

the flock

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NAUGHT FOR YOUR COMFORT

IN the New Testament we are told to counsel our brothers and sisters if we see them going astray, exhorting them to change their ways, out of love for them and concern for their immortal souls. Nowhere is it suggested that we encourage them in their sin and, having no regard at all for their eternal welfare, make it easy for them to stray even further. **However, this is what the Catholic Church is doing in this country.**

Today we have Catholics who, although they openly defy Church teaching forbidding homosexual activity, are given the use of a Catholic church and the ministry of priests who celebrate Mass and give them Holy Communion, with no suggestion that they confess their sins and amend their lives.

How has this happened?

In the winter of 2006/7 Cardinal Cormac Murphy O’Connor delegated Bishop Bernard Longley to arrange *Pastoral Care* for a group of militant homosexuals who were at that time attending Mass in the Anglican church of St Anne’s Soho, in London’s West End. Bishop Longley arranged for them to attend Mass in a Catholic Church in future. He chose the church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory in Warwick Street near Piccadilly Circus. He established a rota of Catholic priests who would celebrate Mass for them and give them Holy Communion, in spite of knowing they were living homosexual lifestyles. We heard Bishop Longley being praised at the

first Mass on March 4th 2007 for ‘making no demands at all on them’. That means he never even suggested they should confess their objectively sinful life-styles and amend their lives before receiving Our Blessed Lord, as all Catholics conscious of grave sin are required to. Is this *Pastoral Care*? Is this going to help them save their immortal souls and spend an eternity of perfect bliss with Almighty God ?

St Paul’s *Pastoral Care*.

In St Paul’s epistles we read how he dealt with homosexuals among his beloved converts. He made it very clear several times that “*Those who do such things are worthy of death*” “*and not only those who do them but those who consent to them*” *Rom.1 v32*. St Paul also warned that those who receive Holy Communion while in such grave sin “*eat and drink condemnation to themselves.*” This may seem hard but it is only honest and those who heeded St Paul’s warnings and are now enjoying their reward must be very grateful to him for his true *Pastoral Care*. How sad it is that our brothers and sisters in Soho don’t receive such good care.

What can we do?

It is not too late. It is up to us, if we love our neighbours as we should, to do all we can to ensure our Hierarchy not only take action to stop these scandalous Masses, but also explain to all Catholics the Church’s true teaching and instead of condoning their sin give homosexuals the clear guidance they are entitled to receive.

This is a battle against evil which all faithful Catholics will want to engage in and, as in other wars, Truth has been an early and an enduring casualty. We need to expose some of the lies which bedevil this problem.



“A LIE REPEATED OFTEN ENOUGH BECOMES THE TRUTH!”

(Josef Goebbels, Propaganda Minister for Hitler’s Nazi Germany.)

The first lie

At the start of these Masses there was a pretence that the homosexuals concerned were faithful Catholics striving to lead celibate lives and therefore they needed all the support the Church could provide. This could be the reason H.E. Cardinal William Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Vatican gave them his support.

However, it very quickly became clear that this was a lie.

Chaste-living homosexuals do not want special Masses, they go to Mass quietly in their own parish whereas everyone in this congregation who speaks to us admits freely that they are living homosexual lifestyles and some introduce us to their same sex partners. Their newsletters are decorated with rainbows, they encourage support for the Gay Pride March in London carrying banners proclaiming “PROUD TO BE CATHOLIC, PROUD TO BE GAY” and they congratulate, from the altar, couples who contract homosexual civil unions. Martin Pendergast, the ex-Carmelite priest who, with his partner Julian Filochowski, once Head of CAFOD, are behind these Masses, have themselves contracted a civil union.

So let’s admit the truth – these Masses are especially for practising homosexuals.

The second lie

Discussing the Church’s failure to *dialogue formally with its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) members* in *The Guardian* on Friday 14th April 2009, under the heading *PROUDLY GAY AND PROUDLY CATHOLIC*, Martin Pendergast claimed that, *Those viewing Catholicism from afar might be forgiven for believing that the Church has held it’s views on homosexuality for centuries. In fact it only began to detail this teaching in the 1976 Declaration on Sexual Ethics.* This is so manifestly untrue and so public, the Bishop’s Conference for England and Wales were asked to contradict it and put the record straight just as publicly. Unfortunately nothing happened. All informed Catholics know that the Church has condemned homosexual activity from the very beginning continuously up to the present day. The examples are so numerous we will only list a few here –

1st Century St Paul in his Epistles several times. St Paul's teachings were confirmed by the other Apostles including St Peter, our first Pope. The Catholic Church still proclaims the teachings handed down to us from the Apostles as, unlike packets of biscuits, Church teaching on Faith and Morals does not carry an expiry date.

2nd Century Tertullian wrote *All lusts which exceed the laws of nature..we banish from the Church;*

4th Century St Augustine wrote, *Sins against nature, like sodomy and similar vices deserve punishment whenever they are committed;*

4th Century Pope St Gregory the Great spoke of these sins deserving fire and brimstone;

12th Century St Albert the Great wrote that homosexual acts are the most detestable sins because *they are disgustingly foul, those addicted to them seldom become free and they are as contagious as disease.*

14th Century St Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church and Mystic, relayed words of Our Lord on those who commit homosexual acts. *They do not recognise the disease and misery in which they find themselves. Even the demons are repulsed by such an enormous sin and when a man carries out such a sinful act the demon who has tempted him, leaves.*

16th Century The Roman Catechism of the Council of Trent;

19th Century The Penny Catechism based on the Roman Catechism describes it as *A sin crying to heaven for vengeance;*

20th Century “The 1976 Declaration on Sexual Ethics”, The 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church;

21st Century The Compendium of the Catechism.

As these all condemn homosexual acts most clearly and extremely strongly they show the Church has consistently and universally condemned homosexual acts.

“This Is God’s choice”!

One of our supporters came up from the West Country recently and went in to the Mass. She had an uncomfortable time because all through Mass the lady on one side of her was making up to her – “Have you got a friend?” “Where do you live ?” “I live in Chelsea”. etc. while the lady on the other

side, who hadn't realised what was going on was muttering, "They shouldn't say that", "This is all wrong", "This is not Catholic" and eventually "I am leaving. You should come with me".

After Mass, the priest recognising an unfamiliar face, asked our brave supporter why she had come. She told him because she visited the church fifty years ago with her husband and wanted to see it again but was surprised to see the changes. Father told her "This is God's choice"!

These Catholics dare to presume they know 'God's choice' better than the Church He put in the world to let us know His choice.

After misrepresenting the history of the Church's condemnation of homosexual acts, Mr Pendergast went on to claim that the Church is moving towards acceptance of homosexual acts, a claim we have heard repeated in homilies given in Warwick Street Church and **one which is again 100% false**. To justify this claim Mr Pendergast highlights the *primacy of a fully informed conscience* as if a fully informed conscience could ever justify murder, theft, homosexual acts or the committing of any sin so clearly condemned by the Church. He then cites *the hierarchy of truths* though it is hard to say why, as this only means that to make sense of some Doctrines others have to be taught first. (For example it would be impossible to teach the Immaculate Conception without first explaining about Original Sin.) All Sacred Truths are equally true. After this total irrelevance Mr Pendergast, cites *the Development of Doctrine!* However that concerns growth in the Church's understanding of Truths not Morals and even with Truths the substantial Truth must remain unchanged not flatly contradicted. Finally Mr Pendergast tries to muddy the waters by claiming Cardinal Hume went even further than the Vatican by saying *homophobia should have no place among Catholics*. Well of course it shouldn't. The Church has always taught this and none of us is 'homophobic'. **It is homosexual acts** which are condemned not people with the orientation. *Hate the sin but love the sinner*.

The Church is not moving and can never move towards accepting homosexual acts as anything but gravely sinful.

Therefore Mr Pendergast's insistence that *LGBT Catholics have the same right to the Sacraments as straight Catholics and should not be excluded* needs some clarification. All Catholics who approach the altar to receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament need to be free from grave sin. That is grave

sin of any kind including homosexual acts. Catholics with a same-sex attraction who live celibate lives, having recourse to the Sacrament of Penance if they fall, have the same right to the Sacraments as other Catholics in a state of Grace, but no one committed to living a sinful life who is quite unrepentant can receive Holy Communion without committing Sacrilege or as St Paul says *eating and drinking condemnation to themselves*.

No Catholic in serious sin has any right to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

The Third lie is that we Catholics who pray outside the Church during these Masses are 'judgemental'. We are quite definitely not judgemental any more than St Paul was or the American Bishops who refuse Holy Communion to known pro-abortion politicians are. These homosexuals admit honestly and openly that they are in sexual relationships with same sex partners so, without exercising any judgement, we know as well as they do that they are in mortal sin and cannot receive Our Lord in Holy Communion without adding sacrilege to their sins - anymore than adulterers or serious fraudsters could. That is why we pray there in reparation for them.

The danger of these lies.

Mr Pendergast, the other ex-priests, priests and most of the Congregation must know perfectly well that these are lies. Unfortunately the young people they deliberately set out to attract have probably not been taught the faith well and therefore will almost certainly believe these lies. They are going to find themselves caught up in a sad, sinful way of life which is not only very difficult to escape from it is very bad for their bodies as well as their souls. In this world they can only look forward to a future without a normal family life and, even if they escape HIV/AIDS, poor health and an early death. A recent Californian study showed that active male homosexuals die on average in their early fifties - if they escape AIDS. It shows that all active homosexuals, male and female, are more prone to depression, mental illness, substance abuse, self-harm and suicide than heterosexuals or chaste homosexuals. They also have a high rate of STD's – syphilis having now reached epidemic proportions in towns like Sydney. They are more prone to get cancer of the prostate, testicles, anus and colon. For more information visit www.narth.com/menus/medical.html <<http://www.narth.com/menus/medical.html>>. This research shows the homosexual lifestyle is far more damaging to the health than smoking is, yet

the Government, who spend millions warning children about smoking, say nothing about the dangers of homosexual acts. As to their life in the next world, active homosexuals are certainly not going the right way to save their immortal souls either.

ANOMALIES WHICH REQUIRE EXPLANATION.

1. Just over 100 years ago in Uganda twenty two young Catholic men led by their Catechist, Charles Lwanga, chose to be burnt to death rather than submit to the advances of their Chief, an aggressive homosexual. In 1964 St Charles Lwanga and his companions were canonised for dying rather than disobey Church teaching. Now we keep their feast every year. **Was the Church wrong then to canonise these brave men for resisting homosexual acts or is the Church in this country wrong now for allowing such acts to be rewarded with Holy Communion?** Church Moral teaching doesn't change. The Soho Masses flagrantly disobey Church moral teaching.

2. On May 10th 2009 Archbishop Nienstedt of St Paul and Minneapolis, U.S.A. wrote to the militant homosexuals who were threatening to receive Holy Communion in his Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday warning them that anyone wearing a rainbow sash would be refused the Host as *the truths of our Faith are not open to debate*. **Was Archbishop Nienstedt wrong to do this or is Archbishop Nichols wrong to invite openly practising homosexuals to receive Holy Communion in Warwick Street Church?** They cannot both be right.

How is it that the 1994 *Catechism of the Catholic Church* para (2357) describes homosexual acts as *acts of grave depravity* adding that *they are intrinsically disordered and under no circumstances can they ever be approved and that these sins exclude one from sacramental Communion*. **Yet Westminster Archdiocese arranges Masses and Communion specially for people committing homosexual acts, thereby showing their full approval?** Either the Catechism is wrong or Westminster Archdiocese is.

Priests who knowingly give Holy Communion to someone in Mortal Sin share in their awful sacrilege yet some priests queue up to celebrate Mass and distribute Communion to the openly practising homosexuals frequenting Warwick Street Church – who often walk up to receive hand in hand with

their same sex partner. These priests include Fr. Timothy Radcliffe O.P. Jesuits like Fr David Stewart, Fr Michael Kirwan, Fr Philip Endean and Fr Brendan Callaghan. The Parish priest, Fr Seamus O'Boyle V.G. and Canon Pat Browne, Dean of Soho, also help out regularly.

In our Church which is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic there is no room for such anomalies so the sooner they are reconciled the better for us all.

WOE TO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF SCANDALS WOE TO THAT MAN BY WHOM THE SCANDALS COME.. St Matthew 18 v7.

The Soho Masses are one of the worst scandals imaginable. Catholics in other countries who hear about them find it almost impossible to believe that a Catholic Archbishop, with other bishops and priests, deliberately arrange Masses where they know grave sacrileges will be committed regularly. Some Catholics find it hard to believe that authorities in Rome do nothing even though they are regularly kept informed about them. These Masses rank with another scandal of mammoth proportions ignored by Rome, the distortion of Catholic teaching which passes for religious instruction in most Catholic schools. In a worrying way the two are linked. The young Catholics who are led astray by the lies they are told about homosexuality and by the failure of the proper authorities to stop or even to condemn the Masses, would not be so easily betrayed if they had been taught the Faith adequately.

Their situation is best illustrated by one young man who approached us about two years ago. On his way into the church, he told us kindly not to be so worried as *It's alright now or the Cardinal would not have arranged these Masses for us*. He looked about twenty and he obviously trusted the Cardinal and the priests who were leading him into a sad, sinful way of life. Do these clerics ever think of Our Lord's solemn words – ***He that shall scandalise one of these little ones who believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck and he should be drowned in the depths of the sea.*** St Matthew 18 v5. Sadly, the leaders of this 'Catholic' congregation make a special effort to attract young Catholics. For example, they have formed them into a group who visit gay bars and cafés before Mass. Then there is the Social Hour held in the parish room after every Mass. This attracts many older people we see arriving very late for Mass but

in time to enjoy the tea and cakes and opportunities for making new contacts the Social Hour affords.

The scandal even reaches outside the Church to our Anglican brethren. The blog *Thinking Anglicans* recently carried this item. *120 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Catholics, the subject of formal agreement with the Diocesan Authorities and including arms length 'expression of interest' from the Vatican, worship and undertake other pastoral and educational duties in one of Soho's Catholic parishes. No way could this happen in the (Protestant) Diocese of London with the current state of play. (NO WAY SHOULD IT HAPPEN IN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER, EITHER.)* Among comments was this from a New Zealand vicar, *How good to hear of a thriving Roman Catholic parish in the heart of London that consists of a majority of LGBT congregation with the implicit authority of the local Diocese and without being hounded by Rome. Would that the C of E could witness to the same kind of inclusiveness.*

We Catholics should hide our heads in shame.

WHAT WE CAN DO

PRAY that this shocking situation will be resolved in line with the teaching of the Church. We must storm Heaven to hear our prayers, offered daily and repeated every time we visit a church. Pray to St John Southworth who worked and suffered in Westminster Archdiocese and who's Shrine is in the Cathedral, to add his prayers to ours. Pray also to St Charles Lwanga and his brave young companions.

WRITE letters explaining how important it is this scandal is stopped. Write to The Most Reverent Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, Archbishop's House, Ambrosden Avenue, London. SW1P 1QJ.

He has the God-given Authority to stop these sacrileges.

WRITE to Rome emphasising that because nothing is being done to stop these Masses they are spreading to other dioceses and more young Catholics are being corrupted. The person to write to is Archbishop Antonio Conizares-Llovera, Prefect of the Congregation for Worship and Sacraments, Palazzo delle Congregazione, Piazza Pio XII, 10, 00120 Vatican City State, Europe.

This Congregation has the competence to deal with this situation if the local Ordinary fails to do so.

SEND copies of your letter to -

- a) H.E. Cardinal Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, Piazza del S.Uffizio, 11, 00120 Vatican City, Europe.
- b) H.E. Cardinal Hommes, Prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, Piazza Pio XII, 3, 00120 Vatican City. Europe. And of course to
- c) His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, The Apostolic Palace, 00120 Vatican City, Europe.
- d) The President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, Piazza S.Calisto,16, 00120 Vatican City. Europe.

Working together we must make sure Archbishop Nichols and the Authorities in Rome are inundated with an unceasing flow of letters until these sacrileges are stopped.

COME early to Westminster Cathedral on the afternoon of Saturday the 10th October, the day of the Rosary Procession in Reparation.

We will be in the Cathedral Piazza at 1.30 with piles of leaflets explaining this disastrous situation to Catholics who seem to be completely unaware of it. We would like you to help us give leaflets to all the people lining up in Ambrosden Avenue for the Procession which will start around 2 p.m. When the Procession starts we will all join it and walk to Brompton Oratory praying the Rosary in Reparation.

There will be leaflets for you to take home to give to family, friends and fellow parishioners so spreading awareness of this scandal and ensuring more letters are written to Archbishop Nichols and to Rome. If you are unable to come to Westminster for the Procession photo-copy the enclosed leaflet and distribute it.

We need to do this because the Catholic papers are not allowed to write about these Masses and Catholics need to know what is happening so they can pray and take action.

If we walk by on the other side turning our heads away, when such grave

sacrileges are being regularly committed and so many young Catholics are being so seriously led astray, we are in danger of becoming part of *The Apostasy of Silence* Pope John Paul warned us about shortly before he died in his Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Europa*, 6.



SOME GOOD NEWS

RECENT EXCELLENT PUBLICATIONS.

We are really blessed to have so many good books appearing now and I hear of even more in the pipe-line. Here are a few to add to your list –

Catechism for Youth by Father Carlos Buena, the Argentinian priest who founded the Order of the Incarnate Word in 1985 and already has over 750 priests and 1000 sisters either leading contemplative lives or teaching the Faith in parishes and schools throughout the world. Father's book, available for the first time in English, takes us through *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* explaining and illustrating it with helpful words, often from the Saints. It is extremely readable and should prove a Godsend for RCIA and Religious Instruction in parishes and schools. It consists of 330 pages and is available from www.ivepress.org <<http://www.ivepress.org/>> at \$16.95.

Letters to a non-Believer by Father Thomas Crean O.P. This book takes the form of short letters to an honest enquirer giving simple but profound answers to his queries on Church teaching. Father's use of metaphors to illustrate his points keeps the book fresh and enjoyable. It is available from Family Publications at £9.95

Harriet Murphy brought out a book on Cardinal Merry de Val's SPIRITUAL WRITINGS which is well worth having. It was published by Gracewing Tel 01568 616835 or www.gracewing.co.uk <<http://www.gracewing.co.uk/>> The *Baronius Press* catalogue enclosed with this newsletter has more good books but I would like to mention one which was not ready when the catalogue was printed and that is their new edition of *Sheehan's Apologetics*.

This is the book which gave us generations of well informed Catholics before Modern Catechetics was imposed, and it is great to have it available again.

5. *Saint Peter* is a very attractive booklet on St Peter's life and Mission from the Dean of Shrewsbury Cathedral, the Very Rev Canon Stephen Coonan, written in honour of St John Vianney and dedicated in gratitude to all our priests. A wealth of interesting information beautifully presented in 34 pages and available from Cathedral House, 11, Belmont, Shrewsbury, SY1 1TE.

Please send £3 and a 90p stamp -generous discount for orders of 10 or more copies, ring 01743 362366.

Britain needs Fatima a 25 minute DVD for only £5 which should be shown in your parish. Order it from Britain Needs Fatima, P.O.Box 2713, GLASGOW. G62 6BR, enclosing £5 which covers postage and packing.



A SUMMER SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE

SINCE the late David Foster started his Summer School 26 years ago, others have sprung up and there is no question they are really beneficial for our children who need all the help we can give them if they are to understand the Church's teaching. This summer I helped out at a summer school which cost almost nothing and was very easy to organise.

It was held in the Church of St Margaret of Scotland in Stirling and all the children of the parish were invited to come every morning for a week to learn about the faith. Twenty four youngsters aged eight to sixteen were brought to Mass every morning and then stayed until they were collected for lunch. I worked with two Sisters of the Incarnate Word and we divided the youngsters by age into three groups so we were able to teach them in three rooms.

This seemed to work very well but there was a bonus. In the evenings Mrs Nicky Willis, the parish catechist, invited parents and grandparents to her house for tea/coffee and biscuits from 8 p.m. so we could discuss teaching

the Faith altogether. Many problems were raised, many questions answered and many ideas shared so I felt we accomplished a great deal.

Until our schools return to teaching the Faith effectively parishes and parents will have to deputise for them, but they need all the assistance we can give them. One word of warning, if you are considering this kind of summer school in your parish, make sure all your teachers are going to teach the Faith as it should be taught. People who have qualified as catechists with Maryvale Institute can be trusted and of course others you know are reliable.

Michael Akerman and his wife Rita are exceedingly grateful for all the Masses and prayers offered for Michael's recovery from his major heart surgery. He is now embarked on the final stage of his rehabilitation programme and hopes to be 'back in harness' with the Committee very soon.



DEAR FRIENDS

WE at "Pro Ecclesia" are very grateful to you for your kind donations in these difficult times. They are helping us handle the higher postage rates and also publish more copies of our booklets. We want to thank those of you, especially readers who live abroad, who opted to receive The Flock on line which saves us so much. Your support is really appreciated.

As you will see, we are enclosing a prayer card featuring St John Southworth. There are also statues of this holy martyr available from the Book Shop in Westminster Cathedral, where his shrine is to be found.

We don't usually appeal for other charities but as our aim is to get the Faith taught as widely as possible, we feel this charity is appropriate. A priest I know, Father Gregory Charnock has a parish in South Africa which includes a very poor African township. Father often has to buy food for some of his

families, and he also cares very much for their souls. Recently he was able to give EWTN to three families and he says their zeal and their devotion has grown so much he would like to install it for others. If any of you could help with this Apostolate he would be very grateful. It costs £270 to set everything up but smaller donations will help. The money should be transferred from your account to The Marcjen Trust's account with The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd. Sea Point Branch, 220, Main Road, Sea Point, Western Cape, 8001. Their Account No. is: 07 110 258 2 and the Branch Code is 024109. The Swift Code is SB ZAZAJJ and the I-Ban No. is 024109 07 110 258 2.

We have just heard a piece of good news we would like to share with you. The Pontifical Council for the Family in the Vatican are using Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, the retired Bishop of Lancaster's, Document, *Fit For Mission – Marriage* as a working document for a paper they are preparing for the Global Church. This is one bishop we can be rightly proud of. Perhaps, one day, the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy will use Bishop O'Donoghue's Document *Fit for Mission – Schools* as a basis for a paper on religious instruction in Catholic schools.

Looking forward to meeting all those of you who can get there, outside Westminster Cathedral at 1.30 on Saturday 10th October and meanwhile wishing you and your families every blessing,

Daphne McLeod.

