



# WINNOWING FAN

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

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## THE THREE STAGES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church is a living being because she has two souls: a created soul, Jesus Christ and an uncreated soul, the Holy Spirit: unlike all other religions and other Christian sects because they are man-made and are inanimate, i.e., without a soul, and, therefore, dead.

Because the Church is alive she grows from infancy to adolescence up to young adulthood. She does become old because she is destined to be the bride of Christ.

The Church has many types in Scriptures. The cenacle, the Samaritan woman, etc., are all types of the Church. But the Church has also types showing her three different ages. This is shown by the three boat trips of the Apostles. The first was when the Apostles were in a boat and there was a storm. They were not yet fishing because Christ

had not told them to fish yet since they themselves were still being prepared to be members of the Church.

The second type is when the Apostles were fishing in Lake Genesaret. Christ told them to lower the net anywhere and they caught plenty of both good and bad fishes. The nets almost tore and the boats almost sank due to the number of fishes.

The third type is when the Apostles went fishing after the Resurrection of Christ in Lake Tiberias. This time Christ told them to lower the net on the right side, they caught only good fishes (153 of them); there was no danger for the net to tear and the boat was in no danger of sinking.

We have to know the stage of the Church during our own times. If the Church is in the third stage and we look

for her as an adolescent we will not find her because she has grown up. If she is in the third stage and we enter her at the time she was an infant, we would be probably entering a Protestant sect.

We must know in what stage she is and find out how the ones aboard look like so we can imitate them and also go aboard. If we don't enter the boat by not becoming like those who are aboard, then we cannot enter heaven.

## CHRISTIAN PERFECTION

Christian perfection, according to the testimony of the Gospels and Epistles, consists chiefly in charity which unites the soul to God. This can only be attained after long exercises of both the acquired and infused virtues, an exercise by which these virtues increase in their intensity.

In such a soul Charity conquers all temptations.

The different degrees of perfection are enumerated in the list of Beatitudes: 'Poor in spirit' being the first degree,

and 'to suffer' persecution being the highest stage. When Christ enumerated the different Beatitudes He explained that these are, also, the different stages of happiness. And notice that these things that make man happy are quite different from the happiness suggested by the world.

The end of all the Beatitudes is the different ways of describing happiness. The first three Beatitudes leads to a happy life free from sin. The next two Beatitudes lead to the happiness in seeking for justice and exercising mercy. The next Beatitudes consist in the happiness that results in the contemplation of the mysteries of God. And the last Beatitude unites all the preceding Beatitudes and makes up the crown of happiness.

The school of Christ is the school of charity. In the last day, when the general examination takes place, there will be no question at all on the text of Aristotle, the aphorisms of Hippocrates, or the Paragraphs of Justinian. Charity will be the whole syllabus.

St. Robert Bellarmine

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

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## THE THIRD STAGE OF THE CHURCH

The third stage of the Church, the young adulthood of the Church was described by St. John in the last chapter (Chapter 21) of his Gospel. This is the way the Church will look like at the End times. And John wrote this description precisely at the end of his Gospel to show that this is the end, as St. Thomas of Aquinas noted. This is the main message of the Liturgical year from the second Sunday after Easter up to the Sunday after Easter just before the Ascension. Note that the second reading to all these Masses is taken from the Book of Revelation wherein this third stage of the Church is described by the same author of the 4th Gospel.

Note the difference between the two fishing trips of the Apostles; one in Genesareth, the other in Lake Tiberias. Let us put aside the first stage of the Church since that is already history.

In both cases the Apostles were in the boat and were fishing--and caught nothing.

In the former trip Christ tells them to lower their net anywhere down the boat. In the latter trip Christ tells them to

lower the net on the right side. The right side had always been the side where the saved are placed, showing that in the latter boat trip they caught only those meant to be saved; but it was not so in the former boat trip.

In the former the Apostles caught both bad and good fishes, showing that at that stage the Church would take in both good and bad members: shown by the parable of the wheat and the cockle (Tares). But in the latter the Apostles caught only good fishes and specifically around 153 fishes, showing that only good fishes destined to heaven were caught.

In the former, the net was at the point of breaking showing the dangers of heresy and schism common in the Church at this time. While in the latter, there was no danger of heresy or schism.

In the former even the ship was in danger of sinking which shows the danger the whole Church was at those times. While on the latter, the ship was not in any danger.

If the Church is now in her third stage how can we explain the countless problems she has now: problems that include Cardinals, Bishops, priests and nuns? How about the problems of the

Church from the US up to Ireland and Germany. Well, these people are outside the Catholic Church if we apply to them the definition of Faith that brings souls into the Church.

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## THE 153 FISHES.

From the last chapter of the Gospel of St. John, who are those aboard the Catholic Church that will be delivered at the foot of Christ on the shores of heaven? They were described as "153" good and large fishes. Evidently if we are not aboard we will be condemned.

Scripture had always been a coded book, and anyone who attempts to interpret it would surely make a mistake. So God gave us a Magisterium, with the Pope as the official spokesman, to interpret it correctly to us. And the role of the Pope is precisely to interpret the truths of Divine Revelation to mankind through the centuries during their pontifical reign.

153 is the coded symbol for, firstly, knowledge of the spiritual meaning of the 10 commandments of God in the Old Testament, often referred to as the

Life of Repentance. Secondly, after our repentance we receive sanctifying grace, wherewith we also receive the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. But these three virtues must be perfected by the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. So we have 10 commandments of the O.T. plus the commandments of the New Testament, contained in the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity and perfected by the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. A soul must have this to be part of the group of "153" thus deserving to enter heaven at the end times.

Friendship is a gentle, quiet, restrained love, while love is friendship which reaches rapture and ecstasy, knows no limits, lives only in excess.... Extreme impatience is the true feature of love.... Hating delay, nothing can restrain it. In an instant it sweeps away all obstacles, overcomes all difficulties. Nothing is impossible, nothing too hard.

**Blessed Claude de la Colombiere**

At the end of our life, we shall be judged by love.

**St. John of the Cross**

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