

the flock

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CAN CATHOLICS DISSENT FROM CHURCH TEACHING?

MORE and more often Catholics, some in positions of authority, are claiming that we can dissent from essential Church teaching and still claim to be faithful Catholics. It seems that, even though so many martyrs died to defend them, some Catholics feel the Truths revealed by Christ don’t really count for much. I doubt if anyone feels the same about other established truths, such as those about medicine, law or even traffic. No, it is only the Truths of the Faith people see as either totally dispensable or so flexible they can bend them to fit their own inclinations.

This is obviously not only dangerous but it is extremely damaging, causing distress to faithful Catholics and confusion to those who are not well informed about the Faith. It is also a comparatively new departure. There was a time when those who disagreed with any important Church teaching were honest enough to leave the Church and those who, while under instruction, found there was a teaching they could not consent to, quite properly postponed or cancelled their reception. Although the Church may be a church for sinners it is definitely the Church of believers.

This is how it has been from the beginning until now and it is how it has to be. Because being a Catholic means we acknowledge that about 2000 years ago Almighty God became Man and, before He died on the Cross, spent three

years teaching us what we need to believe and how we must act. We accept that He trained twelve Apostles to carry this teaching on, so ensuring it was passed down to each succeeding generation until the end of time. No mere mortal can put his opinions above this Divine Revelation, because it is teaching established by God, substantiated by the most amazing and well testified miracles, including the continued existence of the Church, still recognisable as the Church of the first century.

By Whose Authority do Catholics deny, alter or ‘improve’ on defined Church teaching? THERE IS NO SUCH AUTHORITY. On the contrary, St Paul repeatedly warned in his letter to the Galatians, “*Even if we or an Angel from heaven preach another Gospel to you besides that we have preached to you, let him be anathema.*” We could also point out that it is absurd to imagine we can change any well established truth just because we don’t approve of it. It would be like someone who said he didn’t believe in the law of gravity walking out of a sixth floor window expecting to survive.

Jesus Himself showed there is no place in His Church for ‘cafeteria Catholics’. For instance, we read in the sixth chapter of St John’s Gospel that the people of Capharnaum, who refused to believe Jesus when He told them that one day He would give them “His flesh to eat and His Blood to drink,” were allowed to walk away. These were people who had followed Jesus faithfully for a long time and He must have been sorry to see them go but, significantly, He didn’t call them back saying it didn’t matter if they were unable to accept this teaching, because it *did* matter. If we accept Jesus as our Divine Redeemer we must accept all His teaching and that of His Church. It would be blasphemous nonsense to say, in effect, that He is right on some things but we know better on others.

Why is there so much dissent today? One reason could be that the ‘modern catechetics’ taught in our schools for the last forty years assumes that the Sacred Truths, being merely subjective depend entirely on how we feel. As one Sister said to me when I rejected a faulty R.E. textbook, “*You mean it’s not true for you, dear.*” That response says it all.

In 1993 Pope John Paul II wrote the Encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* to correct this dangerous delusion which is so corrosive of the faith, but unfortunately it still persists.

The “enormous religious ignorance” Pope Benedict has referred to, inevitably leads to involuntary dissent, which, because it is not corrected, spreads confusion even more widely. Those who have the Authority to correct error seem reluctant to carry out this solemn duty. Their silence is a betrayal not only of Catholics but of all men of good will who need and deserve to know the Truth Jesus promised’ will set us free.’

Correcting error is an essential part of proclaiming Truth.

What can we do?

His Eminence, Cardinal Arinze, told some of us a while ago that we must always correct error **whoever voices it!** He was so emphatic I remember he banged the table as he spoke. And so we should, politely and kindly of course, always remembering the wise words of St Thomas Aquinas who advises us that “*Fraternal correction, including that of Prelates by their subjects, is a precept of Charity. And if the Faith were endangered, a subject ought to rebuke his Prelate publicly.*” (Summ.Theol.ii Q33.)



AN OPEN LETTER TO BISHOP CONRY OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON

THIS Christmas *The Catholic Herald* carried an interview with Bishop Kieron Conry of Arundel and Brighton Diocese which caused great concern among faithful Catholics. I received so many phone calls and e-mails from distressed readers I decided to write to the Bishop about them. He has not seen fit to reply to my letter so I am printing it here as an Open Letter.

Dear Bishop Conry,

We at *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* would like to wish you all the Blessings of this Holy Season but we feel we must also let you know that your recent interview with Andrew Brown, reported in *The Catholic Herald* for 19th December, has caused widespread dismay to a large number of faithful Catholics, in your Diocese and beyond, as the number of letters and emails we have received about it show. Rather than trespass on your time by

forwarding all this correspondence to you we decided to summarise the main points.

1. The Tridentine Mass We feel this is not the main problem and as members of the LMS can defend it quite ably, we will just point out that the Mass is always about our relationship with Almighty God, *both* as individuals and as a community.

2 “You can’t talk to young people about Salvation”!!! We agree that most young Catholics who have spent 12 or 14 years in Catholic maintained schools will not understand the word ‘Salvation’, but surely that doesn’t mean you don’t teach them about it. They need to know about Salvation and about their immortal souls so you must take every opportunity you get to explain these important terms. By the way, we do not have “eternal souls” as only Almighty God is Eternal.

3. ‘Not a good idea to go to Confession regularly’ This astonishing statement caused the most distress among our supporters, as every Confession benefits us so much. In this beautiful Sacrament we encounter Our Blessed Lord Himself, receive His Forgiveness and all the Graces needed to correct our habitual failings. It has rightly been called ‘the ladder to Heaven.’ Surely priests and bishops should be encouraging us to make frequent use of this Easter Gift of Our Lord to His Church, which is sadly neglected by so many today.

4 Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven - the four last things we all need to keep in mind in this life. You seem to claim Hell is not an important part of our Lord’s teaching, yet He warned us about it directly or by parables more often than He spoke of Heaven. In support of your claim you quote the *Sermon on the Mount*, (Matt. 5,6, and 7,) which contains at least 10 references to Hell and Matthew 25 about caring for our brothers and sisters which contains the passage, **“Depart from Me you cursed into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels.”** Jesus warned us often about hell, not to worry us but because He loves us so much He wants to ensure we never end up there -rather as a loving mother will warn her children about the dangers of traffic on busy roads.

5. “Humanae Vitae” Most of our correspondents insist that this Papal Encyclical is infallible because it only repeated the consistent universal Church teaching from the beginning – a definition of Infallibility. As Bishop O’Donoghue makes clear in his excellent Mission Statements if we dissent

from *Humanae Vitae* we have forgotten what it means to be Catholic. (We are enclosing a Summary of Bishop O'Donoghue's statements to save your time reading them.)

Any doctor will tell you that contraception, apart from condoms, is abortive in back-up as every pill and every device destroys any existing baby at a very early stage. It also instils a contraceptive mentality which leads to abortion when contraception fails. It would be good if our Conference of Bishops would follow the Canadian Conference of Bishops who issued a Statement in 2008 supporting *Humanae Vitae*, 40 years after the notorious Winnipeg Statement condemning it.

6. The God-given Authority of the Catholic Church It has been pointed out to us that dissent from *Humanae Vitae* is dissent from the Authority of the Church, which is vested in the See of Rome and all Bishops in full Communion with Rome. Questioning this Authority leads to confusion about Church teaching with Catholics picking and choosing their beliefs according to taste!!

In these troubled times when, as Pope Benedict XVI has warned us there is such "enormous religious ignorance" it is helpful if our bishops proclaim the Truth clearly and without ambiguity. Otherwise they only add to the general confusion. So we hope this information has proved helpful and will enable you to issue an equally public statement correcting any false impressions given by the Andrew Brown interview.

We, your devoted children in Christ, assure you, My Lord, that you have our daily prayers as we trust we have yours,

Daphne McLeod

On 9th January *The Catholic Herald* printed eight letters about this interview. Six were from faithful Catholics gently correcting the Bishop on various points and the other two showed the damage such Episcopal dissent causes. One was from a couple who thanked Bishop Conry for his remarks saying that they now no longer "*worry about their doubts and questionings... Can you be a Catholic and dissent ? Yes we say, and the Bishop didn't actually disagree.*" The other was from Father Julian Shurgold, P.P. of The Holy Family Church, Sutton in Southwark Archdiocese.

Father Shurgold said he agreed “with most” of Bishop Conry’s statements.

On 16th January *The Catholic Herald* printed a letter from John Medlin of *The Latin Mass Society* correcting the Bishop’s mistaken interpretation of *Summorum Pontificum*, the Pope’s recent ruling on the Tridentine Mass. He didn’t raise any other points but they also printed a letter from me asking what authority Catholics have to dissent and recommending Bishop O’Donoghue’s excellent Document *Fit for Mission?* Church which explains the Church’s true position so well.

One of the most worrying aspects of the Bishop’s interview is that he obviously knew he could speak out as boldly as he liked as no action would be taken. However, as there was no public correction, we in *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* decided to send this interview to the Holy Father and to various Sacred Congregations in the Vatican.

So far we have received no response.



BISHOP CONRY IS NOT ALONE IN HIS DISSENT

SADLY, Bishop Conry’s stance differs very little from that of his brother bishops, with Bishop Patrick O’Donoghue the one notable exception. All the others betray the Catholic Church and its members by -

1. their consistent failure to ensure that the Catholic schools they are responsible for, teach the faith according to the 1994 Catechism;
2. uniting our Catholic schools with Anglican schools and arranging joint Anglican/Catholic religious instruction, often given by non-Catholic teachers;
3. permitting explicit classroom lessons on sex even in Catholic primary schools, in spite of the Vatican ruling that such lessons are always unlawful and sex should never be taught to children of primary age;
4. agreeing to install Moslem Prayer Rooms and ritual washing facilities in Catholic schools although these are not required by law and are not found in state schools;

5. insisting that Catholic schools must accept children who have been baptised without considering Sunday Mass attendance or reception of the Sacraments. This goes further than Government requirements and it means that good schools like Cardinal Vaughan Senior School may have to refuse faithful Catholics while admitting those who do not practice;

6. producing a leaflet urging parish priests to welcome homosexuals in Homilies and Bidding Prayers expressing “*appreciation of the gifts homosexuals bring to their faith community*” without mentioning that all single Catholics are called to celibacy. This has caused particular distress to Catholic homosexuals striving to live chaste lives;

7. knowingly allowing openly practising homosexuals to hold Conferences and to celebrate Masses where Holy Communion is given, in their dioceses. Perhaps the most glaring example is Warwick Street Church in Westminster Archdiocese where every other Sunday Masses for openly practising homosexuals are permitted at 5 p.m. followed by a Social. These have continued for two years now and we still pray the Rosary outside in reparation for the sacrileges committed.

8. ignoring instructions from Rome on the Liturgy and other points saying “*This doesn’t apply to England*”! Even contradicting the Holy Father, as H.E. Cardinal Cormac did recently when he insisted that the Pope’s clear insistence that the Church teaches homosexuals are unsuitable for ordination was “very much misrepresented.” His Eminence claims that the Pope was merely discussing “human ecology”! See *The Catholic Times* for 11th Jan. 2009.

9. allowing General Absolution condemned by Rome as a serious abuse of the Sacrament of Penance, to continue unabated and openly advertised on web-sites and in parish newsletters in many dioceses.

10. permitting marriage preparation programmes which fail to mention Church teaching on marriage and sometimes Our Lord Himself – for an example visit

<http://www.torchofthefait.com> <<http://www.torchofthefait.com/>>

There is much more, but these examples show how low we have sunk, partly due to a misunderstanding of collegiality which leads to majority rule instead of each bishop individually taking responsibility for the Faith in his diocese. **However, any diocesan bishop is free to exercise his rightful authority any time he chooses.** Bishop O’Donoghue has shown the way in his

Diocese.

The Vatican, in the person of Archbishop Luis Ladaria, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, endorsed Bishop O'Donoghue's *Fit for Mission Documents*. His Grace also expressed the hope that "*Catholics throughout Britain will find hope and encouragement in these Documents*". If you have not yet seen the Documents, we still have copies of the Summary which you can order from us for a small donation.



‘LOONEY LEFT’ VERSUS ‘CONSERVATIVE RIGHT’!

IN his interview with Andrew Brown, Bishop Conry quoted Cardinal Hume's saying that "*It is always easier to deal with the looney Left than the conservative Right...they are always nicer people*" with approval. This is not dissent of course just an opinion which the bishop is free to express, but I do feel rather surprised by it because I have been in this work for forty years and I have found the exact opposite.

We at *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* are frequently overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of our supporters and I find myself often thanking Almighty God for putting me in contact so many wonderful people through this apostolate. I am sure the Bishop would label our supporters 'conservatives', but I have received real inspiration and valuable spiritual help from the lovely letters, e-mails and phone calls I get from people who just couldn't be nicer. Labels are not ideal but if we must use them I would rather use 'liberal' instead of 'looney left' as it means much the same and doesn't sound so insulting.

So how have I found liberals? I'm afraid I have heard so many distressing stories from Catholics who have been relentlessly persecuted by liberal Catholics that it is hard to see them as 'nicer people'. Is it nice to hound Catholic teachers out of schools simply for teaching the faith according to the 1994 Catechism ? And to then label them "troublemakers" so there is no possibility of future work in Catholic schools ? And to do this with no regard for their welfare or in some cases that of their families ? This has happened all too often. If, as I have, he had accompanied a distraught teacher to a Job

Centre looking for any job that will pay the mortgage the bishop might see it differently.

Then there are the phone calls I have received from conservative Catholics on the verge of tears after a severe dressing down from their liberal parish priest who chose to take exception to a necessary correction to a point of Doctrine or Liturgy. I try to say something comforting but I can't help wondering if Father could have been a little kinder, especially when the person is elderly and alone.

I have myself had a few encounters with liberals, like the occasion Mgr Andrew Faley, who is now being considered for a bishopric, swore out an Affidavit accusing me of saying all the English bishops since the Reformation were heretics! I have a great admiration for so many of these brave bishops I could never even suggest that. All I really did was suggest the bishop's R.E. Curriculum should mention our immortal souls and Sanctifying Grace. The Affidavit worried me enough to get legal advice so, fortunately, I was able to clear myself of the charge.

Another time, at a talk in Portsmouth for catechists, I inadvertently upset a priest by saying I found Mass and Holy Communion helpful when the Speaker, a crazy Australian, wanted suggestions like hugging a tree which he finds spiritually uplifting. Father told me in no uncertain terms to go and he would refund my fee. I didn't go so he smouldered all day and as I finally set off home I could still hear him shouting "*whitened sepulchre*" down the street after me.

Fortunately this kind of 'niceness' is usually confined to shouting as I have no job to lose, but once it got physical. I was at the launch of ICONS and busy examining it for the first time when a young priest who had helped write it recognised me, snatched the book out of my hands and ejected me from the hall quite forcibly. Even so, I know quite well that my experiences are nothing to those really in the front line like faithful priests who do need our prayers. I am sure Bishop Conry is sincere about finding 'the looney Left nicer than the Conservative Right' because, as long as you agree with everything they say, liberals are all sweetness and light. It is only if you venture to disagree with something you see the other side and Bishop Conry may never have disagreed with a Liberal Catholic in his life.

However there is a lesson here for us 'Conservatives'. Perhaps we should

make more of an effort to say something really nice before we do our duty and correct some important error. Let's remember too that errors are often the result of ignorance which is not entirely the person's fault. For some reason Liberals are especially sensitive to correction, so if we want to help them we must handle the situation as diplomatically as possible. I remember being warned in the Catholic Evidence Guild that if we are not careful, we can win an argument and lose a soul. Now if we are not careful we can make a point but miss the opportunity to convert a 'liberal' Catholic into a 'conservative' Catholic and a friend.

Father Faber gave us the guidance we need in his great hymn which could have been written for today's situation –

Faith of our Fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife.
And teach Thee too as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our Fathers, Holy Faith,
We will be true to Thee 'til death.



“ . . . and the trumpets sounded for them on the other side!”

RECENTLY we have lost several valiant warriors who devoted their lives working to help those who are suffering from the current crisis in the Church and in the world. We would like to ask for your prayers for them and also pay them a brief tribute here.

Please pray for David Foster a long standing member of our Committee who is going to be sorely missed. David worked as a teacher and twenty six years ago he set up an annual Catholic Summer School, offering youngsters a week of lessons on the faith, talks on matters of Catholic interest, quizzes, and various activities. These schools proved very popular and over the years past students have returned, some as priests, to help with the teaching. Fortunately these Summer schools are going to continue under Dominic

Sullivan. David, who also used to Chair the *Pro Fide Forum* regularly, took over its running after the death of John Edwards, so continuing to present interesting Catholic speakers to London audiences. David died on 30th December 2008 after a short illness and fortified by the Sacraments of the Church. He was buried on 13th January and two of the young priests concelebrating his Requiem Mass had been students at his Summer School. Please pray for his widow Dora too, as she died on 19th January 2009, after being admitted to hospital the day after David's funeral following a bad fall.

Mgr Michael Wrenn of New York Archdiocese died last Autumn after various illnesses which led to his gradual decline. He was in his eighties and his sight was very poor but he kept up his interest in working for the Church. We owe Mgr Wrenn a great debt as he was the one who researched exactly what went wrong with religious instruction in the late sixties/early seventies, describing it in his book *Catchisms and Controversies* (pub. Ignatius Press.) He was also the one who 'blew the whistle' on the first faulty English translation of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* so we have to thank him for the excellent translation we now have. The Monsignor was a good friend to *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, speaking for us several times and supporting our work. He had all the gifts and qualifications which would have fitted him for the office of Bishop or Cardinal if he had been content 'to toe the party line' but to his great credit, Mgr Wrenn chose instead to protect his Catholic brethren by speaking out against error.

Father Godfrey Carney of Liverpool Archdiocese also died last autumn, aged 97 after a long life serving the Church with unusual courage and wisdom. I remember him quite fearlessly exposing the errors in Modern Catechetics in public and even before bishops, which is unprecedented for clergy who are far more vulnerable than lay people. Of course he suffered reprisals as he knew he would, but they never dulled his beautiful charity or his glorious sense of fun, so highly valued by his many friends.

Mary Doohan died on 29th August 2008 following a stroke and in the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Vauxhall, London. She founded *The Little Way Association* which over the years has done so much for people in poor countries, feeding the hungry, helping the sick, and even building churches, schools and seminaries where Mass can be celebrated and the Faith can be

taught. With Bishop Mang Thang of Burma, Mary Doohan founded *The Little Way Missionary Priests and Sisters* - Orders which are growing and spreading amazingly. From the start she decided that every penny donated to the 'Little Way' must be sent out to the countries needing it so she cut out all unnecessary expense relying on voluntary help. Seldom has one lay person organised so much help to so many others in one lifetime. Fortunately, *The Little Way Association*, Sacred Heart House, 119, Cedars Road, Clapham Common. SW4 OPR will continue its good work.

Mrs Nicky Hall who founded CIEL UK and, with her husband Peter, ran it for the first seven years, working to ensure the preservation of the Traditional Rite of Mass died on 8th July aged 67. She had struggled with cancer very bravely, working to the end on her series of books teaching the faith to children. This series of three books is entitled *From Granny with Love* as they are dedicated to her five grandchildren. For further details on them visit info@fromgrannywithlove.com

These noble souls all had very differing vocations but one thing they did have in common. They all consistently and unhesitatingly put Almighty God and the needs of their neighbours before their own interests, generously giving their time and resources. We must thank God for the good they did and the example they have set.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual
light shine upon them.*



Dear Friends,

I hope is not too late to wish you all the choicest of God's Blessings in 2009 and to thank so many of you who send us your good wishes and prayers. We are going to need all the help we can get in what is going to be a difficult year for the Church as well as for the world. It would be lovely if I could tell you things were getting better but, sadly, it seems they are, if possible getting even worse. Two areas are particularly distressing because they can damage young people so much.

Most Catholic schools are still not teaching the faith effectively, but now they are starting classroom lessons on sex for the five year olds. For a long time our schools have used some non-Catholic teachers, but now they are joining with non-Catholic schools where non-Catholics will give their version of the Faith to mixed classes of Catholic and non-Catholic youngsters. No concerned Catholic parent should use such schools as their children's faith and morals will not be safe. If they cannot give them home-schooling they should choose a good state school and teach the Faith at home, using the good resources now available.

The sacrilegious Masses for openly practising homosexuals offered every other Sunday in Warwick Street Church continue and are now entering their third year. Because they haven't been stopped, Martin Pendergast, their organiser, is becoming more brazen. Now they congratulate same sex couples from the altar for celebrating civil unions or keeping anniversaries, they decorate their newsletters with rainbows and are even demanding honourable mention on the Diocesan web-site. Because no authority has intervened, these Masses are spreading to other dioceses and Catholic centres. Unbelievably our Bishops Conference has issued instructions to every parish to welcome homosexuals and in Homilies and Bidding prayers, "express appreciation for the gifts they bring to the faith community" without reminding everybody that all sex outside marriage is "gravely sinful."

As we do not yet know the name of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor's successor we are praying that the Holy Father will appoint an Archbishop who will be faithful to Church teaching and strong enough to take action to stop the sacrilegious Masses and the false catechesis in Westminster Archdiocese. It has been suggested that we pray especially to St John Southworth and St John Fisher.

We still have the splendid *Fit for Mission* Documents Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue of Lancaster Diocese wrote last year, but, sadly no other diocesan bishop has endorsed them in spite of the praise they received from Rome. This must not stop us promoting them at every opportunity. Thanks to your magnificent help, our Booklet, *Will Your Grandchildren be Catholic?* has now sold over 6,000 copies, reaching an estimated 24,000 readers, including all our bishops, though only one bishop has responded. He is Scottish and he was quite positive. One diocesan bookshop has requested

copies to sell, but it is in Scranton U.S.A.! Our sales have decided us that booklets reach many more people than Conferences so we will be concentrating on them for the time being.

My talks on EWTN, *Discovering our Glorious Faith* have been well received and are now being repeated. So many people have asked if there is a book of them I intend to put them on paper when this Newsletter is completed. Hopefully this might help those of you who are parents, catechists and teachers pass on the Truths of the Faith even more effectively.

Please keep our Hon Treasurer, Michael Akerman, in your prayers. At the time of writing he is still having tests to decide the best treatment for the problems with his heart. He is advised to avoid stress or strain of any kind so perhaps it would be best if you send any donations you can spare, to me for now.

Thanking you all most sincerely for your loyal support and your prayers which we all really appreciate,

Daphne McLeod



OBEDIENCE TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER

YOU may remember that in our last issue we suggested that, contrary to some opinions, faulty religious instruction was more to blame for the current crisis in the Church in this country, than the replacement of the Tridentine Mass by the *Novus Ordo*. We received many letters and e-mails in agreement and only one demurring, but we also received a number of letters saying that both these errors are only symptoms of the real underlying cause of the crisis, which is the failure to obey Our Blessed Mother's request and consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

We all need to be reminded of the tremendous importance of this request and of the remarkable appearances of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal – appearances verified by the astonishing miracle of the sun, foretold by the

seers and witnessed by 70,000 people at noon on 13th October 1917. These apparitions were approved by the Church in 1930 and Pope John Paul II has canonised two of the young seers, Jacinta and Francisco, who died while still young. The third seer Lucia lived on to become a nun and has more recently gone to her reward.

On 13th June 1917 Our Lady told the three children that later she would request the Pope, in union with all the Bishops, to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

In 1930 Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucia in her convent and told her now was the time to pass her request on to the Pope. Sister passed this on to her Confessor, Father Gongalves S.J. on May 29th 1930 and eventually it was passed on to Pope Pius XI.

Has this Consecration been made as Our Lady requested? Some claim it has but many others claim that Russia has still not been specifically named and all the bishops of the world have still not united with the Pope, in Rome or in their Cathedrals, on the same day to solemnly consecrate Russia to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. So the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Committee decided to suggest we pray about it. However, we do not want to enter into any correspondence on this issue as we feel it would lead nowhere. We realise that some of you may disagree about this but we know you will understand our concern and the concern of others.

In May 1936 **Sister Lucia asked Our Lord why these two difficult conditions were necessary. Our Saviour replied, *Because I wish all My Church to recognise this Consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in order to extend and place devotion to her Immaculate Heart, alongside devotion to My Divine Heart,***

He also said, *Pray much for the Holy Father .He will do it but it will be late.*

In 1982 Pope John Paul II consecrated *the world* to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, but as he failed to specify Russia or involve the other bishops Sister Lucia had to reject it.

In 1984 This faulty consecration was repeated, still failing to fulfil Our Lady's requirements so again rejected by Sister Lucia – see *Sol de Fatima* Sept 1985.

In 1989 The suggestion was made that the Consecration had been done, though the exact date Russia was mentioned specifically and all the Bishops involved, as Our Lady stipulated, is not clear. Also, Our Lady's promise that Russia would be converted, that many souls will be saved and that there will be peace throughout the world has not happened. As Our Lady is faithful to her promises, this raises serious doubts in many minds. Unfortunately Sister Lucia was for a long time under obedience not to speak on this question and as she was so saintly she obeyed, which has contributed to claims that she rejected the Consecration and counter claims that she accepted it. Hence the present, understandable confusion.

Why would there be any reluctance? According to the late and great Hamish Fraser, speaking in November 1985, many bishops resist the Consecration because they support modern catechetics which, by omission, denies the existence of Hell, Original Sin and other Truths implicit in the Fatima Message. They are also allowing classroom lessons on sex which are quite incompatible with Our Lady's insistence on the importance of the moral teachings of the Church and on modesty and chastity. Our Lady warned us that *The sins which lead most souls to Hell are the sins of the flesh.*

What can we do? We can pray for the Holy Father and for our Bishops that they will see that this Consecration, exactly as requested by Our Blessed Mother, is done. At the same time let's all be faithful to the five first Saturdays, pray our Rosary and make small sacrifices, daily, for sinners. This will fit in well with our Lenten resolutions.



GOOD RESOURCES WE CAN USE

Internet

Websites already recommended continue to offer more and more good things
The Vatican at www.vatican.va <<http://www.vatican.va>> keeps you up to date with Church Documents;

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice at www.proecclesia.com
<<http://www.proecclesia.com/>> have added many more catechetical talks for you to download free and a shop offering useful booklets;

M A Associates at www.catholicassociates.com
<<http://www.catholicassociates.com/>> have also widened their scope;

Catholic Answers at www.catholic.com <<http://www.catholic.com/>> give reliable answers to queries;

Dennis Barton at www.churchinhistory.org
<<http://www.churchinhistory.org/>> corrects false propaganda;

EWTN at www.ewtn.com <<http://www.ewtn.com/>> enables you to watch TV shows and hear radio talks;

New web-sites we recommend

Aquinas School of Philosophy at www.aquinasphilosophy.com
<<http://www.aquinasphilosophy.com/>> /Meta-CDs.htm offers a Course on Thomistic Metaphysics, recommended by Pope St Pius X as the best remedy against Modernism. The Course is on audio CD and structured so as to require no previous background in Philosophy. The CDs can be bought on line.

Michael Cowie at mjjc@mjjc6x54.freemove.co.uk has cassette tapes of John Edwards' recordings which he will be pleased to send people who do not use CDs.

Cathoogle - a new search engine for Catholics called *CatholicGoogle* filters out non-Catholic sites bringing Catholic sites to the top of the search, so saving your time.

Nathan a young American has started an organisation called Catholics Against False Ecumenism (CAFÉ) his web-site is www.cafecrusade.com
<<http://www.cafecrusade.com/>>

Good Books and Publishers.

TAN Books which have done so much good, were in financial difficulties but they have been acquired by St Benedict Press and will be able to continue their mission under their own imprint from their original address. However, this is a reminder that we must support our good Catholic bookshops and publishers if we want them to continue. Please look through the enclosed Baronius Press Catalogue.

“KATHY’S REAL STORY – a culture of false allegations exposed”, by Hermann Kelly, examines some of the more notorious allegations made against religious people in England and Ireland, including Kathy O’Beirne’s well known description of her supposed life in a Magdalene Laundry. Mr Kelly spent four years tracking down evidence which proves conclusively that these and other allegations are entirely false - including printing photos of Kathy, happy with her family on dates she claimed to be in the laundry. Unfortunately the media who publicised Kathy’s story show no interest in Mr Kelly’s refutation. Pub. by Prefect Press 2008, www.prefectpress.com <<http://www.prefectpress.com/>>

or by post from Family Publications, Oxford, Price £9.99p.

“THE SEVEN STEP REASON TO BE CATHOLIC” by Jerome D. Gilmartin
The late Mgr Michael Wrenn described this book as “ Absolutely necessary for Catholics in the English-speaking world, particularly those in Catholic Education.” We feel this wonderful book should be part of every RCIA Programme and in every Seminary Library. Further details from <http://7step.catholic.org> <<http://7step.catholic.org/>> Ignore price given on web-site and send a cheque for the equivalent of \$21.95 (U.S.) payable to “7 Steps to Catholicism,” at 171 Hickory Ridge Road, Greenfield Township, PA 18407 – 3514. USA. Tel (001) 570 650 1327. This price includes packing and postage to the U.K.

“THE MYSTERY OF FAITH“ by Father Tadeusz Dajczer. A profound meditation on the Love of God made manifest in the Holy Eucharist. £5 a copy plus £1.50 p+p in U.K. from Eucharistic Renewal Books, 1, Chy an Pronter, Bossiney Road, Tintagel. Cornwall. PL34 OAQ U.K.

FISHER PRESS Publishers of Catholic biographies, histories, travel books and spiritual works. Catalogue from P.O.Box 41, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN15 6YN

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

St Catherine's Trust, 58, Thornton Road, London. SW12 0LF. Tel 07913 481014.

Family Retreat Friday 27th March (afternoon) to Sunday 29th March at Ardingly College, Haywards Heath, Sussex. Traditional Sung Mass every day, Compline, Saturday Vespers and Benediction, Spiritual Conferences from Father Andrew Southwell, and activities for children.

Cost; £95 per adult, £150 each couple, under 18s FREE.

Summer School - Sunday 2nd August to Sunday 9th August. Ages 11 – 18. Donations accepted but no-one should be put off by lack of funds.

Daily Traditional Sung Mass, Catechesis and talks, outdoor activities and outings.

Also at Ardingly College, Haywards Heath, Sussex. For further details visit web-site www.stcatherinestrust.org <<http://www.stcatherinestrust.org/>> or e-mail: info@stcatherinestrust.org.

“David Foster’s Summer School” Sunday 26th July to Sunday 2nd August at The Oratory Prep School, Goring Heath, Great Oaks, Reading. RG8 7SF. Further details from Mr Dominic Sullivan, 15, Maple Lodge, Whitfield Close, London. SW15 3SS tel. 0208 788 8659 e-mail: dsullivan@los.ac

Greg Clovis’ HLI Family Conference at Westminster Cathedral Hall on Saturday 9th May.

L.M.S. Residential Training Conference for priests wishing to learn the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite at Ushaw College, Durham, Monday 20th April to Thursday 23rd April 2009. Price £85 which covers full board and accommodation. Further details from the L.M.S. Tel. 020 7404 7284 or visit www.latin-mass-society.org <<http://www.latin-mass-society.org/>>



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