

A One-Way Street!

Doctrinal Dialogue with a Bishop



This letter to Bishop Terry Steib, S.V.D., bishop of Memphis, Tennessee, was written on June 24, in response to the liturgical abuses and undermining of the Faith witnessed in his diocese. It points out the responsibility of the bishop to correct such abuses and to nourish the faith of the faithful with the Tradition of the Catholic Church.

Defense of the Faith

Out of respect for Your Excellency's office and as a matter of conscience, I correspond to provide enlightenment regarding the current state of my immortal soul which was entrusted to Your Excellency's care by our Holy Father. My only intent is to make Your Excellency aware of what has led to my decision to seek eternal salvation within Holy Mother Church but outside of a parish recognized by Your Excellency's See.

Our response as Roman Catholics to the revelations of God is faith. Though we may not understand His truths by human reason alone, we intellectually consent to them

because our motive for acceptance is God Himself who can neither deceive nor be deceived. The intellect that we use to affirm the Truths of God is the same intellect that we use to learn about the world. What differs is our reason for acceptance. One is knowledge; we accept the truths of the world because we understand them. The other is faith; we accept the revelations of God because God has revealed them without our ability to understand. God aids us in this by infusing into us the graces necessary to salvation, whereby we may develop the theological virtue of faith.

We are obligated to nurture and develop our faith because it is a gift from God. It is the solemn duty of every member of the true Mystical

Body of Christ to guard his faith from disuse and neglect, attack from without and within, denial or doubt. Faith can wither through neglect. It can be lost and never again found. As St. Paul tells us, we must use the weapons of God to overcome incorrect thoughts, vain imaginations and distorted beliefs (Eph. 6:14-17). He indicates as well that we are not to meekly accept attacks. For having put on the armor of Christ, we should not be defensive. The weapons given to us by God are offensive weapons. If we are wise, we will reach for His weapons, storm the fortress and destroy the enemy. The very nature of this warfare is explained to us by St. Paul (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

Many in the Church today deny the war. They say that there is no

crisis. This is not stupidity. Nor is it lack of objectivity, a simple case of losing sight of the true mission of Holy Mother Church. They see no war because the master of trickery and deceit has cloaked his foul lies with half truths in his effort to continue the war which he started with God before Adam. They see no war because even when their errors are pointed out to them, they allow human pride to put them firmly in Satan's camp. They have not only rejected the notion of a war, but they have also firmly established their lies within Christ's strategic command post—Vatican City.

Authority over the earth was given to Adam by God. Adam's purpose was to **reflect** the glory of God (Gen. 1:26-28). The relationship between Adam and God was personal, for Adam knew God and served Him as caretaker of the earth. Yet, God asked for his obedience as well (Gen. 2:15-17). Having been cast from heaven because his pride led him to rebel against God, Satan sought to gain man's authority over the earth and make a slave of man. It was Satan's assumption that destroying man's bond with God would not only gain him a kingdom, but also thwart God's glorious plan for man. Satan began by lying to Eve who fell to temptation. She ate of the tree of knowledge believing that it would make her wise like God. But Adam was not fooled. He made a **deliberate** choice to forsake the command of God and follow Eve into sin (Tim. 2:14). Adam's choice forfeited the glory which God had intended for mankind and aided Satan's purpose. Satan gained power and authority on earth. From that moment in time, all events were to lead to a hill outside of Jerusalem where the Lamb of God would be sacrificed upon the altar of the cross (I Jn. 3:8).

On Calvary, Jesus assumed our sins and the original sin of Adam that they might be forgiven by God. And while the sins of men are forgiven through the sacrifice of our Blessed Lord, the effect of the sins remains (Trent). Our free will is

intact. God has left to each of us the choice of Adam. We may follow His commands or believe the lies of Satan. To aid us, Christ left to us the deposit of Faith in Sacred Scripture and a Church of Apostolic tradition under His authority to guide us to heaven where we may once again reflect the glory of God. For centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has closely guarded the deposit of Faith and sought to protect the faithful from the Devil's fabrications. Many heresies have been born of Satan and his minions because he is still fighting his war. And sadly, we have lost many souls to him. But, the Church has historically assumed the authority to act for Christ on earth and vanquished the errors. However, today the *vitandi* are mistaken for the *tolerati*, confusing the faithful who receive contradictory and/or confusing messages from Church officials who for some reason refuse to bear(sic) the cross which they accepted. They proclaim not the truths of Christ, but the errors of man and the lies of Satan.

The Remedy

To overcome Satan, we must lead a sacramental life. We must know God and His mysteries. We must study and apply the teachings of Holy Mother Church as they have been passed down for centuries. We must pray constantly. And, we must maintain the tradition of a Catholic culture. All of these elements are essential to protect and foster our faith. However, for my present purposes, I will focus for a moment on the last.

The faithful need a truly Catholic environment. One where the Faith is not directly attacked or doubted. An environment that focuses on the sanctity of every soul within it. Practices which identify our Catholic culture must not only be encouraged; rather, they must become a part of daily life. Daily Mass, Holy Hours, Benediction, Gregorian Chant, Novenas, the Rosary and Angelus, church bells, Scapulars, devotion to saints, the

visible presence of priests in cassocks and nuns in real habits—these are only a few of many Catholic practices that are truly our own.

They are not illusory symbols. They are part of the substance which fertilizes the soil so that the seed of faith may grow. A setting where these and other Catholic practices abound is necessary if we wish to be well armed for the war against Satan. It is in this setting that we may become true soldiers of Christ. If you talk to any good military strategist, he will tell you that you must be always armed and ready to fight offensively if you wish to keep the enemy out of your territory so that you may advance and conquer (my Father, USAF; RIP).

We must always remember that the territory which we hold belongs to God by supreme right (Adam was only a caretaker). Those in this war who deny Christ or seek to destroy what is His are destined to be destroyed by God (Jd. 3-7). And, those who follow Christ must "receive them not." (2 Jn 8-11). Those who do not actively encourage a truly Catholic culture are against Christ. If they are left to teach the uninformed faithful, then they will be against Christ too.

Crisis in Memphis

There are a few good practices in this diocese, and I pray that they continue. But, there are also many non-Catholic practices and teachings which seek to usurp their importance. I went to a Novus Ordo Liturgy at which the priest preached, "You must understand, my Jesus could not have known that he was divine before the resurrection. If he had [known], then his suffering wouldn't have meant anything to me." I was stunned and surprised to hear heresy preached so openly and brazenly (Pius X, *Lamentabili Sane*). At another liturgy, I heard a priest say, "the Eucharist is a meal of communal love in which we consume bread and wine in symbolic memory of God's love for humanity." Now, I can appreciate the fact that this

priest became angry with me and asked me to leave since I had corrected him publicly before his homily was over (Pius X, *Lamentabili Sane*). However, it is difficult to feel admonished since I was already walking out the door. I had no reason to stay; for, without intent on his part, there can be no sacrament (Trent). And, on whose authority does he preach heresy?

Your Excellency has not been here long. I do not lay the blame for every evil in the Church at your feet. However, I do ask your Excellency to ponder these questions honestly for the sake of your lambs and the Most Sacred Heart which was pierced for their salvation, keeping in mind that this is a partial list:

- In what regard do Catholics in this diocese truly hold our Blessed Lord and His Real Presence when supposedly consecrated hosts may be found on the floor under pews after Mass?
- In what regard do Catholics in this diocese hold their unique and holy heritage when they refuse Latin and Gregorian Chant, yet they go to an “ecumenical service” in a Jewish synagogue and bend over backwards to learn a Hebrew chant?
- In what regard do Catholics in this diocese truly hold the Sacrament of Confirmation when it is bestowed on those who openly deny one or more of the articles of Faith or clearly given moral teaching (i.e.: the last four things, the Virgin Birth, a gay man openly living his homosexual life-style)?
- In what regard do Catholics in this diocese truly hold the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when they say that Vespers is the preferred form of prayer over the Mass?
- In what regard do Catholics in this diocese truly hold the sanctity of life when they campaign for politicians who support abortion?
- In what regard do Catholics in this diocese truly hold the Apostolic traditions when, **a)** they do not know what they are, and **b)** those who cling to them as a matter of faith are treated as second class citizens and labeled “sentimentalists,” “nostalgia freaks,” “sanctimonious fools,” etc. And, how can a Catholic who did not experience the Church prior to Vatican II and the Novus Ordo Missal, yet who clings to those same traditions be nostalgic?
- In what regard can Catholics in this diocese hold priests when some of them can be seen entering and leaving gay establishments at all hours of the night?
- With respect, who is to feed the lambs if the shepherd is at an NCCB meeting or in Rome and the sheep are really wolves?

Profession of Faith

I do not possess several degrees in theology, philosophy, liturgy, etc. My formal education is in nursing, literature, language and more recently, Sacred Music. Because the Church in this geographic area has failed in her teaching mission over the last two and a half decades, I am basically self-catechized in matters pertaining to the Faith. However, prophetic wisdom led the Church Fathers to bequeath to the faithful in my situation century upon century of literature which clearly defines the acceptable beliefs and practices of the Faith. In addition, our Blessed Lord Himself left instructions regarding how to use the information (Lk. 5:33-39).

“The old is better.” Clearly, anything which does not conform to the immutable teachings of Church past, anything which contradicts, denies or doubts that which has been passed down to us by the Apostles, anything new—these will spoil and corrupt the Faith to the point that the old is lost. And, “the duty that is incumbent on the faithful to flee also those errors which

more or less approach heresy, and accordingly to keep also the constitutions and decrees by which such evil opinions are proscribed and forbidden...” (Pius XII, *Humani Generis*) is the duty of anyone who would dare to claim that he is a soldier of Christ. Therefore, I must emphatically denounce these modern notions and novelties which challenge the indefectibility of Church teachings and corrupt the Faith:

- Satan does exist, and I renounce him, all of his works, and all of his pomp.
- I reject the notion that truth may be discovered in any religion other than that of the Roman Catholic Church which alone received the deposit of Faith from Jesus Christ.
- I reject any notion of false ecumenism which leads to the compromise of doctrine and dogma.
- I reject any notion that any state is free to govern without submission to Holy Mother Church who represents the authority of our Sovereign King, Jesus Christ.
- I reject any notion that any individual is free to make any decision without submission to Holy Mother Church who represents the authority of our Sovereign King, Jesus Christ.
- I reject the legitimacy of the Novus Ordo Missal which has led to the loss of the Faith and corruption of millions and has no sound historical basis in liturgical development.
- I reject the notion that any part of our holy Catholic heritage should be discarded because the *periti* have determined it to be “politically, socially, liturgically, philosophically, spiritually, morally, ethically (or in any other way) incorrect.”

The Only Choice

Based on this which I relate to you and more, I have sought direction from several diocesan priests, a priest from the Priestly Society of

The Bishop's Response

St. Pius X and a priest from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. It is my decision to seek the salvation of my immortal soul under the guidance of the Society of St. Pius X at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church. I believe that it is necessary to add that no one from St. Cecilia's or the Society attempted to pressure me or harass me or give me a "big sell." I met with one of their priests who was able to answer my questions in a straightforward manner utilizing clear language and ideas consistent with the faith which God has given to me. I met with a few people at the church and attended Holy Mass. I was impressed by the genuine Catholic culture which thrives there. It is a matter of fact that I did not hear of Archbishop Lefebvre until the consecrations of 1988, nor did I read any of his works until quite recently. The fact that I did not investigate this remnant of Holy Mother Church earlier may be attributed to my own human weakness, foolish pride and false rumors. As to the state of my soul, its care is now "in my Father's house" and under the care of his servants. I do not lay claim to being holier than anyone. As a matter of fact, I am probably worse than most. But I do not propose to quit fighting this war. Presently, I am on tactical retreat from the battlefield while I restock my ammo. When I do return, my pen will not be stilled.

This which I relate to you is born of faith, prayer, study and suffering. And, this letter may be considered a matter of record. The results of my decision and my success as a soldier of Christ will be determined by my Supreme Judge, Christ the King. May His mercy be upon my soul.

It has become my habit to daily pray Psalm 26, the source of Your Excellency's motto, for the clergy and faithful in the Diocese of Memphis. This I will continue to do. I humbly request that Your Excellency pray as well that God's Holy Will may always be done through me. ☩

Remarkable by its refusal to face up to any of the charges, to propose any remedies, or even to admit that there is any crisis in the Church, it is tantamount to an admission of the author's claims.



The Catholic Diocese of
Memphis
IN TENNESSEE

Living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 26, 1994

Mr. [REDACTED]

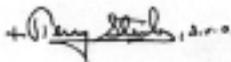
Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter. Your comments have been noted.

As requested, I will pray that God's Holy Will may guide you.

Take care.

In the Divine Word,



Most Rev. J. Terry Steib, S.V.D.
Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee

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