of Zoom. We just recently accepted a seminarian from Puerto Rico. We will have to house some seminarians off campus, who will commute in the morning and at night.

The need for a larger building is obviously acute. This month, the officials of the City of Reading will have an informal meeting with our architect, which will be very telling. They will inform us of their concerns, and what happens at this meeting will indicate the probable outcome of the formal, “yes-or-no” meeting in early September, in which the City will give us permission for the seminary or not. Please pray for that intention, since at present we see no viable alternatives to the building we have in mind to buy.

**Reflections on coronavirus.** While it is true that the virus is a real disease, more aggressive than the average flu, and that people are dying from it, it is also true that it is being used for leftist political purposes.

One of the doctors who appeared on the steps of the Supreme Court recently, and who were censored by the social media nazis, said this:

We have 39.5 million people [in California], if we just take a basic calculation and extrapolate that out, that equates to about 4.7 million cases throughout the state of California, which means this thing is widespread, that's the good news. We've seen 1,227 deaths in the state of California with a possible incidence or prevalence of 4.7 million. That means you have a 0.03 chance of dying from COVID-19 in the state of California.<sup>1</sup>

The latest numbers for Florida are: 527,000 cases and 8,108 deaths. This means that there is a 1.5% chance of perishing from the virus, and a 98.5% chance of surviving it. These figures are in a state where there is a very high proportion of elderly people. 20.5% of the people in Florida are 65 or older, compared to only 16.4% of the population of the State of New York.

The United States as a nation, according to the figures commonly given, is showing a 3.4% death rate per number of infections, and a .05% death rate per the population. In comparison, France has a 3.6% death rate per number of infections, and a 1.1% death rate per the population. The United Kingdom has a staggering 14.9% death rate per number of infections, but only a .06% death rate per the population. Germany, much touted for its low rates, nevertheless has a 4.2% death rate per number of infections, and a .01% death rate per the population. Italy has a 14% death rate per number of infections, and a .05% death per the population. Spain has an 8.9% death rate per number of infections, and a .6% death rate per the population. So, as you can see, the United States is among the lowest in death rates both in regard to infections and in regard to the general population.

Notice that the media never give the *death rate*, but only the number of cases. The amount of those infected is meaning-

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted in Breitbart News on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

less. What counts is the amount of those dying from it. They fail to mention the death rate because it does not serve the leftist political ends to report that even in a state of vulnerables like Florida, you have only a 1.5% chance of dying from this “plague.” If someone told you that you had a 98.5% chance of winning the lottery, would you buy a ticket? If the doctor told you that you had a 98.5% chance of surviving an operation, would you elect to have it? Of course.

Furthermore, the United States is criticized for its number of cases. But it has a population of 321 million. That is equal, approximately, to the combined populations of France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain and Italy. The total number of cases in the United States is 5.1 million. The total number of cases in those countries combined is 1.7 million. However, whereas our death rate per infections is 3.4%, the average death rate in the five European countries I mentioned is 9.12%.

The United States, therefore, while showing more infections, which could be due to more testing, is nonetheless much lower in the death rate. You are nearly three times more likely to die of coronavirus in Europe than in the United States. Yet the media portray the United States as a plague-infested cesspool, and you know whose fault that is! In fact, President Trump has protected the citizens of this country more than the others have protected their citizens. The United States is one of the safest places on the planet.<sup>2</sup>

What is clear is that whatever there is of truth about the coronavirus, the leftist media are using the “plague” as one more means of taking down President Trump. The Left’s incessant rant that the President can do nothing right has gotten very tiresome and even childish. It destroys the credibility of the Left, as well, since there is no one that does only bad things. The worst rulers in history did some good things. Mussolini made the trains run on time in Italy, Hitler built the autobahns, and Stalin built the subway system in Moscow.

More evidence that the Left is using the coronavirus for its radical political aims is what U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (a Portuguese socialist) recently called for. He wants the U.N. to address “the huge gaps in governance structures and ethical frameworks” which have become evident since the outbreak of the virus.

In a July 20<sup>th</sup> speech, entitled the Nelson Mandela Lecture – Mandela was a self-proclaimed communist – the unelected Portuguese socialist said this:

To close those gaps, and to make the New Social Contract possible, we need a New Global Deal to ensure that power, wealth and opportunities are shared more broadly and fairly at the international level.

A new model for global governance must be based on full, inclusive and equal participation in global institutions.

A New Global Deal, based on a fair globalization, on the rights and dignity of every human being, on living in balance with nature, on taking account of the rights of future generations, and on success measured in human rather than economic terms, is the best way to change this.

The worldwide consultation process around the 75th anniversary of the United Nations has made clear that people want a global governance system that delivers for them.<sup>3</sup>

**Interrupting internalized racial superiority and whiteness.** This was the title of an instruction given by the City of Seattle’s Office of Civil Rights, in which white people were segregated – yes, segregated – from other races in order to learn how to be less white. They were told that whites feel superior to other races, and that this sense makes them incapable of acting in a humane way toward other races.

How do whites do these dastardly things? By having ideas such as perfectionism, comfort, objectivity, individualism, and intellectualization. The white people were told that they had to let go of such racial barriers – as comfort, physical safety, social status, and relationships with some other white people.

Mentally balanced people regard perfectionism, comfort, objectivity, individualism, and intellectualization as good things. Lunatics, psychotics, dimwits, and sickos think that these things are bad. The conclusion is that the City of Seattle is governed by lunatics, psychotics, dimwits, and sickos.

Furthermore, to “accuse” white people of these “defects” is a gross insult to black people. It is as if to say that African Americans are incapable of the pursuit of perfection and of comforts in life, of being objective, of self-reliance, and of being intellectual. This sounds like something you would hear at a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan. Yet is this not what Seattle is saying to its white employees? They are saying that if you cultivate these qualities, you are going to make African Americans feel downtrodden because they do not have these qualities. What an insult!

**Disappointment with Viganò.** In the past two newsletters, I spoke about the statements of Novus Ordo Archbishop Viganò. These were cerebral and succinct condemnations of the Second Vatican Council and of the effluent from that dreadful meeting.

In a recent statement to the *Remnant*, however, which is a recognize-and-resist publication, the Archbishop took the position of what I would call *recognize and ignore*. He says, essentially, that Vatican II can just be ignored. Its false teach-

<sup>2</sup> Even Canada, which enacted a *draconian* lockdown, has a 7.5% death rate per number of infections and a .02% death per the population.

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Breitbart News, July 21, 2020. What he is describing here is nothing less than a worldwide socialist government under the control of the U.N. Such a state of affairs is a necessary condition for the reign of the Antichrist.

ings do not matter since there were no definitions of dogma, and therefore are fallible statements.

This idea, that the only things which we are bound to believe are solemnly *defined* doctrines, defined either by the pope alone (*ex cathedra*) or by a general council in union with the pope, is a very serious error. For it neglects the much more common way of teaching, which is by universal ordinary magisterium (UOM). Doctrines which are taught by UOM are just as much the object of divine faith as solemnly defined dogmas, and therefore just as infallible. To doubt or deny them would be heresy.

**A review of universal ordinary magisterium.** The Vatican Council of 1870 taught this: “By divine and Catholic faith, all those things must be believed which are contained in the word of God, either written or handed down, and which are proposed by the Church either in a solemn pronouncement or in her ordinary and universal magisterium, to be believed as divinely revealed.”

Let us examine the statement. The Church gives various conditions for the requirement that something be believed by divine and Catholic faith. (1) The first is that what is taught be found either in Sacred Scripture or Tradition, at least implicitly; (2) the second is that the doctrine be proposed either by a solemn pronouncement or by the universal and ordinary magisterium; (3) the third is that the Church propose it as something to be believed as divinely revealed.

**What is divine and Catholic faith?** *Divine faith* is a supernatural assent to whatever God reveals, whether it is contained in Sacred Scripture or Tradition. Therefore everything in Sacred Scripture is the object of divine faith. For example, Saint Paul, in II Timothy IV: 13 says: “The cloak that I left at Troas, with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, especially the parchments.” Because Sacred Scripture is the inspired word of God, we believe with divine faith that St. Paul did indeed leave his cloak at Troas with Carpus.

The Church, however, does not explicitly propose for belief, in her magisterium, everything that is in divine revelation, but only certain things. Those things which she proposes for belief, taken from revelation, are the object of divine and Catholic faith. This means that the universal Church (i.e., “Catholic” meaning universal) must make public profession of the proposed doctrines, under pain of the crime of heresy.

The Church may do this proposition of doctrine in two ways: (1) by solemn pronouncement; (2) by the universal ordinary magisterium.

By far the more common way in which the Church teaches is by the UOM. Indeed, it is the ordinary way.

**What is the UOM?** It is the doctrine which is taught by the pope and at least the majority of bishops, dispersed throughout the world, which is contained in revelation, at least implicitly, and which is proposed for belief as being divinely revealed.

Notice I say *doctrine*. People commonly make the mistake of asking, “Is the encyclical infallible?” A document is not infallible, but a doctrine is infallible. The pope and the bishops may choose any kind of organ of communication, even verbal, such as sermons or allocutions. In these forms of communication there is usually a whole array of doctrines, ranging from the lowest level, what is merely the pope’s opinions<sup>4</sup>, to the highest level, which is solemn magisterium. In the encyclical *Casti Connubii* Pius XI spoke mostly about exhortations to virtue in married life. But when it came to artificial birth control, he made a solemn statement,

condemning the practice. So it is necessary to look at the doctrine, and how it is proposed, to determine whether or not it is the object of divine and Catholic faith. The document, or the organ of presentation in general, has no bearing.

**How is the universal ordinary magisterium exercised?** It happens in various ways: in the creeds in common use in the Catholic Church, as well as other professions of Faith, in sermons given by the pope and diocesan bishops; by doctrines contained in approved catechisms; by the common teaching of approved theologians; by approved liturgical feasts and practices; by devotions approved by local bishops. There could be other ways. The important elements are that (1) the pope teaches it; (2) the majority of bishops teach it. For example, there is no solemn pronouncement that Guardian Angels exist. Yet, by the universal celebration of the feast, it is part of the universal ordinary magisterium. The same was true of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary before its solemn definition in 1950. Nearly all of the Church’s moral teaching is by means of the UOM.

A *sign* of UOM is that the faithful throughout the world believe it, and have always believed it. The reason why they believe it is that it has been taught to them universally by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. The reason why they have



Pope Pius XI

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<sup>4</sup> Pius XII in his Christmas message of 1956, for example, expressed the desire that the U.N. be given more authority and strengthened. [!] Obviously this is only his opinion, and is not UOM.

*always* believed it is that the Church never contradicts herself, but always teaches the same thing.

**Does Vatican II contain UOM?** Absolutely it does. While most of it is just nonsensical gobbledygook, endless and boring verbiage, and juxtaposed antithetical statements, there are certain things in it which fulfill the conditions.

Most glaring is religious liberty. It fulfills, first of all, the condition that it is about morals, for a right concerns morals. Secondly, the text says: “This Vatican Council **declares** that the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits.” [emphasis added] The word *declares* is indicative of an authoritative statement. Third, it cites divine revelation: “The council further **declares** that the **right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person as this dignity is known through the revealed word of God and by reason itself.**” [emphasis added] The document is terminated by these words: “Each and every thing which in this Declaration has been declared has pleased the Fathers of the Sacred Council, and We, by the apostolic power given to Us by Christ, approve, decree, and establish those things in the Holy Ghost, together with the venerable Fathers, and We decree and order that those things which have been established in a synodal way be promulgated for God’s glory.” It is signed by Paul VI.

All of the bishops of the world promulgated this decree. It fulfills all of the conditions of UOM. It is therefore of divine and Catholic faith and is infallible – according to the rules. In fact it is a blasphemous heresy.

To understand what I just said, merely substitute the word “abortion” for “religious liberty,” and you will grasp it right away.

The SSPX attempts to whitewash the doctrine of religious liberty, however. Although Archbishop Lefebvre considered it heretical, the SSPX interprets it to mean that the Church should not force conversions. Of course the Church teaches this, but this is clearly not the sense of the document.

Proof is that in a few paragraphs down, the Council gives the right to false religions to propagate themselves and found their own communities: “Provided the just demands of public order are observed, religious communities rightfully claim freedom in order that they may govern themselves according

to their own norms, honor the Supreme Being in public worship, assist their members in the practice of the religious life, strengthen them by instruction, and promote institutions in which they may join together for the purpose of ordering their own lives in accordance with their religious principles.”

The Council grants people, in other words, the right to blaspheme God by a false religion. This is utterly contrary to Sacred Scripture, as we see God’s anger at the Hebrews’ adoration of the Golden Calf. At God’s command, 23,000 were put to the sword for their idolatry. (Exodus 32) According to Vatican II, they should have had the right to honor the Supreme Being – the Calf – in public worship, instruct their people in the worship of the Calf, train clergy for Golden Calf worship, and establish religious orders and institutions for the cult of the Golden Calf.

There are many other cases in the Old Testament of God’s anger with false religions. In the New Testament, Our Lord predicted that Jerusalem would be destroyed because it knew not the time of its visitation, that is, the visitation of the Son of God. Approximately one million perished in 70 A.D. for infidelity to the true God and the true Son of God. The punishment for infidelity to the true religion was far more severe in the New Testament than in the Old.

**Vatican II cannot be ignored.** I have given only one example of why Vatican II is universal ordinary magisterium, and why it cannot be “ignored.” To recognize Vatican II as a true Council promulgated by a true pope is to destroy the Catholic Church’s seamless garment of consistency in teaching infallible truth throughout the ages. Ignoring Vatican II demolishes the Roman Catholic Church altogether, and

makes all of the arguments in defense of her divine origin and her perpetual divine assistance and protection completely worthless, false, null, and void.

The only way out of Vatican II is the painful declaration that it was the work of Modernist infiltrators in the hierarchy, starting with John XXIII and continuing up to and including Francis, and that all of the acts of these so-called pontiffs are null.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Donald J. Sanborn  
Rector



*The worship of the Golden Calf*