

# the flock

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For Church  
and Pope

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## WHEN COLLEGIALITY HAS TO STOP . . .

**T**HE Diocesan Bishops who make up the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales interpret collegiality as always sticking together, right or wrong. The late, great, Alice Thomas Ellis used to complain that one could not ‘prize them apart.’ They speak and act as one man on every issue and one bishop decides the policy on education, another on Liturgy, a third for pro-life and so on for every diocese. I remember H.E. Cardinal Stickler assuring us some years ago that this is not what the second Vatican Council decreed nor is it how the Church has ever been governed. From the very beginning until recently, once a bishop was appointed he assumed responsibility for everything in his diocese. Now any bishop who is not entirely happy about a particular issue is over-ruled by a majority who decide what every bishop must do in his diocese, even if it is not what he would choose to do himself.

### How it should be done

Properly interpreted Collegiality means the local Conference of Bishops give each other friendship, advice and, when necessary, support, like other associations. When I was working I joined the National Association of Head Teachers where I made some good friends and received some helpful tips, but no-one ever tried to take over any aspect of the running of my school nor would I have presumed to interfere with the running of another school.

### Problems with our bishops' version of Collegiality.

Inevitably it gets carried to absurd lengths. If you point out to a bishop, as I have done, that the religious textbooks in his schools are not in accordance with *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* he will reply,

“But all my brother bishops have approved them so I can do nothing”. Really? Of course, he *can* do something, what he means is that he is not *prepared* to do anything. When the noble Bishop Patrick O’Donoghue produced his excellent Document, *Fit for Mission – Schools*, listing all the Catholic teachings to be given in his schools, another bishop asked him why he had done this, saying “You are not the bishop in charge of religious education”. Bishop O’Donoghue had to reply, “I am the bishop in charge of the religious education in Lancaster Diocese”, as of course he was.

### How will it all end?

One day, of course, the bishops will find that their version of collegiality comes to an end. One day each one will stand alone before his Maker to be judged and to give an account of his stewardship. There will be no brother bishops to help him then. When asked why so many of the children attending his schools lapsed through ignorance after twelve or fourteen years of Religious Instruction he had approved, what excuse can he make? After all, he alone was responsible for the religious instruction in the schools the Church has provided him with for this purpose.

### Then there are the classroom lessons on sex.

Each bishop will also have to account for ignoring Vatican Guidelines and allowing children in his care to be corrupted by explicit classroom lessons on sex given to mixed classes and at a very early age. Once one brave bishop rejected a very explicit sex-ed programme foisted onto his diocese by Bishop Konstant. Unfortunately, instead of respecting his perfect right to protect his flock, he was castigated by his brother bishops so severely he gave in.

### When collegiality equals abdication of responsibilities.

This false collegiality leads to a form of *delegation* which is so extreme it becomes a deplorable *abdication* of the responsibility proper to a bishop. A bishop who wanted to persuade me to stop writing to Rome, once invited me

to have tea with him. When he finally gave up on Rome, I asked him about the religious textbook *Here I Am* which was newly published. The Catholic papers were full of letters from concerned parents about it but even so the bishop said, “ Please, Daphne don’t talk to me about *Here I Am*, I haven’t even glanced at it!” Although he knew it was controversial, he had made it mandatory for all the Primary schools in his diocese without even looking at it! I was speechless.

### The right priorities

Surely there are few more important matters for a bishop than the religious instruction of the Catholic children in his schools. Each one is a precious immortal soul, entrusted to him by God Himself. Each one needs to be taught the truths of the faith clearly and effectively if they are to stay Catholic and resist the evils of our society. Only the bishop is able to ensure this happens – if he doesn’t fulfil this duty, who can?

### Pray and pray again.

The Holy Father is very wisely reminding us to pray for our priests. Perhaps we should also pray for those who have been given the fullness of the priesthood, our bishops.



## **A BISHOP WORTHY OF THE NAME**

**S**ADLY the time has come for us to bid farewell to the Right Reverend Patrick O’Donoghue, Bishop of Lancaster Diocese, and to wish him every blessing in his well deserved retirement. At the same time we must give him our very grateful thanks for the wonderful service he has given to all faithful Catholics in this country.

Thanks to Bishop O’Donoghue we now have three excellent Documents -one addressing the needs of the children in our schools, another for priests and parishioners in their churches and a third for young couples about to get married. These three areas have been crying out for attention for very many

years but it took a bishop with the faith and courage of Bishop O’Donoghue to tackle them so successfully.

It is not surprising that other dioceses around the world have adopted these Documents and are now implementing them. They have even received high praise from four Sacred Congregations in the Vatican, one of which recommended that every diocese in Britain would do well to adopt them. Before he retired Bishop O’Donoghue was able to take the Documents to Rome and go through them with the Holy Father, who was also delighted with them.

This makes it all the sadder that none of the diocesan bishops of England and Wales show any interest in these Documents and that they are careful to distance themselves from them. Oonagh Stannard of the Catholic Education Service insisted they were ‘just one bishop’s opinion and of no interest to any other bishop’.

Now that Bishop O’Donoghue has retired, it is up to us to ensure these much-needed guidelines are not shelved and forgotten. Buy copies if you can for your local schools and parishes. They are on sale from the CTS as *Fit for Mission – Schools, Fit for Mission – the Church and Fit for Mission – Marriage Preparation.*” We also still have copies of *A Bishop Speaks*, a summary of the first two documents, which is priced at £1.



## **WELCOME BACK TO WESTMINSTER, YOUR GRACE**

**W**E are delighted to welcome the Right Reverend Vincent Nichols back to the See where he spent so many years as Auxillary Bishop in H.E. Cardinal Hume’s day.

We look forward to watching this new broom making a clean sweep of

problems which have troubled the Archdiocese of Westminster for the last few years.

### **The Number One Priority**

First on the new Archbishop's list will undoubtedly be putting an end to the sacrilegious Masses held every first and third Sunday of the Month in the Church of Our Lady and St Gregory in Soho. These Masses are now in their third year and the priests, ex-priests and Catholic laity who run them are becoming more brazen all the time. For instance, now they erect a display screen in the church during these Masses claiming that these scandalous Masses are fully in line with Church teaching, even though *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, para. 2357 declares homosexual acts to be *acts of grave depravity, which under no circumstances can be approved*.

### **A potted history of the Soho Masses.**

For many years Catholics living a homosexual lifestyle had regular Sunday Masses in St Anne's, an Anglican church in Soho. On March 4th 2007, H.E. Cardinal Cormac established regular Masses for these people in the Catholic Church in Warwick Street, Soho. Here, openly practising homosexuals regularly receive Holy Communion. At first there was an attempt to pretend these Masses were for homosexuals who were striving to live chaste lives in accordance with Church teaching, but that story was soon exploded.

### **Some indications of the true nature of these Masses.**

1. From the start, those attending were honest enough to admit to us that they were living homosexual lives with their same sex partners and had no intention of changing;
2. Everyone was exhorted to walk in the LONDON GAY PRIDE MARCH carrying banners proclaiming *Proud to be Gay, Proud to be Catholic*;
3. Newsletters are often decorated with rainbows;
4. In these newsletters we read that there is now a 'Young Group' who meet together before Mass to visit gay pubs.
5. Couples who contract Civil Unions are congratulated from the altar;
6. Ex-Father Martin Pendergast who organises these Masses contracted a Civil Union with his partner Julian Filochowski.

Chaste Homosexuals by contrast go to Mass regularly in their own parishes without calling attention to themselves, avoid ‘Gay Pride Marches’ like the plague and never contract any civil unions. These noble souls, who deserve our admiration and our prayers, carry a heavy cross without complaint. Needless to say they feel betrayed by those at Westminster who reward and encourage sin instead of cherishing and helping virtue.

### **True Pastoral Care**

Bishops who exercise true pastoral care for souls will warn them of the consequences of sin as St Paul did when he warned practising homosexuals, or anyone else in a state of serious sin, that receiving Holy Communion is “eating and drinking damnation to themselves.”

### **Our limitations**

We laypeople have no authority to stop these scandalous Masses so we have to rely on our Bishops. Also, homosexuals are adults with free will. If they choose to live a sinful life, there is little we can do to stop them. However, we can make it clear that they should not receive Our Lord in Holy Communion while they are in sin. That is why we stand outside Warwick Street Church at every Mass praying the Rosary in reparation for the scandals going on inside and witnessing to Church teaching.

### **Prayer is our Solution.**

We must pray all we can for our brothers and sisters who are being led astray. Some of them are so young they may not understand much about Church teaching. We must also pray for Archbishop Vincent Nichols as he will not find it easy to deal with this scandalous situation. These people have friends in high places and, unfortunately there is even support for them in Archbishop’s House.

However, the Archbishop does have the God-given Grace and the Authority to stop these Masses. Doing so may not make him popular but, as Mother Angelica was fond of saying, we are not here to win prizes for popularity but to know love and serve God.

## CHAVAGNES RE-VISITED

**H**AVING received good reports of this unique school, including one from Eric Hester, we decided to invite Father Anthony Talbot, who has been Chaplain there since last September, to write an up-to-date description of life at Chavagnes International College.

After reading Daphne McLeod's booklet *Will Your Grandchildren be Catholic?* one might be tempted to despair of all Catholic education; however there are signs of hope. Chavagnes International College, a small English boarding school in France, delivers a traditional Catholic education to its pupils.

Once a week Mass is celebrated in the vernacular (alternating between French and English) ; for the rest of the week it is said completely in Latin, except for the readings and Homily which are in English. On Saturday, Mass is celebrated in the Extraordinary Form, otherwise it is in the Ordinary.

I have been very impressed with the standard of singing at Mass. Throughout the week we have a mixture of Plainchant, Polyphony and some traditional vernacular hymns. Alongside daily Mass we also have opportunities for Confession, traditional devotions such as Benediction and Night Prayers. It is thus that we consider ourselves in the forefront of educating Catholic children in the venerable traditions of their Faith.

It is not just in the Liturgy that Chavagnes lives and celebrates its Catholic Faith. Taking Vatican II's Document *Gravissimum Educationis* for its model, faithfully passing on the faith in its entirety, is the College's *raison d'être*. Whilst academic standards are set high, the overall priority is to educate Catholic gentlemen who live their faith to the full.

Living in France adds an extra dimension to Chavagnes . We are situated in the Vendee a traditional Catholic (and Royalist) stronghold. Our beautiful chapel, like many of the local churches was unspoilt in the wake of the Council. We have some French boys as well as other nationalities which gives the school an international flavour. Being very much an English school but situated in France gives the added bonus of teaching boys French *in situ*,

a benefit most parents would welcome.

Being in France also helps to keep our costs down, which means lower school fees, (about half those of an English boarding school). Easy access via cheap flights to Nantes and La Rochelle also makes it an attractive alternative.

If you would like to know more please visit our web-site [www.chavagnes.org](http://www.chavagnes.org) <<http://www.chavagnes.org/>> or telephone on 0033 251 42 39 82 . We have frequent Open Weeks when we welcome boys to the school for a taste of traditional Catholic boarding life. Some decide to join the school the following year, others just come for the week's experience.

We also have a sister school for girls, *Notre Dame de la Bonne Nouvelle* which is run more on the lines of home-schooling, by the Lloyd and Botles' families. I am their Chaplain too and I am very impressed with the quality of their Catholic education. They come to us for Mass Confessions and Devotions. While small in number there are plenty of opportunities for mixing with the French Community, especially for sport. *Bonne Nouvelle* offers an excellent education for girls who come from a home-schooling background.

Because we greatly appreciate your support, both spiritual and financial, once a term we offer a special Mass for our benefactors as well as remembering them in our daily College prayers.

We are always interested in hearing from young graduates or experienced teachers who might like to come and join us: the day to day running of the College is in the hands of a Fellowship of teachers who commit themselves to serve the College for a year at a time. Young graduates often find that a year as a Master at the College is an experience which deepens their Faith and broadens their Catholic culture. If you would like to support us in a particular project or assist us in any other way, please contact me at [talbot0807@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:talbot0807@yahoo.co.uk) <<mailto:talbot0807@yahoo.co.uk>> or our Principal Mr Ferdi McDermott on the above number or at [office@chavagnes.org](mailto:office@chavagnes.org) <<mailto:office@chavagnes.org>>

*Father Anthony Talbot – Chaplain.*

## A YEAR FOR PRIESTS

**H**IS Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI has announced that there will be a Year for Priests starting on Friday June 19th, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is also the 150th anniversary of the death of St John Vianney, who is known as the Cure D’Ars. The Holy Father will initiate the Year by celebrating Vespers before the relics of the Saint, and the Year will end in St Peter’s Square with priests from all over the World renewing their faithfulness to Christ and their bonds of fraternity.

Plenary Indulgences for priests can be gained by praying Lauds or Vespers before the Blessed Sacrament exposed or in the tabernacle. They must also “offer themselves with a ready and generous heart for the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Penance.”

This Plenary Indulgence, which as usual must be accompanied by Sacramental Confession, the Eucharist and prayers for the intention of the Pope, can be applied to deceased priests.

Partial Indulgences for priests, also applicable to deceased priests, can be obtained every time they “devotedly recite the duly approved prayers, resolve to lead a saintly life and carry out the duties entrusted to them.”

Plenary Indulgences for the Faithful can be obtained on the opening and closing days of the Year for priests, on the first Thursday of each month during the Year and on any other day established by the Ordinaries of a particular place for the good of the Faithful. To obtain this Indulgence the faithful must attend Holy Mass in an Oratory or Church, offer prayers to *Jesus Christ, Supreme and eternal Priest* for the priests of the Church or perform any good work to sanctify and mould them to His Heart. The usual conditions of Sacramental Confession and prayers for the Pope’s intention also apply.

The elderly, the sick and any who cannot leave their home may obtain the Plenary Indulgence if, with the intention of fulfilling the conditions as soon as they can, “they pray on the days concerned for the sanctification of priests

and offer their sickness and suffering to God through Mary, Queen of the Apostles.”

A partial Indulgence for the Faithful is offered when they pray five times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be* or any other duly approved prayer “In Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to ask that priests maintain purity and sanctity of life.”

Issued from the Vatican May 12th 2009.



The C.T.S. are running an  
**EVANGELIUM CONFERENCE**  
– explaining the Catholic faith in the modern world to  
18 – 35 year olds.

The venue is – The Reading Oratory School.  
The dates are – Friday 7th – Sunday 9th August 2009.

**Some of the illustrious speakers are –**

Father Brian Harrison, distinguished theologian and writer;  
Father Nicholas Schofield, historian, author and Westminster archivist;  
Father Andrew Pinsent, philosopher and former physicist at CERN;  
Father Thomas Crean, OP, author of *A Catholic replies to Prof. Dawkins*;  
Father Jerome Bertram, author and historian;  
Father Timothy Finigan, Parish Priest;  
Dr Helen Watt, Director of The Linacre Centre.

The cost is: £95 for full board and accommodation.

Numbers are limited to 180 so please book early.

Booking: e-mail [evangeliumproject@gmail.com](mailto:evangeliumproject@gmail.com)

<mailto:evangeliumproject@gmail.com>

or phone 07526 908741

or write to Evangelium, PO Box 28, Tenby. SA69 9ZB

There will be daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and opportunity for Confession as well as more than twenty workshops to choose from over the two days. Delegates will be able to enjoy opportunities for relaxation, sport and discussion with other young people who share their faith.



## DEAR FRIENDS

**W**E are delighted that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has decreed that the year starting on June 19th is to be dedicated especially to prayer for priests. We also welcome his decision to make St John Vianney, the holy Cure d’Ars, Patron Saint, not just of Parish Priests, but of all priests. Our priests could not have a better helper and role model.

It is only too easy to take our good priests for granted even though they have sacrificed so much to bring us Mass, Holy Communion and Absolution. We have many priests who have generously given us years of service and the best way to repay them is to be equally generous with our prayers for them. Thank God we are now also getting younger priests who are devout, well informed and tireless in their Apostolic work. Each holy priest is a precious gift and we should thank God for them while we pray for them.

In these confused times life is not easy for priests. It is unlikely that even the most diplomatic will be able to please all their parishioners all the time. They also have to allow for what the Pope describes as “ an enormous religious ignorance” among Catholics of all ages today, which is not really their fault. A priest rang me once to say he was in trouble with his parishioners because he wasn’t allowing the two Muslim children in the First Communion class to make their first Holy Communion.

Unfortunately, these Catholics had difficulty in understanding Father's reasons even when he explained them to them.

By coincidence, we had already decided to enclose cards carrying a prayer for priests in this issue of The Flock. These cards were kindly donated by one of our supporters and if you require more for your friends you can write to the address on the back. Some people like to pray for all priests generally, some for missionaries or those suffering persecution and some, without necessarily informing him, 'adopt' a priest to pray for.

Sending out this Newsletter is our biggest expense, especially now postage has risen again. We are grateful to those who have decided to read it on line and we would like to encourage others to do this if they can. The Flock is on our web-site as soon as it goes to the printer but it can be e-mailed to you direct if you visit the web-site and choose this option. If you decide to do this please let us know so your name can be removed from our Mailing List.

I would like to thank all those readers who regularly send us donations to help cover our costs. I am not asking them to give more but I would like those who receive The Flock regularly without contributing, if they could send us a little so they pay their way. We have no other resource apart from you, our readers and we want to keep The Flock free for those who really cannot send donations but keep us in their prayers.

Unfortunately our Hon. Treasurer, Michael Akerman will not be well enough to receive donations so it would be better if they come directly to me. Michael had his triple bypass operation on 30th May and is making good progress. I am sure you will keep him and his wife Rita in your prayers at this difficult time for them.

Assuring you all of my best wishes and my grateful prayers.

*Daphne McLeod.*

# WORLD-WIDE ROSARY CRUSADE FOR THE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA TO OUR LADY'S IMMACULATE HEART

**R**EGULAR readers will remember that the last issue of *The Flock* included a prayer card asking for this Consecration. Our Lady's request at Fatima was for the Pope to do this, "so Russia will be converted, many souls will be saved and there will be peace throughout the world".

Now a world-wide Crusade of Rosaries from 1st May 2009 to 25th March 2010, with a target of 12 million Rosaries, has been organised. We are a little late joining but I am sure you, your family and your friends will want to be a part of this Crusade. The Rosary is one of the most powerful of prayers, as the wonders it has achieved down the centuries prove. I think we would all probably spend much more time in prayer if we fully recognised how very powerful it is.

I don't feel that sending in the numbers of Rosaries you say is very important nor are pledges - indeed they might even limit your output. The most important thing is to make a resolution now that you will say as many Rosaries as you can for this intention every day until the Feast of the Annunciation. Say the Rosary with your family when you can, with groups of friends and alone. Remember that Rosaries said aloud by groups before the Blessed Sacrament carry special blessings. Most important, please don't be tempted to feel your contribution will not make much difference because I can assure you it will.

I remember once seeing a copy of a picture found at a Shrine to Our Lady. It didn't have much artistic merit but it taught a beautiful lesson. It depicted St Michael holding scales of good and evil and looking rather worried because a hideous image of the devil was putting its hoof in the evil scale and weighing it down. However Our Lady was standing on the other side serenely dropping Rosaries into the good scale ensuring it out-weighed the evil. Our Lady cannot use Rosaries unless we say them for her so lets give her all the Rosaries she needs to win the Consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and so combat all the evil in this world.







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