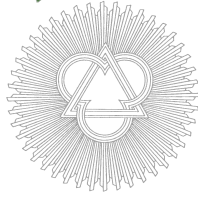


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# Most Holy Trinity Seminary Newsletter



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My dear Catholic people,

You may recall from the last newsletter that I visited in January the chapel of Father Philippe Guépin in Nantes, France. The sad news is that he passed away suddenly on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, just a little over a month after I saw him in France. No autopsy was performed, so we do not know the cause of death. He was found dead by his assistant, Father Henry Chappot de La Chanonie, a priest who was trained at Most Holy Trinity Seminary and who is a member of the Roman Catholic Institute. Father Guépin was seventy-one years of age.

I first met Father Guépin in October of 1971, as we both entered Ecône on the first day of the academic year. I have been in contact with him over the years, and much more in recent years, after he invited me to come and do Confirmations in his chapel. Even before this invitation, however, I would visit him from time to time in France, or see him in Italy while we were both visiting the priests of the Institute of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Verrua. In the year 2000, he made the trip over from France to Michigan in order to attend the celebration of my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the priesthood.



**Father Philippe Guépin**

*This picture was taken after a baptism on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and is probably the last taken of him.*

Father Guépin was an extraordinary priest. Full of priestly zeal, he would travel extensively in France in order to bring the Mass and sacraments to lay people, religious sisters, and elderly priests. He was deeply pious, and particularly devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Every year he organized an elaborate outdoor procession in the streets of Nantes in honor of Our Lady's Assumption. During the summer months he preached retreats and days of recollection to the lay people. He made himself always available to the lay people, carrying his phone with him at all times, and keeping it close by his bed at night, in case there should be a sick call.

Father Guépin was noted as well for his attention to the beauty of his chapels. He had "agents" in France who would comb the flea markets and the antique dealers for beautiful articles which were being discarded by the Novus Ordo. I myself consecrated a magnificent altar in his chapel which he retrieved from a church in Rennes. His chapel was loaded with the relics of the saints.

He was very devoted to the Divine Office. He once told me that he never missed a single day of the breviary. This feat is extraordinary, since priests, although seriously obliged to the recitation

of the Office, are occasionally excused for reasons of illness, apostolic duties, works of charity, or other impediments arising from travel, etc. He would even recite it when very ill with fever. He said, "Sometimes it was very difficult."

Father Guépin was an "icon" in France, in the sense that everyone in the traditional world knew him, and even if they disagreed with him, respected him for the dignity and the zeal which he brought to the priesthood.

He was ordained by Archbishop Lefebvre in 1977, together with Father Cekada. He was a sedevacantist even then. In 1979, Archbishop Lefebvre regained hope of reconciling with the modernist heretics, owing to the overtures of the arch-modernist John Paul II. In order to please the modernist heretics, the Archbishop issued a decree that he could not tolerate in the Society of Saint Pius X anyone who would not mention the name of John Paul II in the canon of the Mass.

Father Guépin, together with a few other French priests of the SSPX, told him politely that they, in conscience, could not accept to mention the name of the arch-modernist in the canon. As a result, Archbishop Lefebvre dismissed them from the Society of Saint Pius X.

It should be noted that Archbishop Lefebvre was very ambivalent in his views concerning the Novus Ordo "popes." Fr. Guépin was one of Archbishop Lefebvre's drivers, who would therefore accompany him on his long journeys in France to spread the word. Father Guépin told me that on one of these trips, Archbishop Lefebvre confided to him that he, Archbishop Lefebvre, did not think that Paul VI was a true pope. It was around the same time that he made statements, in 1976, to Parisian newspapers, which cast doubt on the papacy of Paul VI. It is furthermore true that Archbishop Lefebvre made many statements which contained all the *logic* that would lead you to conclude that the Vatican II "popes" were not true popes. Father Cekada did a video in which he brought forward these many statements of the Archbishop which logically supported sedevacantism. It is entitled "Marcel Lefebvre: Sedevacantist." It is available on YouTube.

I say this to point out that the sedevacantist position was not something merely "cooked up" in the minds of some extremist seminarians and

priests. All the principles of sedevacantism were learned from the Archbishop himself.

Nonetheless the Archbishop knew that he could not negotiate with the modernist heretics unless he recognized their authority. This was the reason for the great shift in attitude in 1979 and 1980.

In that same year, 1980, he came over to the United States with the intention of giving the same ultimatum to then Father Kelly, then Father Dolan, and Father Cekada. They proposed to him, however, that the sedevacantist position was a legitimate theological opinion, something which he agreed with, for he said at their meeting: "*I do not say that the pope is not the pope, but I do not say either that one cannot say that the pope is not the pope.*" The problem was resolved by an agreement on the part of the Oyster Bay clergy that they would not be public about their sedevacantist positions. The Archbishop, on his part, refrained from dismissing them.

I am not sure exactly when Father Guépin founded his chapel in Nantes, but I know that when I visited him in 1986, he was already very well established there.

Father Guépin was very devoted, as well, to Saint Joan of Arc and to Saint Louis, the King of France. You should understand that French traditionalists are very devoted not only to the traditional Mass and sacraments, but also to the Catholic traditions of their country. France was the first European country to achieve the status of an organized nation. The King of the Franks, Clovis, was baptized by Saint Remigius (Saint Rémy in French) in Rheims in the year 496. From that moment on, the land we now call France became deeply imbued with Catholic culture. The remnants of this once great Catholic culture is evident to any visitor of France.

The French traditionalists detest, with good reason, the French Revolution and all of the neopaganism which it brought to their once Catholic country. They look back upon Saint Joan and Saint Louis with great devotion and fondness as symbols of Catholic France.

I have absolutely no doubt that Father Guépin died in the state of sanctifying grace. But this certitude which I have should not lead anyone to conclude that we should not pray for the repose of his soul. God judges souls, and not men. May he rest in peace.

**“Catholic” Italy has the most rapidly declining population.** It was recently in the news that Italy leads in declining population rate. It is due to the fact that the Italians are not having enough children. Why is this so? Because of the Novus Ordo.

Although you will read in the Novus Ordo catechism that artificial birth control is wrong, it is nonetheless true that for decades, since the 1960’s, the Novus Ordo clergy have virtually condoned the practice by their silence, even though nearly all of the couples of child-bearing age are engaging in artificial birth control of one form or other.

Artificial birth control is a mortal sin. It is a sin against nature, and thwarts the principal purpose of the marriage act. In the moral theology books it is listed with other sins against nature, such as sodomy and bestiality. Saint Thomas says that it participates in the notion of murder, since it deprives the would-be child of its conception.

The Novus Ordo clergy is to blame for the low birth rates, as the Western world glides toward extinction by means of contraception and abortion. The winners will be the Moslems, who do not believe in birth control, and who also permit the having of many wives, which further increases offspring.

So see Europe now, before it becomes a Moslem state.

**The FBI now after the Catholic traditionalists.** In a recent memorandum found in the files of the FBI office in Richmond, Virginia, there was a warning against traditional Catholics who reject Vatican II and are against Francis and John Paul II. It said that they use the traditional Latin Mass. The FBI agents are meant to infiltrate these groups, called “RTC’s” (Radical Traditional Catholics), and report about them, since they are, as the memorandum states, “hate groups” and “potential terrorists.” Apparently it mentioned by name the SSPX and the SSPV. We did not appear on that list.

One can tell from the detail that was provided in the memorandum that it was written by a Catholic.

So apparently rosaries have become weapons of mass destruction.

I suggested to Bishop Selway that we announce on Sundays that the spy from the FBI is invited for coffee and doughnuts after Mass.

While we may be tempted to shake this off as something ridiculous, it is, nonetheless, a sign of things to come. “Woke” is becoming a state religion, and those who disagree with it will become “dangerous.” Life will be made miserable for us. Will they put us on “no fly” lists, for example, because we are “potential terrorists?” Will we receive low social credits, as in Red China, because we do not conform to the state religion of “woke-ism?”

The Left will not tolerate us any more than the French Revolution tolerated the refractory priests, those who refused the oath to the revolutionary constitution. “*No liberty for those who deny liberty*” was the revolutionary slogan, as well as *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity...or death!*” It should not be forgotten that the French revolutionary monsters put to death a whole convent of contemplative Carmelite nuns as being a “threat to the State.” The Left will not tolerate us any more than the Russian Revolution tolerated the Catholic Church, or any religion for that matter. The Left will persecute us just as the communists persecute the Catholic underground in China. It is not to be forgotten that the Chinese communists have concentration camps for the Uyghurs, in order to “reeducate” them.

Persecution, however, for the true Faith is the greatest gift we can offer God, and guarantees for us a great reward in heaven. “*Blessed are ye when they shall revile you, and persecute you, and speak all that is evil against you, untruly, for my sake: Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven. For so they persecuted the prophets that were before you.*” (Matth. V: 11-12)

**Cause for alarm.** The leaders of the world have apparently not learned the lesson of World War I. The lesson is this: That great powers should not intervene in conflicts between two nations.

I am referring, of course, to the war in Ukraine. I think that Ukraine is entirely in the right with regard to its claims to territorial integrity. The lands which Russia hopes to grab from Ukraine were granted to Ukraine by Lenin (the Donbass region) and by Khrushchev (Crimea). Russia should face the stupidities of its past communist leadership for having given away territory which once belonged to the Russian Empire. The Soviet republics had the right to secede from the Soviet Union at any time. This right was guaranteed by Stalin’s constitution in the 1930’s and in the revised constitution of the 1980’s. The

Russians should have thought of a breakaway province at that time. Too late now.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary was entirely in its right in invading Serbia for having participated in the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand. (But let it be said that his visit to Sarajevo was extremely imprudent, since it was a hotbed of anti-Austrian unrest. It is also true that there was a bomb thrown at his car, which wounded one of the attendants, but the Archduke imprudently insisted on continuing the journey through the streets).

Kaiser Wilhelm II, the most maligned and vilified person of the whole conflict, said repeatedly in the weeks leading up to World War I: "Let it be a local conflict." In other words, he had the wisdom to see that the participation of the great powers of Europe would lead to a conflagration that the world had never seen up to that time. No one listened. Russia, her flames fanned by France, seething with revenge against Germany over the loss of Alsace-Lorraine in 1871, saw herself as the protector of all the Slavs. She mobilized against Germany. Germany had no choice but to declare war. And the rest is history, as the saying goes.

Ukraine is a very similar situation. It would be a grave injustice that Russia prevail over Ukraine in this land-grab. It would be a much worse evil, however, that the whole world become involved in a nuclear exchange, which would not only kill many people and destroy infrastructure from nuclear blasts, but would ruin the soil in such a way that the radiation would make it impossible to grow edible crops. In other words, it would be prudent to tolerate the injustice done to Ukraine in order to avoid a destruction of the world. It is a question of the lesser of two evils.

It must also be said that just as Austria-Hungary deserves some blame in starting World War I by sending its Archduke to Sarajevo, so Ukraine is not without blame in uniting itself with the West, with full knowledge that such a move would enrage Russia.

Another worrisome factor is that Putin's legacy depends on winning in Ukraine. He cannot "back out" without shame. If put up against a wall, he will resort to any means in order to win.

We must pray fervently that this war not escalate into an armageddon.

Yet another cause for alarm is China. In these past few weeks, two highly placed officials of the U.S. government, one of them a general, predicted war with China within the next two years.

If the prediction has merit, the people of the United States, together with its government, should be in a panic. Not only would there be almost inevitably a nuclear exchange, but it would also mean that this country would be deprived of all the products manufactured in China.

Practically every single thing which you buy, with the exception of food, is made in China. Even things not made in China contain electronic chips and other elements which come from China. Without these electronic components, virtually nothing would work. Since the early 1980's, this country has been drained of its manufacturing capabilities. Even the clothing you put on often comes from China.

The alarm is that our government does not seem to perceive this danger of being cut off from Chinese goods. It is concerned more about climate and "equity apartments" in the suburbs.

What is also disquieting is that the recruitment numbers of our military are falling short. Young people are not interested in joining the armed forces. I think that one of the causes is that the armed forces have been "woke-ified," that is, more interested in what pronoun to use instead of how to kill the enemy. The other reason, I think, is that many of the wars since World War II have been fought half-heartedly and without strategic success. This is not due to lack of bravery on the part of the soldiers, but due to bad decisions by the government in how to conduct the war. I am thinking about Korea, Vietnam, Iraq (which has become a political satellite of Iran) and Afghanistan, which needs no comment at all.

The state of the world and the state of our country is not good. Again, let us pray.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Donald J. Sanborn  
Rector