

Below is a transcription of the audio file of the Catechism Class given 05-22-11

Today we will continue speaking about the article of the Creed, “I believe in the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints,” and today, cover the fourth mark and attribute of the Church, apostolicity. This is as I said not only the 4th mark of the Church, it is also one of its essential attributes. The word “apostle” itself means “one sent,” and that is the big difference between those bishops who call themselves Catholics today and true bishops in the Catholic Church. We know today they are not sent.

The term “apostle” implies a relationship, for in one way it denotes both the messenger and the sender. As applied to the Church, it expresses its material cause, the Apostles, and it implies its dependence on the primary cause, Jesus Christ. To say that the Church is Christian is to name its primary cause; to say that it is apostolic is to tell its ministerial cause. All Catholics believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is in some sense apostolic because basically nothing is more clearly expressed in Holy Scriptures (or more fully confirmed by history) than the following facts and propositions:

- * We know from Scripture and tradition and history that Jesus Christ founded a Church that was truly apostolic.

- * Secondly, that the apostolic doctrine and precept and example were to be the norm for the Church and the pattern and guide always for every true believer.

- * Third, we know from Scripture and tradition and history that the commission given to the Apostles was given in perpetuity.

We can also reflect on the truth that the term “apostolic” when applied to the Catholic Church is synonymous with genuine, accredited, authorized, true. A church which is not apostolic is confessedly spurious and at once proclaims itself an upstart, an imposter, a sham. It follows then from these truths, that the Church which is directly derived from the Apostles is the only true Church. By direct derivation or lineal descent would mean coming down in unbroken succession from the Apostles and having its orders, doctrine, and mission from them. So, again it is important that if you look in the world today for the Catholic Church, you will find that one that has its orders, doctrine, and mission from the Apostles.

This Church that is really apostolic must have in itself everything that the society of the Apostles originally had. It must be identical, not just similar or somewhat the same or half the people believe it, but this Church must be identical in doctrine, in orders, and in authority. It must teach all of the truths committed to the Apostles and it must succeed as an organization in such a manner as to be strictly the same society. It is not enough for it to teach all of the doctrines of the Apostles if it lacks either their orders or their jurisdiction. So there, we have a very brief outline of some extremely important truths concerning the state of the world and the state of the Catholic Church today.

For example, one of the first people who called themselves Catholic bishops or who put that on as an imposter, were they genuine, accredited, authorized, and true? No, they were not authorized. Do they have identical doctrine, orders, and authority? For example, Francis Conrad Schuckardt started his church, but it was not derived from the Apostles unless the Old Catholic church has always been the true Church, and we know from teachings of the infallible Church, that it is not. They broke away; I think the year was 1724. They certainly do not have the doctrine and missions of the Apostles and neither do any of their followers. How can anyone who is in schism still have an unbroken succession from the Apostles? Always keep in mind, my dear friends, that all apostates, heretics, and schismatics are cut off from the true Church (as you can read in my *Petition for Spiritual Help* in the reference sources). St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that those who receive Sacraments from those who are cut off from the Church do not receive grace, because they sin in so doing.

The society of the Apostles originally had bishops with full jurisdiction, not obtained by an abjuration before two witnesses as Francis Schuckardt claimed he received his jurisdiction. They had a pope who could excommunicate people like Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. Therefore, right away we know the Society of St. Pius X is not the true church. They do not have all the doctrine that the Catholic Church teaches. They do not have, as it says here, orders and jurisdiction. If any church lacks either the orders or their jurisdiction, it is not the apostolic Catholic Church even if it teaches all of the rest of the doctrines of the Apostles. Nor is it enough to have the orders of the Apostles if either their doctrine or mission is wanting. That is what is wanting in every

Traditionalist Movement bishop that I know of – their mission. They are not sent as we will cover extensively today from the Scriptures.

A very important axiom here is “a thing is good only when good in every way; a thing is bad if bad in any way.” If they are bad in one way; it is enough to make them a non-Catholic sect. There is usually much more than just one way, but it has to be good in every way, which they are not because they do not receive orders and jurisdiction from apostolic succession. No church is truly apostolic that teaches a doctrine at variance with those taught and handed down by the Apostles, and the Apostles always taught us that all jurisdiction comes from the Pope down to others and all jurisdiction must be given by one who has jurisdiction himself. The Church has always taught us that no apostate, heretic, or schismatic or formerly excommunicated people have lawful use of jurisdiction.

We also might point out that the theory that such people as Bishop Robert McKenna, Guérard des Lauriers, and the rest who hold this material/formal pope theory is certainly a doctrine that is at variance with those taught by the Apostles. They (the 12 Apostles) with St. Mathias taking the place of Judas, never for one moment ever taught that Peter was formally the pope, or only materially the pope and not formally, or formally the pope and not materially. They never taught that St. Peter did not have jurisdiction after Pentecost Sunday. So, it is a new doctrine, and so it is a new religion; and we should have nothing to do with them, because as I pointed out, they are cut off from the Church. When they are cut off from the Church, those who receive Sacraments from them do not receive grace because they sin in so doing according to the holiest of wise men and the wisest of holy men, St. Thomas Aquinas.

Every apostate, heretic, and schismatic is cut off from the Church as Pope Pius XII taught us in his encyclical on the Mystical Body of Christ. If you are not a member of the Church, you are not a part of it, and therefore the succession from the Apostles was and is broken in all of these Traditionalist Movement sects, especially for many years (over 200 years already in the Old Roman Catholic religion). Continue to remember that neither is a church apostolic unless its orders come down in an unbroken succession from the Apostles. No church is apostolic that is not authorized and commissioned by apostolic continuity.

Only one Church, the Church that Jesus Christ founded, is truly apostolic. Scriptures tell us of the call and commission of the Apostles. Upon them as the foundation, Jesus Christ built His Church and He sent them to teach His doctrines and to extend His kingdom. Remember, Jesus Christ SENT His Apostles, and today, none of the Traditionalist Movement bishops have been sent by anyone who had authority to send them.

So, keep in mind that Jesus Christ called His Apostles; as we read in the fourth chapter of St. Matthew’s gospel. We read a narrative of the individual call of the first four of the twelve as he wrote -- and Jesus walking by the sea of Galilee saw two brethren, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishers, and He saith to them, come ye after Me and I will make you to be fishers of men, and they immediately leaving their nets followed Him; and going on from thence He saw two other brethren, James the son Zebedee and John his brother in a ship with Zebedee their father mending their nets and He called them, and they forthwith left their nets and father and followed Him. A short while later, St. Matthew records his own calling – and when Jesus passed on from thence He saw a man sitting in the custom house named Matthew, and He saith to him, follow Me and he arose up and followed Him.

Then if we move over to St. Mark’s gospel, we read about Jesus Christ calling all the twelve publicly – and going up into a mountain, He called unto Him whom He would Himself and they came to Him and He made that twelve should be with Him. St. Luke records – and when day was come, He called unto Him His disciples and He chose twelve of them whom He also named Apostles, Simon who He surnamed Peter and Andrew his brother, James and John, Phillip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alpheus, and Simon who is called Zealot, and Jude the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot.

I would again encourage you to listen to the Sunday sermons of the Great Fathers. You can find them recorded on my website and go under the audio tab. Under the audio books, scroll down until you come to that tape set now available in MP3 files, *The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*. If you listen to their sermons, you will find how they point out in a very important way that every place the twelve Apostles are listed in Sacred Scripture, they always begin by naming St. Peter. In many places, they name St. Peter special because

he was the pope, the head of the Apostles. Again, we read, you have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you. Again, have not I chosen you Twelve?

So, keep in mind that wherever these Apostles are listed; prominence is given to the call of Peter, placing him first and by the special manner in which Our Lord promised to make him the head of His Church – thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church. That is one reason why St. Paul could write to the Ephesians – you are built upon the foundation of the Apostles. But, as I spoke a while ago, for anyone in the Church today to be built upon this foundation of the Apostles, they must have their orders and their jurisdiction coming from the Apostles. They must be sent by the Apostles and their teaching must be identical in doctrine, in orders, and in authority. It must be strictly the same society.

But not only did Jesus Christ call His Apostles, He gave them authority and sent them forth to evangelize and save the world. Having called His twelve Apostles together, He gave them power and St. Mark records – and He called the Twelve and began to SEND them two and two and gave them power over unclean spirits. St. Luke records – then calling together the twelve Apostles, He gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases, and He SENT them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. St. Matthew records – these twelve, Jesus SENT and He told them what to do and what to say; and going preach saying, the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

At the beginning, if you study Scripture, you will realize that all of these commissions were local in the beginning. They were SENT only to Judea announcing Christ's personal visits. They were specifically forbidden to go into the way of the Gentiles. For it was God's design to give the Jews the first chance to accept the Savior. Go ye rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Later the scope of the commission was made worldwide and in St. Mark, Our Lord says to the Apostles – go ye into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not, shall be condemned. What serious words to reflect upon. We better believe everything that Jesus Christ and His Church teach. If it can be proved that someone has a true mission from apostolic succession, we better believe them and follow their teaching, because He that believeth not shall be condemned. But we cannot hear the new teachers of religion and still hear the Church that Jesus Christ founded because they do not have Apostolic succession. They are imposters as the pope pointed out to us. They are intruders, and all these intruders are cut off from the Church.

In St. John's gospel again we read – as the Father has SENT Me, I also SEND you. St. John adds – He breathed on them and said to them, receive ye the Holy Ghost whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven them, and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained. Again, if you read St. John's gospel, you will find that important prayer of Our Lord at the Last Supper addressed to His Father. As Thou has SENT Me into the world I also SENT them into the world. So, we see how it is repeated over and over and over again that all of the Apostles (all the true successors) were SENT. The Apostles were SENT by Jesus Christ and the true successors who carry on apostolicity (the 4th mark of the Church) have to have a mission; they must be SENT by those who of themselves have authority, office, and jurisdiction in the Church.

A very important quote always, of course, is: “and Jesus coming spoke to them saying, all power is given to Me in Heaven and in earth” (appealing to the source of all authority). “Going therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” To enable them to fulfill this arduous mission (for it was no easy thing for twelve poor simple people to go out and convert the whole world) to teach all nations the truth that Jesus Christ wanted them to teach, therefore Jesus Christ promised His perpetual help to them for He added: “and behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world.” We must believe that on faith. If we do not know by name and address of any true successor of the Apostles, Jesus Christ promised that He would be with His Church all days. There would be apostolic succession even to the consummation of the world. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you, Jesus Christ promised. For that same reason, Jesus asked His heavenly Father to sanctify them in truth.

Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus Christ also promised the presence of the Holy Ghost. He breathed on them and He said to them, “receive ye the Holy Ghost” (on the first Easter Sunday). “When He the Spirit of

Truth is come, He will teach you all truth.” That is an important point to always remember. For example, if John Paul II was in fact a true pope, then why is it that he does not have the power and authority to excommunicate Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre? In other words, why does he not have the power to teach all truth? If he is not the true pope, then Marcel Lefebvre and the whole Society is heretical, claiming someone to be the pope who is not the pope. But, the Paraclete, the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring all things to your mind whatsoever I have said to you.

So from all of this, it should be obvious that Jesus Christ selected His Apostles and commissioned them, and moreover, promised to give them all things necessary for carrying out their mission through all time. Jesus Christ assures us in St. Luke that those whom He sent would go with His power and authority -- He that heareth you heareth Me, and He that despises you, despises Me, and He that despises Me, despises Him that sent Me. Again, if he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as a heathen and publican. So once more, I exhort all of us to be very careful never to reject the authorized messengers of God, and we would reject the authorized messengers of God by following along with those who are not authorized and who have not been SENT by someone with authority and jurisdiction in the Church.

Keep in mind that not only did Jesus Christ select and commission His Apostles and promise them help, power, and authority, but the Apostles from the very beginning claim that they were so commissioned. There is a great difference between them and those in the world today because the original twelve Apostles were not self-constituted leaders, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither the things they say, nor whereof they affirm. The Apostles claimed to speak for Christ by His authority and in His name. St. Paul says -- we have received grace and apostleship through obedience to the faith in all nations for His name. Their word was not an *if* and a *perhaps* and a *maybe* where our preaching which was to you was not, it is, and it is not. Our exhortation was not of error, nor of uncleanness, nor in deceit, but as we were approved by God that the Gospel should be committed to us even so we speak not as pleasing men, but God who proveth our hearts. We are not as many adulterating the Word of God, but with sincerity, but as from God and before God, in Christ we speak. Again, St. Paul says -- He hath placed us in the word of reconciliation, for Christ therefore we are ambassadors; God as it were exhorting by us.

So, Jesus Christ is God. Jesus and the Church are one and the same according to St. Augustine and the new belief is they adulterate the Word, the teachings of the Church. But, this just reminded us that for Christ therefore we are ambassadors as it were exhorting by us. Is that the truth in the new religion? For example, does God exhort by Bishop Marcel Lefebvre that a true pope should be disobeyed? Obviously not. Does Jesus Christ exhort that a true pope has no authority to excommunicate or suspend and fold up this SSPX organization? Does God exhort that attending the Mass of a true pope is an occasion of sin and a way to lose the Faith? But those are the words I have heard out of the mouth of those who attend the Society of St. Pius X. I asked them specifically if Pope John Paul II (and I might have asked them before when Paul VI was leading their religion) if you were in this town and the pope was the only one to offer Mass in town that day; if John Paul II was going to offer the mass, would you attend his mass? They told me, no. In other words, they would not fulfill what they would call their Sunday obligation. I asked them, well, why not? Why would you not attend the mass of Pope John Paul II as you call him? They said because it would be an occasion of sin to lose our faith.

Was that would Jesus Christ exhorts us as St. Paul wrote here -- for Christ, therefore, we are ambassadors; God as it were exhorting by us. Again, does God exhort by saying that Canon Laws do not apply? But the new religion today says Canon Law is not for our times (preached from the very pulpits and in their letters in the CMRI community at least). Not one of the Traditionalists follow all of the Canon Laws, obviously. Does God exhort by saying that an appointment to an office (for example, a Novus Ordo bishop means nothing)? In other words, as Marcel Lefebvre would teach... that the true pope and the true bishops are not able to carry out the mission and life of the true Church, therefore, we Traditionalists must consecrate our own bishops to carry on the life of the Church; that the Novus Ordo church is and is not the church (the Catholic Church) -- in reality, is the true Church because Paul VI and John Paul II are true popes according to them. Well, how can the true pope be the head of anything but the true Catholic Faith (the true Catholic Church)?

They only claim to be popes of the Novus Ordo church they say, but the Novus Ordo church is a true church according to the Society of Pius X for no one there needs to abjure his errors when he joins any Traditionalist Movement church for the most part (whether it be the Pius X church, the CMRI church, the Pius V church, or whatever). People just slip along from one religion to another and no one ever abjures their errors for belonging to a non-Catholic religion. The Novus Ordo church is not the true Church, therefore, we must consecrate our own bishops without a papal mandate to keep the true Church alive! The new code of Canon Law is not binding because it was promulgated by John Paul II, one of the bad so-called good popes! The 1918 Code only applies when it is to our advantage because we really do not have a pope or a church left that can make us do anything we do not want to do! So, we have the sing song and the theology of the new religions.

Again, we read in Sacred Scripture -- let a man so account of us as the ministers of Christ and the dispensers of the mysteries of God; and he adds, but in all things let us exhibit ourselves as the ministers of God. Therefore, we also give thanks to God without ceasing because that when you have received of us the Word of the hearing of God, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is indeed the Word of God who worketh in you that have believed. So, again St. John answering the objections proposed by the first heretics laid it down as a test of truth and right doctrine -- "We are of God. He that knoweth God, heareth us. He that is not of God, heareth us not. By this we know of the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

Someone accused those who do not follow their new religion as not hearing the Church because they claim that they are the Catholic Church, but do they teach the same thing as the twelve Apostles taught? No they do not, as I have been attempting to point out. Therefore, we can say to them, we are of God. We do not follow you because we know that God heareth us and that He spoke to us the Truth through the Apostles and His infallible Church. He that is not of God heareth us not. They do not hear what the Church taught for nearly 2,000 years. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. What was always taught at all places, by all people, at all times is the Truth.

Thus, we see that Jesus Christ selected the Apostles and authorized their teachings. But, did Jesus Christ select Arnold Harris Matthews, Prince de Landas Berghes, Carmel Henry Carfora, Bishop Augustine Rogers, Daniel Q. Brown, and Francis Schuckardt? Obviously not. Did Jesus Christ authorize the teachings of these Old Roman Catholics, including Bishop Burley and Andre Barbeau and all the others? So, they deny so many things the Church teaches. Even Daniel Q. Brown, who consecrated Schuckardt, I believe still lived with his wife before and after his so-called abjuration before about 30 lay people, at which time Francis Schuckardt claimed he received jurisdiction and was returned to the Church (which is totally contrary to everything the Church ever taught).

We can always remember, then, that if they have taught us wrong, Christ is the author of error, that is, speaking of the true popes and the canonized saints and Doctors of the Church. Therefore, the obvious conclusion is that these Traditionalist Movement and Novus Ordo bishops, such as Francis Schuckardt and John Paul II, Paul VI, Marcel Lefebvre, Thuc, Fouhy, Robert McKenna, all of them and their offspring, by simple reflection (studying of your faith), it is obvious that they have taught us wrong. Therefore, they are not of Christ. They are not the ones who carry on the apostolic mission of the Church. Otherwise, we would have to accuse Jesus Christ of teaching us error.

Therefore, they cannot be the same church as that of the twelve Apostles which Jesus Christ used to found His Church. If they truly are our pastors according to the heart of Jesus, why is there no unity among them? Because, again I repeat, they are not our true pastors. The pope (I think it was Pope Pius VI) called them intruders, imposters, and they are schismatics he told us. We notice moreover that God reserves to Himself the right to choose the ministers of His Word. So, again, what Catholic bishop in the name of God and His true Church, called Daniel Q. Brown and Francis Schuckardt or any Traditionalist Movement priest or bishop? Nobody.

The prophet Jeremias reminds us of something that is important -- and I will give you pastors according to My own heart and they shall feed you with knowledge and doctrine. Again, St. Paul writing to the Romans asks -- how should they believe them of whom they have not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they be SENT (and I would add SENT by someone with authority and jurisdiction)?

Otherwise, as we have seen, they are not SENT in the name of Jesus Christ. They are not SENT by the Church Jesus Christ founded. They have become intruders, imposters, schismatics, and heretics with no authority, mission, and jurisdiction. They do not carry on the life of the Church. They do not have all four marks of the Church. You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, said Jesus Christ to His Apostles. The same is true today. If they are not chosen by someone who already has authority and jurisdiction in the Church, then they are not chosen by Jesus Christ. St. Paul reminded us of this in almost the same way -- neither does any man take the honor to himself, but he that is called by God as Aaron was.

So, it is obvious again to ask ourselves, what true authority called any of these Traditionalist Movement bishops or priests? Or did they just take the honor to themselves? In his epistle to the Ephesians, St. Paul goes on to remind us -- he gave some Apostles and some prophets and other some evangelists, and other some pastors and doctors, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ. Again, St. Paul says to the Corinthians -- God indeed has SENT some in the Church first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly doctors. He spoke of himself as he wrote to St. Timothy -- I am appointed a preacher and an apostle. But, who with authority has appointed even the Novus Ordo bishops and priests? If the Novus Ordo popes are popes, then we must belong to the Novus Ordo religion, as well as every member of the Traditionalist Movement clerics and lay people, or else be damned forever. But, if the Novus Ordo religion is the true Church, then Jesus Christ failed and He told us a lie! He did not keep His promises, because it cannot be the true faith and still teach all the error and heresy that goes on in that religion! Again, St. Paul wrote to the Colossians -- I am made a minister according to the dispensation of God, which is given me towards you that I may fulfill the Word of God.

It is an error, therefore, to suppose that the preacher gets his power from the people. From this, we realize (or should realize) that it was ONLY lay people who witnessed the abjuration of error of "Bishop" Daniel Q. Brown, because he was the only cleric present in that Chicago hotel before the ordination and consecration ceremonies of Francis Schuchardt. Wake up to the Truth my friends! Because "Bishop" Daniel Q. Brown only made an adjuration before lay people; there is no one to give him absolution and restore him to the Catholic Church. These laypeople certainly, absolutely, undeniably, and unquestionably were totally incapable of absolving him or giving any jurisdiction to "Bishop" Daniel Q. Brown. Therefore, consider what actually happened; Francis Schuchardt received Minor Orders, Major Orders, and the Priesthood, on October 31; and was "consecrated" a Bishop the next day on November 1, 1971. All of those Orders were received outside of the Catholic Church from a man who had absolutely no jurisdiction or authority to give those Orders. Francis Schuchardt never had the power of ordinary or delegated jurisdiction for even one day during his entire life; although he functioned as if he was a Catholic Bishop for more than 30 years.

But we were just reminded, it is an error therefore to suppose that the preacher gets his power from the people. Lay people have no jurisdiction in the Catholic Church. They cannot give anyone jurisdiction. They cannot receive an adjuration to restore the man to the Church.

The same might be said for these people who act as imposter popes, such as David Bawden. David was elected by lay people, half of whom were women. He did not receive his power from those people. This same St. Paul who was so miraculously converted and so singularly called to the ministry, did not begin his work on his own motion, but had recourse to the established authority of the Church. He was duly ordained and commissioned by the Church as we read in the Acts of the Apostles. He was commissioned not by breaking so many laws of the Church as happens in all these Traditionalist Movement and Novus Ordo religions, where they do not receive a proper papal mandate (and so many other things could be brought out).

As we read in the Acts of the Apostles about St. Paul being duly ordained and commissioned -- and as we were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Ghost said to them: separate me Saul and Barnabas for the work whereunto I have taken them. Then they, fasting and praying, and imposing their hands upon them, sent them away. So they being sent by the Holy Ghost went to Seleucia and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. St. Paul did not establish an independent community as Bishop Francis Schuchardt did, Marcel Lefebvre did, McKenna did, Pius V leader -- Kelly did. St. Paul did not establish an independent community, nor a peoples church, nor a Paul's church, simply because he was called differently from the rest. St. Paul was not a

bushwacker in the war for truth. All his lifetime he recognized the authority of the other Apostles and submitted to the constituted head, to the true popes throughout the ages. In his time, it was St. Peter. When he had hard questions to solve, he went up to Jerusalem to consult the Apostles and the priests there as he wrote -- after three years I went to Jerusalem to see Peter and I tarried with him fifteen days. Again, he wrote -- I went up according to revelation and conferred with them the Gospel which I preach among the Gentiles. But apart from them who seem to be something lest perhaps I should run where I have run in vain. In other words, all the Apostles, including St. Paul who was called in a special way, taught the same thing at all times. He did not preach a gospel different than St. Peter and St. James and St. John and the rest of them. Today, do they have that same unity among those who call themselves Catholic clerics in the world today?

If you also carefully study the manner in which Jesus Christ instituted the Church and the way in which He selected and commissioned His Apostles, it will settle forever the assumptions of self-constituted teachers. It was of self-appointed preachers God spoke by the mouth of Jeremias -- I did not send prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesized. So, the new clerics in the world today have not been sent by Christ, yet they ran, yet they preach. Jesus Christ is the door. The shepherd of the sheep entereth by the door. He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up another way, the same as a thief and a robber. If you have the *Liturgical Year*, I might remind you to read what Abbot Dom Gueranger wrote on February 22.

It is pretty strong language that Jesus Christ is using here. He calls those who would assume the office of the ministry without His sanction, robbers and thieves. A pretension you to an extraordinary mission independent of apostolic authority by would-be guides of mankind is but one phase of human insanity that is more common than many of us have any idea. The world has held many false beliefs but the truth is recognized and taught by the Catholic Church. The truth can be known from error and the truth can be known whether the number of cranks, false prophets, and humbugs are just that; or if they are not cranks, false prophets, and humbugs but actually sent and part of the Catholic apostolic succession.

Throughout history, you will still find many people who try to run everything religious, political, social, and domestic according to their own whim. But, they were bushwhackers and innovators. All innovators take for a first principle that the provisions which Christ made for continuing His work in the world were inadequate for the purpose. Is not that one of the main themes that we hear today? Jesus Christ was not able to take care of His Church. He did not make provisions that carry on the priesthood. That is the great contradiction especially of the Society of St. Pius X where, as was pointed out even on their main website where they try to defend themselves (at that place for the whole world to read), they acknowledge that the Sacraments of the Novus Ordo Church are all valid. After saying that, then it follows that then the priesthood in the Novus Ordo church is valid, and yet Marcel Lefebvre says I'm going to consecrate bishops to carry on the priesthood, otherwise it will die out. What a contradiction!

They are innovators who take this first principle that Jesus Christ did not know what He was doing to continue His work in the world. The means He accepted were inadequate for that purpose. They take for a certainty that the promise of Jesus Christ has failed, therefore, they start up their own churches and consecrate without any authority coming from God. What credentials or authority do they produce to show their mission? Absolutely none, because they do not have any. What work do they perform that is calculated to move a sensible person to act and believe in them? The world never produced a fool that cannot find another to follow him. These are the blind and leaders of the blind, of whom Our Lord spoke when He said -- if the blind lead the blind both fall into the pit. To such, St. Paul alludes to in his epistle to Timothy when he says -- some going astray have turned aside into vain babbling, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither the things they say, nor whereof they affirm. He warned us -- know also this in the last days shall come on dangerous times. Men shall be lovers of themselves, haughty, traitors, stubborn, puffed up, having an appearance indeed of godliness, but denying the power thereof; now these avoid. There you have it directly from the Holy Ghost through the pen of St. Paul... to avoid all of these who have the appearance of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

The doctrine of the Apostles is the true faith which is known to us through the episcopal succession which has reached even to our age, says St. Iraneaus who lived in the 2nd century. Tertullian continued the same thought. It is therefore clear that all doctrine which agrees with that of the apostolic churches, the parent stock and original centers of the faith, must be regarded as the truth, holding without hesitation that the Church received it from the Apostles, the Apostles from Christ, and Christ from God. We are in communion with the apostolic churches He adds (and by the very fact that they agree among themselves), we have testimony of the truth. So, could it follow that when they do not agree among themselves, we have testimony of error and falsehood. St. Paul went on to warn us -- but though we or an angel from Heaven preach a gospel to you besides that which we have preached to you, let him be anathema. Again, he wrote almost the same thing -- if anyone preach to you a gospel besides that which you have received, let him be anathema.

The 15th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is something very important to consider. Its last verse is one of the many Scriptures, especially of value in this connection, in showing the importance of an apostolic model. St. Paul, when he visited the churches, commanded them to keep the precepts of the Apostles and the ancients. So, we also read -- and they were persevering in the doctrine of the Apostles and in the communication of the breaking of the bread. St. Paul went on to warn us, writing to the Hebrews -- remember your prelates who have spoken the Word of God to you whose faith follow. Be not led away with various and strange doctrines, for example, the doctrines which have already been pointed out:

- that one can abjure before just two witnesses publicly or before many lay people and then function as a Catholic bishop, or
- that the pope can be materially the pope, but not formally, or vice versa, or
- the pope can be the head of a non-Catholic church, or
- that the pope can be the head of two churches teaching contrary doctrines, or
- that every bishop consecrated in the world today has universal jurisdiction so that each one can go any place on earth to function as if he was the pope and the entire earth was his diocese.

All these contradictory doctrines are self-condemnatory. Obey your prelates and be subject to them for they walk as being to render an account of your souls. I would say today to obey all the past bishops, popes, and especially the Doctors of the Church who have taught us the truth throughout the centuries. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you have heard whether by word or by epistle. But be sure you only hold to the traditions that have been handed down by the Catholic Church (not these traditions of the Traditionalists who teach contrary to the traditions of the Catholic Church).

As mentioned at the beginning today, this commission given to the Apostles was to be bestowed in perpetuity. It did not expire with their mortal lives. This is evident from the end and scope of the institution they represented. Their society was to be Catholic in time, as well as in territory, and in truth. Our Lord's help and presence, as also that of the Holy Ghost, was promised as perpetual -- behold I am with you ALL days even to the consummation of the world. I will ask the Father and He shall give you another Paraclete that He may abide with you forever.

The Apostles have provided for successors. They added co-workers to their number. They ordained and consecrated those who were to follow them. Scarcely had Judas, who betrayed Our Lord, left his place vacant when Mathias was chosen in his stead as we read in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, thus fulfilling the words of the Psalmist -- and his bishopric let another take. St. Paul writing to Timothy commands us to continue to preach the Gospel. He says -- I charge thee before God and Jesus Christ who shall judge the living and dead by His coming and His kingdom, preach the Word. The things that thou hadst heard of me by many witnesses, the same commend to faithful men who shall be fit to teach others also. Writing to St. Titus, St. Paul declares -- for this cause I left thee in Crete that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting and shouldest ordain priests in every city as I also appointed thee. Moreover, in the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Barnabas and Paul, when they had ordained to them priests in every Church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord. Is there anything further needed to prove that the Apostles were to have successors and that their mission was to be permanent?