



Dear friends in Christ,

## Are You Still A Catholic?

This may seem a rather startling question to address to those who are supporters of the traditional Latin Mass, and who attend it weekly, and refuse to be part of the New Order of Vatican II. Yet, nonetheless, the question is necessary to be asked of even such staunch “defenders of the faith.” As children and youth, many of us studied the *Baltimore Catechism* and learned much of it by heart. It behooves us from time to time to get out our old catechism and review our Faith, to be sure we still believe as Catholics today.

The first thing to review should be those beautiful prayers, the Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Contrition. In the Act of Faith, the second sentence reads: “I believe these and *all the truths* which the Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches, because *thou hast revealed them, who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.*”

A true Catholic, then, must believe *all* that the Church teaches, because God revealed these truths. We cannot pick and choose which dogmas of Faith to accept and to reject, because that is the very essence of heresy. Nor can we suppose that dogmas of Faith can be set aside as no longer “relevant,” modified, or altered in any way on the pretext of “adapting to the changing needs and circumstances of the times,” because that is the essence of Modernism, which Pope St. Pius X condemned, calling it “the synthesis of all heresies.”

In our Baltimore Catechism #3, for high school, in Lesson 30, on the First Commandment, here are some very important questions and answers:

Q.1164. How does a person sin against Faith?

A. A person sins against Faith: 1st, by not trying to know what God has revealed: 2nd, by refusing to believe all that God has taught: 3rd, by neglecting to profess his belief in what God has taught.

A. We fail to try to know what God has taught by neglecting to learn the Christian doctrine.

(1166) God will not excuse our ignorance if we neglect to learn our religion when He has given us the means.

A. The denial of only one article of Faith will make a person a heretic, and guilty of mortal sin, because the Holy Scripture says, “Whosoever shall keep the whole law, but offend in one point, is become guilty of all.”

Q. 1172. What is an article of Faith?

A. An article of Faith is a revealed Truth so important and so certain that no one can doubt or deny it without rejecting the testimony of God.

The Church very clearly points out what truths are articles of Faith, that we may distinguish them from pious beliefs and traditions, so that *no one* can be guilty of the sin of heresy without knowing it.

So far, so good, right? Most of you are nodding your heads in agreement, and shrugging: “So, what about it?” Well, the problem “traditional Catholics” are facing today is the fact that

the ordinations of all the “traditional” priests ordained by Archbishop Lefebvre, and Archbishop Thuc, as well as bishops consecrated and stemming from these lines, are *illicit*. These priests, in general, will admit this fact but brush it off lightly and continue to function in violation of **Divine Laws** and **Dogmas** of our Catholic Faith.

Now consider the following solemnly defined Dogmas of the Church and recall as well Our Lord’s words: “*And, if he will not hear the Church; let him be to thee as the heathen and publican.*” (St. Matthew 18,17) (D. = abbreviation for Denzinger’s, “*Sources of Catholic Dogma*” the Church “Handbook of Articles of Faith and Morals.”)

D. 424: Innocent III, 1208: “Therefore, we firmly believe and we confess that however honest, religious, holy, and prudent anyone may be, he cannot nor ought he to consecrate the Eucharist, nor to perform the Sacrifice of the Altar, unless he be a priest, **regularly** ordained by a visible and perceptible bishop.” [Regularly ordained i.e. According to rules (regula) and laws of the Church contained in the Code of Canon Law. – P. H.]

D. 430: Lateran Council IV, 1215: “Surely no one can accomplish this Sacrament except a priest who has been **rightly** ordained according to the Keys of the Church, which Jesus Christ Himself conceded to the Apostles and to their successors.”

[NOTE: **rightly** ordained means that with his ordination the priest has been sent by the Catholic Church. The priest has his *Office, Authority, Jurisdiction, and Mission* from the Church. Please note well that this can only happen when the priest is ordained by a bishop who himself has his *Office, Authority, Jurisdiction, and Mission* from the Church! The very serious point to understand is that this has *never* happened for any of the Traditional Movement clerics! *The “Keys of the Church” are only passed on to bishops from a Catholic pope. The “Keys of the Church” are only passed on to priests from a Catholic bishop who himself received his Keys of the Church from a Catholic pope! Do you know of even one Traditional Movement bishop that received the Keys of the Church from a Catholic pope? Remember that if the bishops do not have the Keys of the Church, then neither do the priests!* – P. H.]

D. 274: The Lateran Council, 649: Canon 20, specifically condemns: “vain ordinations unknown to ecclesiastical rule,” saying: “let such a person be condemned forever!”

Council of Trent, July 15, 1563, 23rd Session:

D. 960: “The holy Synod teaches, furthermore, that in the ordination of bishops, priests, and of other Orders... that those who by their own temerity take these offices upon themselves, are not ministers of the Church, but are to be regarded as ‘*thieves and robbers who have not entered by the door.*’ (St. John 10:1) These are the matters which in general it seemed well to the sacred Council to teach to the faithful of Christ regarding the sacrament of order. It has, however, resolved to condemn the contrary in definite and appropriate canons in the following manner, so that all, making use of the rule of faith, with the assistance of Christ, may be able to recognize more easily the Catholic truth in the midst of the darkness of so many errors, and may adhere to it.”

D. 967: Canon 7: “If anyone says that the bishops... or that those who have been neither rightly ordained **nor sent by ecclesiastical and canonical authority**, but come from a different source, are lawful ministers of the word and of the Sacraments: let him be anathema!”

NOTE: There, my friends, is the big problem with the Traditional Movement clerics. Not one of them has been rightly ordained and **sent by ecclesiastical and canonical authority!** Therefore, they are in violation of the teachings of the Catholic Church. They are living contrary to the dogmas of the Catholic Church.

These truths remain Dogmas of the Faith no matter *what* the circumstances: even if this is indeed the Great Apostasy, even if the Vatican II Popes are false popes, even if the Vatican II bishops and priests are all heretics and schismatics themselves, even if the “New Mass” is false and off-limits to us.

Thus, these illicit clergymen are *outside* of the Catholic Church as *schismatics* and *heretics* (for refusing to be subject to the Apostolic See and accepting all the truths which it has defined).

The Deposit of Faith comes before assisting at Mass and receiving the Sacraments in priority. Besides, as Pope Pius XII reminds us: “Acts requiring the power of the Holy Orders which are performed by ecclesiastics of this kind, though they are valid, are yet **gravely illicit**, that is, **criminal and sacrilegious.**” (*Ad Apostolorum Principis*, June 1958)

Also, it is an *article of faith* that Sacraments received *outside* the Catholic Church do not avail for salvation.

D. 714: Council of Florence, 1442: “... **the unity of the ecclesiastical body is so strong that only to those remaining in it are the sacraments of the Church of benefit for salvation ...**” Catholics cannot escape this dilemma by pleading ignorance, or by refusing to learn what dogmas are being rejected by their priest (and, in effect, by themselves by their willing communion with these men). We have the grave obligation to know our faith and such ignorance is another serious sin against the 1st Commandment. These “traditional” priest claim for justification that they are “only” violating human law, ecclesiastical law, and invoke “Epikieia,” “unusual times and circumstances,” and Canon 209 and 2261 to justify themselves. Their entire “defense” is false.

Firstly, they are violating **Divine Law**, which is *immutable*. Epikieia can *never* be invoked to violate **Divine Law!** Epikieia can *never* supply jurisdiction! Invoking Epikieia is not applicable. As defined in moral theology, “Epikieia is an interpretation of law in a particular case against the letter of the law, but in accordance with the spirit of it, as reasonably supposed to exist in the mind of the legislator.” “**Natural law and divine law do not admit of the use of Epikieia**, since the Divine Author of such law **has foreseen every** contingency.”

Secondly, Canon Law cannot contradict Dogma, as the Church clearly states: D. 738: Lateran Council V, 1513: “... And since truth never contradicts truth, we declare every assertion contrary to the truth of illumined faith to be altogether false; and, that it may not be permitted to dogmatize otherwise, we strictly forbid it, and we decree that all who adhere to errors of this kind are to be shunned and to be punished as detestable and abominable infidels who disseminate most damnable heresies and who weaken the Catholic faith.”

In addition, Canon 2261, which allows Catholics to request Sacraments from “excommunicated priests” in grave necessity, does not apply to them, since these **illicitly ordained** priests are functioning in schism and heresy, and were *never* true and **lawful** priests of the Catholic Church. The Church has always forbidden Catholics to obtain Sacraments from schismatics and heretics, or to take part in religious services conducted by them. The question

of receiving sacraments from non-Catholics, whether excommunicated or not, is ruled by Canon 1258. Canon 1258/1 reads: “It is unlawful for the Faithful **in any way** actively to be present at or take part in the religious services of non-Catholics.” The Traditional Movement sects, as well as the Novus Ordo sect, are non-Catholic. They do not have **UNITY**. They do not have Jurisdiction. Without Jurisdiction there is no real **APOSTOLICITY**.

Only in case of mortal illness, when one cannot have a worthy minister, is it permitted to receive absolution from a schismatic priest; and even then only when it causes *no scandal* to others.

As Pope Pius XII wrote in his Encyclical, “*Ad Apostolorum Principis*” (June 29, 1958): “It is obvious that no thought is being taken of the spiritual good of the faithful if the Church’s laws are being violated.” In this same Encyclical he reminds us, citing the Decree of Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, April 9, 1951, that; “... an **excommunication** reserved specialissimo modo to the Apostolic See has been established which is **automatically incurred** by the consecrator, and by anyone who has received consecration irresponsibly conferred.” This applies to all the “traditional” bishops of the Thuc and Lefebvre lines.

God is not mocked, Scripture tells us. And, “Acting wickedly against the laws of God doth not pass unpunished.” (2 Machabees 4, 17) Do not let these “*thieves and robbers*” steal your soul from the Good Shepherd. Remember Our Lord’s warning: “... *there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch as to deceive (if possible) even the elect. Behold I have told it to you before hand.*” (St. Matthew 24, 24-25)

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NOTE: Much of the above article was originally written by someone else under a “pen” name. However, I, Patrick Henry, have added to it in some places.

Thank you for visiting <http://www.JMJsite.com>. Please tell others about this website. I pray that you will live in such a way that the Good God will always constantly Bless you while He keeps you from all sin. May Jesus, Mary, and Saint Joseph obtain for you every grace you need.