

# *Catholic Candle*

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## ***Words to Live by – from Catholic Tradition***

If all *fathers* fulfilled their duty of watching over the education of their children, we should have but few crimes and few executions.

St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Sermon 36, *On the Education of Children*, First Point, section 4.

## ***Educating your Children – Part 3***

***Catholic Candle note:*** This is the Third Part in a series on EDUCATING YOUR CHILDREN during the crisis in the Church. There can be no more important concern for traditional Catholic parents today than how to best educate their children since it is so intrinsically connected to helping them save their precious souls.

**Part I:** Reflects on how one traditional Catholic family approached the gargantuan responsibility of this formidable task. Part I can be found here:

<http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/06/01/approaching-the-responsibility-of-homeschooling/>

**Part II:** Investigates what choices were available to the next generation of our family, and how they met the challenge. Part II can be found here:

<http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/07/01/educating-your-children-part-2/>

**Part III** (this present article): Examines what is involved in Home Schooling.

**Part IV:** Looks at some of the Benefits of educating your children at home.

Years ago, we heard the principal of a good school give a fine talk on educating your children. He titled it “*Education – It Happens Only Once.*” If nobody remembered anything of what he said except the title, it’d have been worth the time they spent listening to him because it said it all in a nutshell: We only have one opportunity to see that our children receive a good (traditional Catholic) education, the inference being that we’d better do it right the first time because we won’t get a second chance.

By default, the job falls now to Home Schools. Therefore, it is more than appropriate to ask the following question:

# What Does It Take to Home School?

Let's examine the idea of home-schooling. You've probably thought of some of the reasons why people do it, and you maybe even have considered how they do it. But now you might be wondering *What does it really take to home school?*

The quick answer is:

- A. You must be convinced it's necessary.
- B. You must be willing to make the Commitment (with a capital C).
- C. You must have perseverance.
- D. You must have confidence in God.
- E. You must have discipline in your home.
- F. You must have patience, patience, and more patience. (Okay, so all of us run short of that sometimes, but let's talk about that later.)

Let us look at each part of this quick answer:

## **A. Convinced it's necessary**

This is arguably the easiest item on the list. The easiest to come by. Any traditional Catholic parent who has half an eye open as to what's going on in the schools today ought to find this an easy decision to make. Easy to make, but admittedly not so easy to carry out.

## **B. Commitment**

It's one thing to attend a home-school conference and be suffused with a rosy feeling of enthusiasm for beginning the grand adventure of teaching your own children. It's quite another to commit to seeing the job through to the end.

As was said in Part II, it's probably a mercy that you don't know at the beginning just how long the "long haul" is. But it's important not to view it as *you'll-put-up-with-it-as-long-as-you-can*. View it as a special calling, which it is. The good Lord is making you a partner in educating your children and preparing them to survive in a world that seeks to tear them away from their Faith and compromise any vestige of principles.

A Home School mom I know put it this way: *You must be a Home School family, not just a family that home schools.*

### **C. Perseverance**

Deciding to educate your children at home is not a frivolous choice made lightly. You cannot do it grudgingly or resenting that other parents send their children off to school and have the whole day to themselves. Every day. You're in it for the whole 9 yards because you're building an exceptional team and that team needs you. You must approach it joyfully and with a generous heart.

### **D. Confidence in God**

We know that God cannot be outdone in generosity. Whatever you do for Him is returned a hundredfold. By His design, parents are the prime educators of their offspring. Therefore, your efforts on behalf of your children, your willingness to put His plan before yours, and to instill in them a love for their Creator and a greater knowledge of their Faith will be generously rewarded.

### **E. Discipline**

Discipline in the home – in the past freewheeling decades of do-your-own-thing and the *child's-spirit-must-not-be-suppressed* – the idea of actually expecting self-control from children has been all but abandoned. It was instead overshadowed by insisting that the child be “given” self-respect. Whether earned or not. This is one of the principal reasons for the destruction of the schools. In the (arguably) 70 years that discipline has been withering away under the cult of the child, obedience has sadly become a bitter joke in far too many families.

If your family (hopefully) cannot be included in this category, good for you. It will make your job less difficult.

If yours is one of the families that did not make discipline a priority, it's not too late now. Harder, but possible. And there are helps to get you there. It is important to start with a family meeting, including all who have reached the age of reason, to explain very clearly exactly what your family goal is, and what is necessary to achieve it. (We discuss more about Family Meetings below.)

Another huge help is to “demote” your television and other electronic devices – or better yet, get rid of the TV. If your children are addicted to texting, Facebook, *etc.*, it will be difficult to rein in their time-wasting habits. But there again, doable. It “just” takes patience, firmness, and being consistent.

Some of the fruits of this new family policy will be having more time to spend on developing new interests and more wholesome pastimes. With more hours to fill, the children will be forced to look to other diversions, such as sports, hobbies, music, photography, *etc.* Also, spending time with the family will slowly increase, which will foster a beneficial closeness. All in God's good time. You are building a great team, but it doesn't happen overnight.

You probably already say a family rosary together, morning and night, and this is a must. Saying the rosary on-the-way-somewhere is sometimes a necessity, but the family that gathers nightly (or daily) together in one place, on its knees, is accomplishing several things at once. Among them are showing the children the importance of prayer, and also nourishing a sense of family unity.

A word might be said here about the desirability of designating one room in your home as "the school room." This might not always be practical or feasible, but where possible, it is a help in setting up your Home School, and having the same room set aside exclusively for school work.

One of the greatest helps will be that Family Meeting (as mentioned above). Frequent sit-down meetings will be a great aid to building family unity and family harmony. They need not turn into dragged-out marathon encounters, dreaded by everyone. Hopefully run by the father, the chief "business" of the meetings is to make sure the children understand why the family has chosen this course of action (homeschooling). If they do, it will be much easier for them to accept your decision.

Also, these family meetings help parents to understand their children's worries or concerns, which might easily be ameliorated if brought out into the light of day during a casual family discussion.

It can't be stressed enough how important it is for your children to know WHY you're doing what you're doing. It is solely for their benefit, in order to save their souls, safeguard their Faith, and not so incidentally to give them a superior education. And even if they can't fully comprehend the reasons now, hopefully they will have enough confidence in you, their parents, to trust your judgment.

## **F. Patience**

Easier said than practiced, right? A Home School mother I know confided in me that there were a few times when she was overwhelmed with the enormity of the task she was undertaking. To the point that occasionally, at the end of the day, when the family was asleep, she, exhausted, would sit at her kitchen table correcting papers, planning the next day's schedule, and ... crying. She questioned whether she had what it takes to do the job. To be sure, this didn't happen often, but when it did, the saving grace was to re-focus her mind on why she was doing it:

- ❖ For the greater honor and glory of God,
- ❖ To fulfill God's plan to help one's children get to heaven,
- ❖ To give the children the essential tools they must have to survive in a pagan world.

In next month's *Catholic Candle*, we will discuss *The Benefits of Home Schooling*, in Part IV.

***Catholic Candle* note:** To assist parents in home schooling, we call your attention to a new Traditional Catholic homeschool which is now accessible worldwide. Here is some information about this homeschool:

### **Angelic Doctor Academy**

We would like to introduce Angelic Doctor Academy, a Traditional Catholic homeschool for grades 9 - 12 (lower grades coming soon). We think careful Catholics will appreciate our solid Traditional Catholic high school curriculum, which contains many new textbooks written across the subjects because we have had enough of problematic books. But even more, busy Catholic parents - especially mothers! - will appreciate our unique grading system which corrects everything - even the daily / weekly coursework - for the parents, so they can concentrate on teaching, explaining, and keeping order. Please visit <https://www.ada.school> to learn more.

Yours in St. Thomas,

The Angelic Doctor Academy Staff

***Catholic Candle* note:** Catholic Candle normally examines particular issues thoroughly, at length, especially using the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas and the other Doctors of the Church. At the urging of one of our readers, we are trying new feature: ***CC in brief***, giving an extremely short answer to a reader's question. We invite readers to submit their own questions.

## ***CC in brief***

**Q.** In the Apostles Creed, it says Christ "descended into hell." What exactly does that mean? And if it doesn't actually mean hell, why does it say "hell"?

**A.** "Hell" refers to those places where the souls of the deceased are detained, that have not been admitted to heaven. "Hell" includes the place of eternal punishment suffered by the

damned, but also includes Purgatory, the *Limbo of the Babies* and the *Limbo of the Fathers*. Our Lord descended into hell to free the souls of the just, who were waiting for Him in the *Limbo of the Fathers*.

***Catholic Candle* note:** Occasionally, we analyze the problems in the liberal SSPX. Someone could wonder:

Why mention the SSPX any longer, since they are unimportant as merely one of very many compromise groups?

It is true that a priest (or group) is of small importance when he (or the group) is merely one of countless compromisers. By contrast, an uncompromising priest is of great importance, even though he is only one.

However, regarding the “new” SSPX: we sometimes mention them for at least these four reasons, motivated by charity:

- New *Catholic Candle* readers might not be sufficiently informed of the N-SSPX’s liberalism to avoid that group. Out of charity for them we occasionally provide these warnings to help these new readers appreciate the danger of the N-SSPX.
- Some long-time *Catholic Candle* readers might forget the N-SSPX poison or vacillate in their resolution to stay away from the N-SSPX, if they never received a reminder warning about the danger of the N-SSPX. This is like the fact that all it takes for many people to become conciliar is to never hear about the errors of Vatican II and the conciliar church. Out of charity for them we occasionally provide these reminders for readers who would otherwise “forget” the danger of the N-SSPX.
- The N-SSPX serves as an important study case to examine how leaving the truth often happens. It is a warning to us all about a very common way to depart from the truth and become unfaithful. Out of charity for ourselves we occasionally provide these insights about becoming unfaithful by taking this common road of compromise the N-SSPX is taking.
- Over time, the N-SSPX provides us with a thorough catalogue of liberal compromises and studying those compromises and errors with the contrasting Traditional Catholic truth is a helpful means of studying our Faith and guarding ourselves from the principal errors of our time. This helps us to fulfill our duty of continually studying the doctrines of our Faith. Out of charity for ourselves, we use the occasional of the N-SSPX’s liberalism to study our Traditional Catholic Faith better and the corresponding the N-SSPX liberalism.

For those readers who are resolute in their resolution to completely avoid all support for the N-SSPX, they can receive just as much of the substance of those *Catholic Candle* articles, if they substitute the phrase “a liberal could say” anytime they read “the SSPX teaches”.

## **The More Things Change, The More Things Stay the Same**

I am referring to how Catholics reacted to the very liberal faith-destroying changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s and ‘70s, and how the current followers of the N-SSPX are reacting to the very liberal faith-destroying changes brought about by the current leadership.

In the ‘60s and ‘70s, Catholics who were not happy with the changes believed their Faith was strong enough that they could *go along to get along* and not lose their Faith. They would fight for tradition when necessary, but fight from “within”. They were wrong. Liberalism and gradualism took over and their naiveté cost them dearly: they lost the Faith without even realizing it. With liberalism and gradualism, you lose your Faith little by little, accepting changes you and others believe make sense and are necessary to be part of today’s world. After all, you must stay relevant and on top of things in our fast-changing world.

This brings us to the followers of today’s liberal N-SSPX. Perhaps their parents (or even grandparents) joined Archbishop Lefebvre in the late ‘70s, after he started the strongly-traditional Society of St. Pius X. The SSPX did much good saving souls until the Archbishop died in 1991. Then the popularity-seeking new leadership took over, gradually liberalizing and changing in order to be more acceptable to the (anti-Catholic) conciliar church in Rome. They stopped fighting against it as the Archbishop had fought when he was alive.

Here again, liberalism and gradualism are taking over, and the N-SSPX followers are losing their Faith little by little, without realizing it. They mistakenly believe that if they accept a little liberalism in order to have the sacraments, God will understand. No, He won’t! God does not accept compromise in the Faith under any circumstance.

I believe the followers of the liberal “new” Society of St. Pius X feel they are strong enough in their Faith that they won’t lose it. After all, their families have been through a lot since the 1970s, fighting for tradition alongside Archbishop Lefebvre. They think they will know when to push back or leave if the new liberal SSPX crosses their line in the sand. They are confident that no one can take their Faith from them and that they will know when to leave.

Besides, they assume there is strength in numbers, and they are comfortable with other parishioners who think like they do. They feel that they can look after each other and discuss any problems they detect, such as the SSPX constantly asking for money. They are convinced that they are watchful and can act when necessary, and that gradualism can't take their Faith away.

This approach of the N-SSPX's followers regarding the loss of their Faith, is the same approach taken by most Catholics after the Second Vatican Council. They are unaware that the "necessary" changes they made are gradually robbing them of their Catholic Faith.

So, it is eminently logical to fear that the final results will be the same as in the '60s and '70s, and that most of them will lose the Faith. The problem, then as now, is that the necessity to act never actually comes, and gradualism takes their Faith before they realize it. In fact, they never notice the point when they have lost the Faith. Just as people in the '60s and '70s never noticed their loss of Faith, so the N-SSPX's followers won't notice it today. That's the power of the devil and gradualism. They will never correct a problem (*i.e.*, gradually losing the Faith) if they don't even know they have the problem. This is like an alcoholic never takes steps to change until he first recognizes that he has a drinking problem.

Wake up, followers of the liberal SSPX! – the same SSPX that accepts 95% of the evils of VC II. The N-SSPX is liberal quicksand and those who are in it cannot see it. Save your Faith and your soul! Join the uncompromising Traditional Catholics in the Catacombs, for Faith-saving support and knowledge.

## Humility Fostered by Seeking God

### ***Objective Truth Series – Reflections article #13***

We have considered<sup>1</sup> how God sculpts our souls, how He leads us, teaches us about ourselves, gives us tools and weapons to keep pride at bay, reveals to us His bountiful blessings that He has bestowed on each of us individually, and by all of this, He primes the fountain of gratitude in our hearts. Yet another method God uses to sanctify our souls is sending or allowing us precious crosses through the circumstances in our lives. He tests us to see if we will look to Him to find the solutions to our problems and with His remarkable Wisdom, He teaches us humility at the same time.

We frail humans are *too* focused on our problems and we rack our brains to find solutions to them. When we approach problems in this manner, we are bewildered by them.

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<sup>1</sup> To read the previous reflections articles, follow this link: <http://www.catholiccandle.org/category/resources-for-faith-and-practice/on-working-for-holiness/objective-truth-series/>

Ironically, as soon as we place our problems fully in God's Hands, that is, realizing intellectually our helplessness, then we will be humbling ourselves. It is only then that we will be able to see this method of God's humbling us by sending us challenging circumstances. Furthermore, by abandoning ourselves to God, amazingly the problems begin to fix themselves or we see solutions appear, simply because we entrust our problems to God, knowing that truly only He can fix them. In this way, we are resigning ourselves to God's Holy Will.

"Whoever looks for God is not without God even if he has not found Him," says St. Augustine [*Dei vita beata*].

"Seek and you will find", says Our Lord. It is the seeking that God wants. He wants us to see our helplessness and seek, seek, and seek, which means desire, desire, and desire. He alone can console the soul and comfort her in her difficult trials. Remember, too, that God *inspires* this *desire* we have, namely, this *seeking*.

God mercifully gives this *intense longing* and this *intense spiritual pain* to a particular soul because He wants that soul to ache for Him and not rest until she has found Him, namely by taking her eyes *off* of herself and her perceived problems, and setting her eyes *on* Him Who is in charge. This redirecting of the soul's eyes is an act of humility. God is our Master and our teacher in the school of sanctity. We must struggle to keep our spiritual eyes fixed on God and what He wills and directs us to do.

Let's face it: the world has *so* many problems, especially moral ones, in these times of apostasy. We won't add a single cubit to our height by excessive worry. We cannot solve any problem by ourselves. The best means to solving problems is by prayer and by *seeking God's guidance through prayer*. Prayer is the window that sheds God's light on our poor darksome souls. "The Lord is my light and my salvation." [Ps. 26:1] Remembering this in frequent acts of humility can help us tremendously to keep seeking God's guidance. St. Alphonsus de Liguori says, "Prayers such as these should restore peace to your soul, for no one has ever been lost who has placed his trust in Him [God]." With great longing for God's guidance, let us seek through prayer to find God's answers. It is with seeking that we could also find our hearts pouring out something like what follows:

'Tis with aching hearts, we do seek,  
To find Our Lord, with Him to speak,  
To tell Him all, of our poor woes,  
He knows all, the tricks of our foes.

Nothing can we, solve without Him,  
Our souls are dark, and all seems dim,  
Without His aid, we always will fret,  
Then no problem can, be solved yet.

Still we toil, our problems to fix,  
Then we see how, we have solved nix,  
Alas! Then find we, are forced to turn,  
To the One for Whom, we must yearn,

The One Who all, the answers knows,  
Whose tender care, for us e'er shows,  
Our troubled hearts, in anxious fear,  
Find that only God, can our hearts hear.

If we, with desire, our prayers let fly,  
Do seek guidance, from God on high,  
We'll see solutions, soon are there,  
Those of which, we were unaware.

The Lord wants us, to seek and find,  
He cares for us, our peace of mind,  
'Cause with seeking, our desires increase,  
To find Him and, to be at peace.

Humility, comes to the soul,  
Who seeks God first, as his one goal,  
God wants our seeking, so He can,  
Fulfill in us, His Divine plan.

***Catholic Candle* note:** Recently, *Catholic Candle* examined the permission the Church traditionally gives to a person who is in danger of death, to confess to a priest whom an uncompromising Catholic could not otherwise support (or confess to) because that priest is a compromiser, an apostate, or someone whom it is otherwise impermissible to support. Find the article here: <http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/01/01/using-a-compromised-priest-when-dying/>

*Catholic Candle* also addressed how uncompromising laymen can bury their dead in these times of great apostasy when an uncompromising priest is not available. Find the article here: <http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/04/02/a-traditional-catholic-funeral-and-burial-when-there-is-no-uncompromising-priest-available/>

Between this last confession (discussed in the first of those articles) and the burial (discussed in the second article), is the crucial moment of death. We gave recommendations how to assist at a person's death, based on the experience of some of the *Catholic Candle* Team, who recently assisted at the deaths of two uncompromising

Traditional Catholics. Find the article here:

<http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/06/01/how-to-assist-a-person-in-dying-a-holy-death/>

Also, in our last days of life, we must continue to give sufficient care to sustain our life – even as it is waning – and must not yield to the culture of death, which promotes euthanasia. Therefore, we examined the minimum care we are obliged to provide to sustain our life even when we are dying. Find the article here:

<http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/07/01/use-of-ordinary-care-even-as-we-are-dying/>

Again, because we live in a culture of death, part of our using sufficient care to sustain our life – even as it is waning – we must never acquiesce in being murdered by having our vital organs removed to be “donated” to another person. Further, we must never accept the “donation” of a vital organ from someone else, as we would then become complicit in his murder. Below, we examine the evil of such murder by the “donation” of a vital organ.

We recommend that you save these articles for future reference and use.

## **Our Duty not to “Donate” our Vital Bodily Organs or Accept a “Donated” Vital Organ**

### **What is death?**

Death is the separation of body and soul.<sup>2</sup> Death occurs at an instant. In other words, death is not something that occurs gradually over a period of time, although the subsequent corruption of the body does occur gradually.

A dying person is a person who is still alive. A deeply comatose person is still alive; (a corpse cannot be comatose).

Although we know that death is the separation of body and soul, we usually do not know exactly *when* this separation (*viz.*, death) occurs. We usually can only know with

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<sup>2</sup> Here is how Fr. Spirago explains this truth, in *The Catechism Explained*:

At death, the soul is separated from the body .... The body, deprived of the soul, is no longer alive, because it has no longer the principle of life ....

*The Catechism Explained*, Rev. Francis Spirago, Benziger Bros., New York, 1921, Eleventh and Twelfth Articles of the Creed, The Last Things, §1, p.254.

certitude afterwards, that a person has already died.

### **Corruption of the body – gangrene contrasted to a person’s death**

Our soul is what makes our body to be what it is, *viz.*, a human body. Without our soul, our body becomes merely a decaying lump of organic matter which is on its way to becoming dirt, dust or ashes.<sup>3</sup>

It can happen that the soul ceases to be present in a bodily *part* of a person who is still alive. In other words, that *part* of a person’s body is no longer vivified by his soul. This can happen, *e.g.*, in the limb of a diabetic person who is still very much alive. When the soul ceases to vivify part of the body, that part of the body dies and rots. This is called “gangrene”.<sup>4</sup>

If some parts, *e.g.*, the person’s feet, are dead and begin rotting (*i.e.*, have gangrene), but other parts, *e.g.*, his heart and other internal organs, remain uncorrupted, this lack of corruption is a sign that the person is not yet dead – because those internal organs do not yet exhibit the corruption which would tell us that his soul is no longer vivifying *any* parts of his body (*i.e.*, preserving them from corruption).

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<sup>3</sup> We owe respect to the human body as a temple of the Holy Ghost. This means that it is a mortal sin to cremate the body (except in very unusual circumstance, such as where this is *necessary* in order to protect the living from a deadly, widespread plague). For a further analysis of the evils of cremation, read these articles:

- ❖ <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/cremation-is-barbaric.html>
- ❖ <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/may-poor-people-choose-cremation-instead-of-burial-because-they-cannot-afford-burial.html>

Although the human body deserves a respectful burial, this does not mean that, in itself, a dead body is other than organic matter returning to dust. On Ash Wednesday, the Church reminds us what happens to a person’s body when his soul departs: “Remember Man, that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return.”

<sup>4</sup> Here is how the Mayo Clinic explains this truth:

Gangrene refers to the death of body tissue due to either a lack of blood flow or a serious bacterial infection. Gangrene commonly affects the extremities, including your toes, fingers and limbs, but it can also occur in your muscles and internal organs.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/gangrene/symptoms-causes/syc-20352567>

Just as gangrene shows a part of a body is no longer vivified by the soul, likewise **general corruption** throughout the **whole body** shows the entire body is no longer vivified by the soul. This tells us that the person is certainly dead.<sup>5</sup>

Although the Catholic Church uses the safer and more reasonable standard requiring **general corruption** of the body as a condition for certainty that a person is really dead, people sometimes use the “cold, blue, and stiff” standard to determine death.

This “cold, blue, and stiff” standard for determining death could leave room for different interpretations in some circumstances, *e.g.*, how cold is the body and for how long? Where, and in how many places, is the body’s temperature measured? Moreover, particular circumstances can add uncertainty of whether a person is really dead, *e.g.*, when a cold, non-responsive swimmer is pulled out of cold water.

### What are “vital organs”?

A “vital organ” is an organ (*i.e.*, a part of the body) the loss of which results in death. If a person consents to the removal of one of his vital organs while he is alive, he would be consenting to his own death.

Even if a person were unavoidably near to death, he still must not consent to having his life shortened by having a bodily organ removed which brings about his death. This is like the fact that a person’s nearness to death does not permit him to jump off of a cliff or do anything else which would cause his death to come sooner.

Therefore, because a person must not consent to his own murder, a person cannot agree to “donate” one of his vital organs (such as his heart) until his body (including his heart) has begun corrupting (showing us that he has truly, already died). Once he has truly died and his body has begun a general corruption, then his body can be donated to help others, *e.g.*, in medical research.

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<sup>5</sup> Here is how Fr. Henry Davis explains this truth, in *Moral and Pastoral Theology*:

Now we know as a fact that life often persists after apparent death; ***advanced decomposition is the only certain sign of death especially after drowning, paralysis and death from sickness.***

*Moral and Pastoral Theology*, Henry Davis, S.J., Sheed and Ward, New York, ©1959, Vol 2, Ch. 6, Section: *The Fifth Commandment*, Appendix 2, Point 16, *Embalming*, p.168 (emphasis added).

## **The multi-billion-dollar industry of transplanting vital human organs**

In 1967, a cardiac surgeon, Christiaan Barnard, performed the first human-to-human heart surgery.<sup>6</sup> This landmark surgery opened up whole new possibilities for patients, but such organ transplant surgeries obviously require a supply of “donated” hearts and/or other vital organs.

Today, the transplantation of vital organs is a many-billion-dollar industry.<sup>7</sup>

## **The organ transplant industry gets vital organs by murdering living people who are *labeled* as dead.**

Although the organ “donor” and his family cannot receive any payment, there are many billions of dollars made collectively, by many persons and organizations involved in this industry, *e.g.*, the hospitals, the pharmaceutical companies, and the surgeons.<sup>8</sup>

The organ transplant industry’s problem is a shortage of high-quality human organs.<sup>9</sup> If the “donor’s” organs are not cut out of his body until after he is *really* dead and has begun corrupting, then his organs are worthless for transplantation into another person. Even under the alternate standard for determining death – the “cold, blue, and stiff” standard – all vital organs are useless for transplanting into another human.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christiaan\\_Barnard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christiaan_Barnard)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/neurologist-exposes-brain-death-myth-behind-multi-billion-dollar-organ-transplant-industry>

<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ\\_donation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ_donation) & <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/neurologist-exposes-brain-death-myth-behind-multi-billion-dollar-organ-transplant-industry>

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ\\_donation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ_donation) & <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/neurologist-exposes-brain-death-myth-behind-multi-billion-dollar-organ-transplant-industry>

<sup>10</sup> Here is how this truth is stated in one article published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*:

[It used to be that] the diagnosis of death was relatively straightforward: patients were dead when they were cold, blue, and stiff. Unfortunately, ***organs from these traditional cadavers cannot be used for transplantation.***

*The Dead Donor Rule and Organ Transplantation*, Robert D. Truog, M.D., and Franklin G. Miller, Ph.D., published August 14, 2008, at: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp0804474> (emphasis added).

Thus, the organ transplant industry saw that it needed to remove the “donor’s” vital organs while he was still alive. But the transplant industry needed to **label** him as dead and pretend he was dead so that surgeons would be legally permitted to extract the organs and also in order that the public would accept this practice.<sup>11</sup>

The result was a legal and medical fiction<sup>12</sup> beginning with a Harvard Medical School proposal in 1968. Under this proposal a person who is in a so-called “irreversible coma” would be **relabelled** as “brain dead” and then the medical establishment would pretend this so-called “brain death” was the person’s real death.<sup>13</sup>

Obviously, when a person is in a supposed “irreversible coma”, he is still alive. No cadaver could ever be in an “irreversible coma”.

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Similarly, whistleblower Doctor Cicero G. Coimbra, MD PhD, a neurologist and professor of neuroscience at the Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil, who warns about the murder involved in “harvesting” a person’s vital organs, states plainly how crucial a person’s beating heart is for “harvesting” his vital organs:

**if it’s not beating you cannot use vital organs.** If there is an arrest in circulation, you have damaged organs that you’re trying to transplant to other people.

Read the June 5, 2019 interview of Dr. Coimbra here: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/neurologist-exposes-brain-death-myth-behind-multi-billion-dollar-organ-transplant-industry> (emphasis added).

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp0804474>

<sup>12</sup> Two **advocates** for vital organ transplantation candidly admitted that “brain death” as real death is considered a fiction which is expedient in order to obtain vital organs. In an article published in *Intensive Care Medicine*, they state:

**Brain death is**, since the first definitions in the scientific literature in 1968, **closely related to organ donation**. This is why, some scholars consider **equating brain death to death as a moral and legal fiction**. [...] Without the needs of transplantation medicine, ‘brain death as death’ would not exist at all ....

Erwin J.O. Kompanje and Yorik J. de Groot, *Sounding board: is mandatory recovery of organs for transplantation acceptable?* Published in *Intensive Care Medicine* (2015) 41:1836–1837. This is quoted and cited in *‘Brain death’ is a medical fiction invented to harvest organs from living people: expert*, an article found here: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/brain-death-is-a-medical-fiction-invented-to-harvest-organs-from-living-people-expert>

<sup>13</sup> *A definition of irreversible coma: report of the ad hoc committee of the Harvard Medical School to examine the definition of brain death*. JAMA 1968;205:337-340

Those “brain dead” persons are often euphemistically called “beating heart cadavers”, tacitly showing that everyone knows those “brain dead” persons are really alive.<sup>14</sup>

The authors of the *New England Journal of Medicine* article quoted and cited above, promotes organ “donations” from so-called “brain dead” persons. The authors do not dispute that “brain death” is not real death. However, they advocate that the medical profession should **stop pretending** that the “brain dead” person who is “donating” his organs is not being killed by having his vital organs “harvested”.<sup>15</sup>

### **The evidence shows conclusively that “brain death” is not real death**

Whereas a body’s **general corruption** tells us that the person has died, likewise while a body’s vital functions continue, they tell us that the person is alive. This is true even if the person receives assistance from medical machines, such as a respirator. Here is how Pope Pius XII taught this truth:

***Human life continues*** for as long as its vital functions – distinguished from the simple life of organs – manifest themselves spontaneously or even with the ***help of artificial processes***.<sup>16</sup>

So-called “brain dead” persons are really helpless living persons whose vital organs are “harvested” by murdering them. These persons are often warm and pink, with a normal pulse and blood pressure.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/england-will-now-presume-consent-to-harvest-organs-of-those-declared-dead>

<sup>15</sup> *The Dead Donor Rule and Organ Transplantation*, Robert D. Truog, M.D., and Franklin G. Miller, Ph.D., published August 14, 2008, at: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp0804474> (emphasis added).

<sup>16</sup> November 24, 1957, *Address to an International Congress of Anesthesiologists*, Pope Pius XII (emphasis added).

<sup>17</sup> Here is how this truth is stated in one article published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*:

[Brain dead] patients look very much alive: they are warm and pink; they digest and metabolize food, excrete waste, undergo [physical] maturation, .... To a casual observer, they look just like patients who are receiving long-term artificial ventilation and are asleep.

*The Dead Donor Rule and Organ Transplantation*, Robert D. Truog, M.D., and Franklin G. Miller, Ph.D., published August 14, 2008, at: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp0804474>

The bodies of so-called “brain dead” persons are able to heal wounds, fight infections, respond to stimuli, and retain their spinal reflexes.<sup>18</sup> A “brain dead” person can survive for months on life support equipment.<sup>19</sup>

When a “brain dead” person is cut open to extract one of his vital organs, he moves in reaction to the pain, unless he is paralyzed by drugs”.<sup>20</sup> Obviously, such a “donor” is not really dead because a corpse does not need anesthesia or react to pain. When a “brain dead” person is cut open, his pulse rate and blood pressure rise<sup>21</sup> just as any other person during surgery.<sup>22</sup>

A so-called “brain dead” expectant mother can be kept alive *for months*, for the sake of her baby.<sup>23</sup>

### **There have been many examples of so-called “irreversible comas” being reversed**

Because of advancements in medical treatments since 1968, there have been very many persons whose supposedly “irreversible coma” was reversed and the person made a full or substantial recovery to an independent life.

For example:

- Trenton McKinley, a 13-year old Alabama boy, was declared brain dead after suffering skull fractures and a traumatic brain injury in March 2018. All the usual

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/england-will-now-presume-consent-to-harvest-organs-of-those-declared-dead>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/england-will-now-presume-consent-to-harvest-organs-of-those-declared-dead>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/england-will-now-presume-consent-to-harvest-organs-of-those-declared-dead>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/england-will-now-presume-consent-to-harvest-organs-of-those-declared-dead>

<sup>22</sup> *Is “Brain Death” True Death?* by Randy Engel, citing *Brain Death – A U.K. Anesthetist’s View*, by David J. Hill, published in *Finis Vitae*, edited by Paul A. Byrne, M.D., p.172, and found here: <http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/engel/120117>

<sup>23</sup> See, e.g., a “brain dead” mother was kept alive for three months for the sake of her healthy child. <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/11/13/baby-boy-born-after-brain-dead-mother-kept-alive-three-months/>

tests showed he was “brain dead”. His mother signed papers to donate his organs. Fortunately, he regained consciousness before his vital organs were removed. Trenton was taken off the ventilator and eventually went home. He is now conscious, walking and talking.<sup>24</sup>

- In 2007, Zach Dunlap, a 21-year-old Oklahoma man, flipped over on his 4-wheeler and suffered catastrophic brain injuries. A day and a half after his accident, doctors at United Regional Healthcare System in Wichita Falls, Texas determined he was “brain dead.” They had subjected Zach to a battery of tests including a scan that showed a complete absence of blood flow to the brain. Preparations to harvest his organs were underway when a relative scraped the bottom of his foot with a pocket knife and he jerked his foot away. Just months later, Zack was walking and talking. He recalled hearing a doctor say he was dead and being “mad inside” but unable to move.<sup>25</sup>
- Kate Allat suffered a stroke at the age of 39 and spent the next ten days in a coma. Allat later revealed that she heard everything going on around her in her hospital room and she was fearful her life support would be turned off. Her mind was functioning normally during her coma but everyone around her thought she was “brain dead” as she laid in her hospital bed paralyzed and unable to speak or breathe on her own. She listened in fright as medical staff discussed switching off her life support with her family. ... “They thought I was in a vegetative state. I couldn’t move a muscle. There was no signal I was in there,” she said. “I was on life support and they might have turned it off.” “I couldn’t breathe for myself but I could hear conversations that I didn’t want to hear.” Kate made a full recovery.<sup>26</sup>
- Steven Thorpe suffered devastating injuries in a car crash. His parents were told there was no chance of their son surviving. But they refused to give up hope – despite four specialists declaring that the 17-year-old was “brain dead”. Steven’s parents were convinced they saw a “flicker” of life as Steven lay in a coma. They refused to allow the hospital to switch off his life support machine. Two weeks later,

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<sup>24</sup> <https://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-miracle-boy-and-problems-with-the-brain-death-diagnosis>

<sup>25</sup> Quoted from *IS THERE MORAL CERTAINTY THAT "BRAIN DEAD" ORGAN DONORS ARE DEAD?* This article is found here: <http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/abbott/190423> summarizing an account given by Natalie Morales, in “‘Dead’ Man Recovering after ATV Accident,” *Dateline* transcript, NBC News, March 23, 2008.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.lifenews.com/2014/10/20/mother-in-coma-heard-everything-was-scared-theyd-turn-off-her-life-support/>

Steven woke from his coma. Within seven weeks, he had left the hospital. And four years later, Steven was working as a trainee accounts clerk.<sup>27</sup>

It might surprise readers that so-called “brain death” does not even require confirmation that the person has no measurable brain activity. Some so-called “brain dead” persons can continue to have brain activity<sup>28</sup> (as well as many other bodily functions which prove they are still alive).

Furthermore, a “brain dead” person’s brain can “fall silent” in response to a decreased blood flow, even if his brain remains uninjured. This is called “ischemic penumbra”.<sup>29</sup>

### Summary of “brain death” and deep coma

It is obvious that a “brain dead” or comatose person is alive. Would anyone ever bury a person showing so many signs of life? *No! Because he is alive!* Yet, he is **labeled** as “brain dead” and so he can be considered fit to be murdered by “harvesting” his vital organs.

**Some countries have “laws”<sup>30</sup> which automatically designate everyone in the public as a “donor” of his vital organs unless he opts out.**

In the transplant industry’s tireless pursuit of vital organs, some countries take advantage of most people’s inattention and inaction by passing “laws” which declare *everyone* as a consenting “donor” of his vital organs unless he opts-out of the country’s organ harvesting program.

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.lifenews.com/2012/04/26/brain-dead-man-recovers-before-doctors-can-take-his-organs/>

<sup>28</sup> *What You Lose When You Sign That Donor Card*, By Dick Teresi, Wall Street Journal, March 10, 2012, page C3.

<sup>29</sup> *Neurologist exposes ‘brain death’ myth behind multi-billion-dollar organ transplant industry*, interview of Doctor Cicero G. Coimbra, MD PhD, a neurologist and professor of neuroscience at the Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil, June 6, 2019 from <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/neurologist-exposes-brain-death-myth-behind-multi-billion-dollar-organ-transplant-industry>

<sup>30</sup> A *real* law must be reasonable and for the Common Good. *Summa*, Ia IIae, Q.90, a.4. A government’s evil decrees (such as this one) are not real laws.

For example, in 2020, England passed a “law” presuming people consent to “donate” their vital organs when they become “brain dead”, unless they register on a government website to opt out of being thus murdered.<sup>31</sup>

Other countries which have *opt out* “laws” are Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Spain, Austria, and Belgium.<sup>32</sup> The state of California now has an opt out “law” too.<sup>33</sup>

Obviously, the Catholic Faith, the Natural Law, and sound thinking require a person to opt out of this type of murderous organ “donation” program.

### **Pressure and false compassion**

Vital organ transplantation should be recognized for what it is – murder – and should be a felony. But today, it is common for people to be pressured into agreeing ahead of time to “donate” their vital organs, often in the name of “charity” and “compassion”. This pressure often occurs when they renew their driver’s license.

People are told that “donating” their vital organs is unselfish. They are told that “your heart will continue living in someone else”, *etc.* Ironically, people are told that donating their heart – which murders them – is “lif**saving** and lifegiving”.<sup>34</sup>

Even if many people act in ignorance or with misplaced “charity” when they agree to “donate” their vital organs, they are nonetheless agreeing to be murdered. But such organ “donation” is not real charity any more than it is charitable to commit suicide for ecological reasons such as to “reduce greenhouse gases” to “save the planet”.

Therefore, it is plain we must not agree to the “donation” of our vital organs. But even if a person does not explicitly consent ahead of time, a person could still be murdered for his organs in the future, as he lies helpless and defenseless in a coma.

Therefore, no one should remain silent on this issue. Everyone should explicitly reject the “donation” of his vital organs and reject receiving another person’s vital organs, using a declaration such as this:

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/england-will-now-presume-consent-to-harvest-organs-of-those-declared-dead>

<sup>32</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ\\_donation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ_donation)

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.ccsls.org/2019/01/17/new-california-law-organ-donation/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.donatelife.net/types-of-donation/heart-donation/>

I reject any treatment that uses an organ or tissue of another person obtained in a manner that causes, contributes to, or hastens that person's death. I reject any treatment that uses a vital organ "donated" by any other person who is declared "dead" (usually this declaration of "death" is made shortly before the organ is removed). I also reject any treatments that use an organ or tissue of an unborn or newborn child who has been subject to an induced abortion. I do not want any of my organs to be donated.<sup>35</sup>

### **Donating non-vital organs**

Although it is a mortal sin to consent to murder by "donation" of a vital organ, it is a good and generous work for us to donate even an important bodily organ which does not cause our death. For example, we can donate one of our two kidneys, a lobe of our liver, or a lobe of a lung, part of our pancreas, a cornea, or bone marrow, none of which impede our continued life. These donations are a charitable work for those in need.

### **Beware of cooperating in any way in murder to "harvest" vital organs!**

Not only must we never consent to murder by "donating" or receiving a vital organ, we must also never cooperate in any other way, when people commit this evil. A person can be responsible for another person's *murder through organ "donation"* in nine separate ways,<sup>36</sup> including by remaining silent (when we should object), by expressing approval, or

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<sup>35</sup> This formula (rejecting vital organ donation is part of a draft living will contained here: <http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/07/01/use-of-ordinary-care-even-as-we-are-dying/>

<sup>36</sup> Here is summary of this basic truth about the various ways we can be responsible for another's sin:

#### **328. When are we answerable for the sins of others?**

We are answerable for the sins of others whenever we either cause them, or share in them, through our own fault.

#### **329. In how many ways may we either cause or share the guilt of another's sin?**

We may either cause or share the guilt of another's sin in nine ways:

1. By counsel.
2. By command.
3. **By consent.**

by advising a person to “donate” his vital organ (or to receive the transplant of a vital organ).

### **Society has sunk into the murderous practices of the pagan Aztecs**

We see that, in a way, our society has sunk back to the evils of pagan times, murdering people to obtain their beating hearts (or hearts still able to beat). Here is what the Spanish encountered when they first went to Aztec Mexico:

In 1519, at the time when Spanish Captain Hernán Cortez, came to Mexico, the barbaric, pagan Aztec Indians offered human sacrifices almost daily. The Aztecs, who ruled from Mexico City, offered about 20,000 human sacrifices every year to their pagan (false) gods. That is an average of more than 50 each day! ***These victims usually had their hearts cut out while still beating***; then their bodies were dismembered. The Aztecs sometimes ate body parts. At the Aztecs’ inauguration of their pagan temple at Mexico City, they massacred about 20,000 victims in four days. That averages about one such gruesome murder every 17 seconds, all day and night!<sup>37</sup>

Whereas the Aztecs offered their human sacrifices to their false gods, modern man offers similar human sacrifices to a creature lower than a “god”, viz., to a fellow man. The modern “harvesting” of vital organs is, as it were, merely Aztec human sacrifices committed under surgical draping and using sterile technique.

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4. By provocation.
  5. By praise or flattery.
  6. By concealment.
  7. By being a partner in the sin.
  8. By silence.
  9. By defending the ill done.

Quoted from *The Penny Catechism, Nihil Obstat*, Joannes M.T. Barton, S.T.D., L.S.S., *Censor deputatus, Imprimatur*, Georgius L. Craven, Epus Sebastopolis, Vicarius Generalis, Westmonasterii, die 20a Junii, 1958, p.57 (emphasis added).

<sup>37</sup> Quoted from: *Latin America: A Sketch of its Glorious Catholic Roots and a Snapshot of its Present*, by the Editors of *Quanta Cura Press*, ©2016, Section 2 – (Latin) North America – Mexico, p.38.

## Conclusion

“Harvesting” a person’s vital organs is premeditated murder. Your organ donor card might be your death warrant.

Catholics should never give permission to “donate” their vital organs and should not allow this authorization to be indicated on their driver’s license. Such permission would be to consent to their own murder.

Likewise, Catholics should be careful to opt out of organ “donation” in those countries such as England, where permission to “donate” organs is assumed unless a person opts out.

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