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 ON GOING CONFUSION IN THE CHURCH.

Most of us are not aware of the confusion going on in the Church today. We are too busy with the affairs of daily living to notice it. But our Cardinals and bishops, especially those involved in the Synods are getting to be aware of this serious situation because they discuss it. And they are forced to find solutions. If and when they cannot find solutions, then we are all in trouble. Confusion ensues and the salvation of souls is in danger.

This is what happened. During Vatican II, the Church presented problems to the council that must be solved. Two things happened; the fathers of the Council could not find the answers. Or they found and gave the wrong solutions. It was total chaos. Everybody was confused and expressed their confusion in writing and other forms of expression, especially the bishops.

This is how everybody knew that there was total confusion going on within the Catholic Church.

Since we know that all answers can be found in the Liturgy, and that everybody attends Mass and are acquainted with the Liturgy, we saw a common denominator. If we present the answers to the questions as taken from the Liturgy, everybody would be acquainted with it and will find the answer acceptable. Thus this series will deal with the questions being asked by everybody today and the answers to the questions as taken from the Liturgy.

Needless to say, when we say Liturgy we mean, the Old and New Testaments. This includes the Fathers of the Church who are the official interpreters of Holy Scriptures and who are often referred to as the Tradition of the Church.

We must always have a reference point in working out the salvation of our souls. And the official reference point given to us by Holy Mother the Church is the Liturgy. However, we cannot remove the fact that, knowing this, the devil will try very hard to destroy the Liturgy. And he has been doing this with greater ferocity today. We fear the day the devil succeeds in destroying the Liturgy because we will lose our point of reference.

But we all have a memory of the Liturgy for we have been attending Mass for years. We, still, have our missals and the readings for Mass, the Missalettes and we, especially still have Scriptures and the writings of the Fathers of the Church still available all around, like in the Internet. We can use them, instead, if and when the devil is able to destroy the Liturgy. He has half-way succeeded, already, in doing so. And great diabolical plans are in offing to do greater damage.

ADVENT TO PENTECOST vs SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME.

Holy Mother the Church teaches us in detail the four steps we must take to go to heaven, namely, repentence, Faith, Hope, and

Charityfrom Advent up to Pentecost.

During the Sundays in Ordinary time, she teaches, in general and in summary form, the way to go to heaven in preparation for General Judgment Day which we liturgically celebrate on the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year.

This latter is, sort of, a grand review of all the lessons in spirituality, learned earlier from Advent to Pentecost.

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GOOD FRIDAY AS A TUPE.

Good Friday is the day when Christ was crucified. And on Good Friday, everything that happened is read in Church from the three Gospels to remind us of everything that happened that day in great detail.

Let us go back to the Old Testament. Do we read a description of Good Friday in the Old Testament. Yes. In the prophecies of Isaias. We read in the Old Testament writings of the prophet what will happen to Christ in the New Testament.

This prophecy-history relationship enables us to check whether what is happening in history conforms to the prophecy given earlier. Is this Christ on Good Friday the same Christ as the Messiah of the Prophets? The answer is obviously 'Yes.'

The story does not end there. This prophecy in the Old Testament that was historically fulfilled on Good Friday in the New Testament, will again be fulfilled eschatologically in the future, like today, the year 2000.

God gives us a knowledge of the past, of history and of eschatology to equip us with the necessary knowledge we need to receive a favorable judgment from God when HE suddenly comes to demand an accounting from us.

THE PARABLES ON THE KINGOOM OF GOO.

The kingdom of God as described in the parables at the end of the Liturgical calendar, describes the Catholic Church. Holy Mother the Church, precisely gave us many lessons about the Catholic Church so that we will not commit any mistake on which is the true Church of Christ.

Almost all the members of Protestant sects were former Catholics. Why would Catholics become Protestants. Because they do not know the difference between the two. But the difference between the two is very great. Well, most Catholics do not know the difference.

And sadly, even priests and bishops do not show the difference between the two in their homilies. Because they do not know the difference.

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Even recently, the foremost theologian of Pope Francis, stated that there is no difference between Catholics and Protestants. This is the Pope's personal theologian. If theologians do not know the difference, how can laymen know the difference. But there are very great differences. And the post-Easter and Pentecost Liturgy tells us the whole difference.

THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD.

Christ described the Kingdom of God as a vineyard. The Catholic Church is the vineyard of the Lord. Christ used a parable so it will be easy for most listeners to understand His teachings.

Christ said that the Catholic Church is like a vineyard. A vineyard has a fence to prevent animals from entering and eating up the grapes. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote that the fence is the commands of Christ in the New Testament as interpreted by the Fathers of the Church. That is the fence that puts souls inside the Church and keeps others outside. Those inside live by the Gospels and the teachings of the Fathers. Those outside do not live by the Gospel and the Fathers; or maybe they practice a few of their teachings but not completely.

So it is very easy to know which is the true Church of Christ. His Church has a fence; the very words of Christ in the New Testament and the correct interpretation of the Words of Christ as given to us by the Fathers of the Church.

St. Thomas Aquinas would be a great help because he does two things; he writes down every word of Christ in the New Testament and then gives its interpretation as written down by different Fathers of the Church.

So just by using the "Catena Aurea" of St. Thomas Aquinas you can build the fence of the Catholic Church and enter into the Church. You can, also, use his teachings to detect whether your family, your parish and your diocese are Catholic. You can even see if the Church in the Vatican is Catholic.

Prayer reveals to souls the vanity of earthly goods and pleasures. It fills them with light, strength and consolation, and gives them a foretaste of the calm bliss of our heavenly home.

St. Rose of Viterbo

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