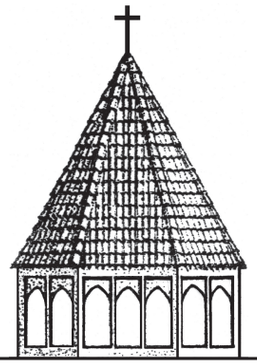
This publication is owned and copyrighted by **S of G Foundation, Inc.**
Not for sale

Entered as Second Class Mail at the Makati Central Post Office on March 14, 1984
Permit # 2nd-07-15-NCR



WINNOWING FAN

The Spiritual Life according to the Fathers and Saints of the Catholic Church in preparation for Christ's Second Coming.

Vol. XXXIII No. 4 ENGLISH EDITION Apr. 2016

The *Winnowing Fan* hopes "...to do what little it could to solve the evils that beset the Church."
St. Teresa of Avila

A HISTORICAL MISFORTUNE - III

The clarity of the Catholic teachings became so blurred today that the faithful are at a loss what is the true Catholic Doctrine. It has become necessary to restore the true image of the Catholic Church and test each Catholic if he conforms to the General norm.

Today, the explanations of the truth about the four visible signs of the true Church became defective in its definition as found in 'Lumen Gentium.' Fortunately, the work of St. Robert Bellarmine's 'De controversiis' was translated into English. It contained the 15 Marks of the true Church, which is an expanded version of the four visible marks of the true Church enumerated in the Nicene Creed. With the expanded version of this Doctor of the Church it became easier and clearer to distinguish the true Church from the false church. And it became easier for each one to know if he is Catholic or not.

The goal of the Council of Trent was precisely to clarify who is a Catholic and who is not. But the difficulty in understanding the four visible signs of the true Church made it impossible for most to identify themselves. Most Catholics continued to consider themselves as Catholics even though they did not have any of the visible signs of being a Catholic.

This lack of understanding of the doctrine of the visible signs of the true Church became worse during the 1800s. The Popes from Pius IX up to Pius XII did their best to correct the misconception that they were Catholics even though they did not have any of the visible signs of Catholicity. The goal of Vatican I was to clarify this issue. But the war cut short their meetings.

Pope John XXIII called Vatican II precisely to clarify the four visible marks of the true Church as mentioned in the Nicene Creed. He clearly said so in a speech on November 13, 1960. His speech was precisely re-defining the four visible signs of the Church as described in the Nicene Creed, namely, One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. This was the topic for Vatican II. But they hi-jacked Vatican II and re-directed the topics to confuse the definitions of the visible signs of the Church. Vatican II ended with complete confusion on the true image of the Catholic Church. And so, we have an army of cardinals, bishops and priests who think they are Catholic but do not have a single visible sign of the true Church as enumerated in the Nicene Creed.

God will not hear our prayers unless we acknowledge ourselves to be sinners. We do this when we ponder on our own sins alone, and not on those of our neighbor.

St. Moses the Ethiopian

PEDAGOGY IN TEACHING THE VIRTUE OF PENANCE.

The penitent must continuously be repentant for all his former sins, as the Psalm says; "My sins are always before me." This is done to assure that we have repented properly for all our past mortal sins and that they are for sure forgiven by God.

After the penitent had acquired the virtue of Penance and he is certain that his past mortal sins are forgiven, he must continuously repent so that those past sins will not return. This is the only way of avoiding past sins from repeating in the future…..to continue repenting for those past forgiven mortal sins.

Saints Peter and Paul did exactly that. Up to the last moment of their lives they were thinking of their sins, Peter for having denied Christ and St. Paul for having persecuted the Church. They were thinking of their past sins up to the last moment of their lives. And they were showing that they were very repentant for those sins. Imagine, saints, still thinking of their past sins and still repenting for those past forgiven mortal sins. That is the way to do it.

THE ACT OF PENANCE IS MEANT TO SATISFY THE JUSTICE OF GOD.

The virtue of Penance is meant to satisfy the Justice of God who had been offended. The Justice of God is satisfied only when a person has perfectly repented. The fourth step is what specifically satisfies the justice of God. St. Thomas of Aquinas, correcting the modern day erroneous concept of Penance, describes Penance as being separated from Justice.

When the mercy of God is mentioned without the virtue of Justice, then it becomes an act of contempt. Contempt of God and contempt of one's neighbours. This is how the mercy of God that comes with the forgiveness of sin is presented to us. So, see the contempt of God; adulterers are encouraged to continue their adultery and receive Holy Communion. See how that is contempt of God shown as an act of disobedience to His Commands. And it shows contempt for the real wife and children while pretending love for one's mistress who is being dragged to hell. That is contempt, also, of neighbour.

REPENTANCE IS NOT UNDOING THE PAST.

We have seen the state of the Church today. That most Catholics do not know how to repent. This general state of ignorance was first noted around the 13 century due to the heresy of nominalism. This ignorance continues to this day. It is because of this that we are repeating and completing the teachings of the Catholic Church on repentance. Because without proper repentance our past sins cannot be forgiven. And without the forgiveness of past sins, we cannot enter into eternal life.

Remember that repentance is not an effort to undo the sins committed in the past. Those sins had been committed and they cannot be undone. You cannot undo the past. Repentance is for a soul to continue to entertain great displeasure for what he had done in the past with the intention of removing the consequences of these sins; which are the anger of God and the debt of punishment we must pay in reparation for sins committed.

Two elements are important here. We must know what actions we can do as found in Divine Revelation on how to take away God's anger from us. The Psalms have many ways. The second element is the importance of making reparation for all sins committed, something that is absolutely neglected in most confessions. How did we make reparation for having missed Mass on Sundays? Most probably we did not make any reparation; and for many, many missed Masses.

PENANCE vs SHAME.

Penance is not the same with shame. Shame is a feeling, while Penance is a virtue. Penance as a virtue is the result of a choice made by the free will. While shame is an involuntary movement of the emotions.

Shame regards the evil as present. Penance regards the evil as committed in the past.

Shame accompanies an evil deed that is actually present and of which we are ashamed of. While Penance is contrition for a previously committed evil we wish to stop doing because of our desire to cease being wicked and become virtuous.

SERMON *in a sentence*

When our mind is intent on temporal things in order that it may rest in them, it remains immersed therein; but when it is intent on them in relation to the acquisition of beatitude, it is not lowered by them, but raises them to a higher level.

By reason of his not being a lover of money, it follows that a man readily makes use of it, whether for himself, or for the good of others, or for God's glory. Thus it derives a certain excellence from being useful in many ways.

The covetous man is not easily cured.... The covetous man profits neither others nor himself, since he does not even use his own goods for his own profit.

The more lowly He seemed by reason of His poverty, the greater might the power of His Godhead be shown to be.... For this reason did He choose a poor maid for His Mother, a poorer birthplace; for this reason did He live in want. Learn this from the manger.

St. Thomas Aquinas

For questions or inquiries, pls. write:
Caryana Lay Monastic Community
Barrio San Isidro, Magalang
2011 PAMPANGA, Philippines

Or visit our website:
http://www.winnowingfan.net/