Most Holy Trinity Seminary Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026

Published by Most Holy Trinity Seminary, 1711 Hampden Boulevard, Reading, Pennsylvania 19604. This newsletter is sent free of charge to all Seminary benefactors who contribute $100.00 or more annually. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact us by mail, or **contactform@mhtseminary.org.** Please visit our website at **mostholytrinityseminary.org**

My dear Catholic people,

I have been asked to comment on a troubling phenomenon among young people today, which is a growing interest in racism and nazism.

First, let us define racism. In the popular sense, it is to hate or at least disparage persons of certain races, usually the black race, purely for their racial origins or characteristics.

This is obviously contrary to the law of charity, since God made all men, and everyone should be the object of our charity, no matter what he or she looks like.

However, in most cases it is not skin color which is the source of revulsion or animosity, but instead the very high crime rate among black people, and particularly their tendency to commit violent crime.

For this reason, law abiding citizens do not want to live near black people, in general, lest their cars be stolen or worse, they be murdered.

Such aversion does not violate the law of charity. Indeed, the distaste for such persons is not based on their color or race, but on their behavior. Unfortunately, there is a high proportion between color and crime, and this can easily lead to racism in the bad sense.

Furthermore, it is not racism to recognize that differing races have various strong points and weak points. This is simply reality. Just as there are certain races of dogs which excel others in speed or intelligence, so among human beings some races excel others in certain respects.

Asians, for example, excel all other races in what we might call *application*, that is, a very acute work ethic whereby, for example, they very often outdo white people in the playing of classical music. The Asians are disproportionately represented in European and American symphony orchestras because of their outstanding skill which is the result of assiduous practice and determination.

European races have excelled in art, architecture, and music, but not always. The inhabitants of western Europe were all savages until the Romans arrived. These races were also the beneficiaries of Catholicism in the early centuries A.D., which had a very civilizing and uplifting effect on the barbarians. Ever since Europe rejected Catholicism, its accomplishments in art, literature, music, architecture, and other products of Catholic civilization have come to a halt. They have descended into hedonism, materialism, immorality, irreligion, and produce nothing but ugly culture, putrid morals, and laws which protect and promote filth and godlessness.

The black races, for the most part, were unfortunately somehow cut off geographically from Egypt and Mesopotamia, "the cradle of civilization," as it is called, and for this reason descended into living a very primitive life, one of day to

day survival. As a result, they acquired in many cases uncivilized habits.

To make matters worse, they were sold by black slave owners in Africa to white slave traders. This immoral slave trade endured for centuries, until England finally abolished it in 1807. The United States abolished slave importation in 1808, but did not abolish slavery until after the Civil War.

Because the African slaves in this country were completely dependent upon their "owners,[1]" they found it very difficult, once freed, to become assimilated to European civilization which the colonists in America brought with them from Europe, principally England.

Patrick Henry recognized this problem. Before freeing his slaves, he educated them in the ways of American culture so that they could survive, and not merely roam around the roads without a home or employment.

When slavery was abolished, however, there was no such training or education, and black people quickly descended into poverty and with it many of the habits for which they are generally known today. Because of these habits, black people are to a great extent avoided by white people for the reasons I stated.

I say *to a great extent,* since there are many black people who have learned civil virtues, who are well educated, and who observe the rules of decent living.

To return to the subject of racism, it is not against justice or charity to try to avoid someone of any race who will likely harm you, or who does not observe basic civil virtues.

It is against justice and charity, however, to lump all persons of any given race into a general and unredeemable category, and to treat them scornfully simply because of their race.

So the young persons who may be badly influenced by racism in this very immoral sense should abandon these ideas and come to understand all the proper distinctions. No one should be excluded from our charity.

Nazism. What is yet more alarming is the interest that some of the young have in nazism.

Nazism is commonly perceived as being a movement of the right wing. It is not. It is extremely leftist. After all, it is *national socialism.* What is more leftist than socialism? The only difference between the system of Hitler and that of Stalin was that German socialism was nationalistic, whereas Russian socialism was internationalistic. In fact, when Hitler was running for office in the early years of his career, Stalin told the communists in Germany to vote for Hitler.

The reason why nazism gained a reputation for being "right wing" is that it brought law and order to a nation that was plagued by disorder under the Weimar Republic. This post-war government brought to otherwise conservative Germany developments which were offensive to the German population, for example: jazz music[2], women's immodest dress, modern architecture, abstract painting, the importation of the immoral culture of Hollywood, to mention only a few of the cultural and decidedly leftist changes introduced by this régime.

Consequently, a Hitler coming along in January of 1933 brought hope to the conservatives of Germany that their culture would be restored to pre-World War I standards. To a great extent it was. Abstract art was banned as "degenerate," a good term for it. Modern architecture was also banned. Women were expected to dress modestly. Behind the scenes, however, Hitler inaugurated many policies against the natural law, for example, the killing of mentally disabled persons.

Hitler also attracted conservatives because of his promise to undo the Versailles Treaty, which, thanks to the freemason Clémenceau, prime minister of the leftist Third Republic in France,

---

[1] It is both immoral and impossible that one human being "own" another human being.

[2] It should be remembered that *jazz* is the term used in the negro houses of prostitution in New Orleans to mean the marriage act. *Rock and roll* also refers to the same thing. (From *Cassell's Dictionary of Word Origins*)

and hater of Catholicism, placed enormous war reparations on Germany, thereby giving rise to the Second World War[3].

Hitler was a thoroughgoing socialist, a leftist. He also praised the modernists in the Catholic Church for having the right idea. He hated Roman Catholicism, probably more than he hated the Jews. He said, "I would prefer to see pigs eating out of a trough than to see a Catholic receiving Communion." (He was raised a Catholic in Catholic Austria). He required those entering the Waffen-SS, the elite troops of the Wehrmacht, to give up their religion.

The benevolent attitude toward nazism on the part of certain conservative young Catholics is, to say the least, not edifying. In fact, it is downright deplorable. While it is true that nazism opposed the horror of international socialism and the New World Order which we are living today, it is also true that the nazi world order would have produced its own horrors for Catholics and the Church in general. The only reason why Hitler tolerated the Catholic Church, which in many cases he openly persecuted, was in order to have the support of Catholics, who probably amounted to one half of the Greater German Reich, and certainly the majority of those in the conquered territories, and in sympathetic but neutral Spain.

These young Catholics today look with horror at the modern world: socialism, liberalism, the corruption of morals, one world government, the UN, abortion, birth control, filthy movies and television, legalization of sodomy, divorce and remarriage, women's liberation, communism, destruction of family life, sex education, perversion, free-thinking, "environmental awareness" and globalism.

Instead of becoming nazis, however, young persons, in the face of all of this religious, social, economic, and political upheaval and transformation, should pray and take the means to survive, particularly in the religious sphere. They should become good Catholics, and not good nazis, which is simply an alternate form of pagan socialism.

Young persons should also understand that there is no good politics on the face of the earth. Western democracies are deeply infected with the errors of naturalism, as well as the errors of freedom of speech, of the press, and of religion, all of which have been condemned by the Catholic Church. While there is legitimate freedom of the press and freedom of speech, in the sense that legitimately controverted issues may be publicly aired and discussed, what is condemned is the idea that you have the right to say whatever you please or publish whatever you please. Needless to say, there is only one religion which has the right to exist, namely the one true religion, Roman Catholicism, all others being false and abominations in God's sight.

Young persons, therefore, should not become excited or optimistic about any political party in this country or any political or social movement anywhere since the beginning of the eighteenth century. American political theory is poisoned by naturalism, which holds that human beings can perfect themselves and therefore live in a perfect society without help of actual grace. Naturalism is based on the denial of original sin and its effects. It denies the Catholic dogma that human beings cannot long persevere in all the natural virtues without the aid of actual grace. It means that eventually man will fall into mortal sin if not aided by actual grace.

Naturalism was spawned by Protestantism, inasmuch as it denied the possibility of being in the state of sanctifying grace. In protestant thought, we are all sinners therefore deprived of sanctifying grace and our "holiness" consists merely in believing that God forgives us and that we are saved. As a result, protestant theology and philosophy engendered an attitude that nature is corrupt and irreparable, thereby reducing human activity to merely leading a purely natural life. Sin became an inevitable consequence of our corrupt nature. All one needs to do is to be-

[3] Pope Benedict XV predicted that the outrageous war reparations would lead to another war.

lieve that he is saved. Martin Luther said: "Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly...No sin will separate us from the Lamb, even though we commit fornication and murder a thousand times a day.[4]" He also said: "The sting of the flesh may easily be helped as long as girls and women are to be found.[5]"

Only Our Lord Jesus Christ, by His infinite power, can overcome the forces of hell which have been unleashed against His Church and against society. Only the reign of Christ the King in our families, our society, and in our government can set aright our culture, our nations, and our way of life. Pope Pius XI said it succinctly: *Pax Christi in regno Christi — The peace of Christ in the reign of Christ.*

Young Catholics would do well, therefore, to familiarize themselves with Catholic political and social teaching. This they may garner from diverse papal encyclicals, such as *Quanta cura* of Pope Pius IX, *Libertas præstantissimum* and *Humanum genus* of Pope Leo XIII, *Notre Charge Apostolique* (Our Apostolic Mandate) of Pope Saint Pius X, *Quas primas* (on the kingship of Christ), *Divini redemptoris* (on atheistic communism) and *Quadragesimo anno* of Pope Pius XI, to mention only a few of the sources. They will find that the Catholic order is neither that of the liberal democracies nor that of naziism, nor that of communism, nor that of the New World Order. It is different from all of these, for all of these have a single common denominator: the removal of Christ and His Church from society.

More springtime in the Church from Vatican II. On the occasion of the recent visit by Prevost (Leo XIV) to France, the Vatican issued these statistics about Catholicism in France:

From 1980 to 2024:

- 60% drop in the number of priests.
- 72% drop in the number of parishes.
- 84.7% of French were Catholic in 1980, whereas in 2024 only 74.9% are Catholic.
- 513,000 baptisms in 1980; 186,000 in 2024.

This last figure does not seem to make sense. The drop in baptisms is 68%, whereas the drop in the percentage of Catholics is only about 10%.

Weekly Mass attendance in France is anywhere between 2% to 8% of Catholics.

I would like to see how these figures compare with those of 1960 or 1950.

The Archdiocese of Detroit recently published some "springtime of Vatican II" figures. The following are expected to decline between 2025 and 2029: Infant baptisms by about 66%, First Communions by about 66%, Confirmations by about 55%, Marriages by about 50%. In addition, 67% of parishes have fewer than 600 persons attending weekly Mass. Fewer than half of Catholics in the Archdiocese attend Mass weekly. Most active priests are over 50 and the number of priests is expected to decline by 40% over the next ten years.

Other "springtime" statistics. Weekly Mass attendance in the United States was at 75% before Vatican II. It declined to 44% in 1987, and is now at about 24% to 29%.

The average age of Novus Ordo priests in the United States is 63. In 1970, it was 35.

This figure of 63 means that many Novus Ordo priests are well into their seventies.

You know how the song goes: "Everything's coming up roses…"

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Donald J. Sanborn

Most Rev. Donald J. Sanborn
Rector

---

[4] Weimar ed. vol. 2, p. 372; Letters I, *Luther's Works,* American ed., vol. 48, p. 282.

[5] Grisar, Fr. Hartmann S. J. *Luther,* vol. 4, p. 126.