

# Catholic Candle

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## The Similarity of the Present Great Apostasy to Arian Times

We are in a state of war in the human element of the Catholic Church. Although the Gates of Hell will never prevail against the Church,<sup>1</sup> the current crisis is an *all-out combat* between the faithful members of the Church Militant and the modernist enemies of Christ.

Our fight is similar to the war in the Fourth Century, between Catholics and the Arian heretics. The great historian, Cardinal Newman, tells us that during this Arian crisis, the pope, the bishops, and General Councils of the Church hid the truth and compromised the Catholic Faith. Here is how Cardinal Newman recounted these events:

[I]n that time of immense confusion the divine dogma of our Lord's divinity was proclaimed, enforced, maintained, and (humanly speaking) preserved, far more by the '*Ecclesia docta*' [*i.e.*, the laity] than by the '*Ecclesia docens*;' [*i.e.*, the hierarchy]; that the body of the Episcopate was unfaithful to its commission, while the body of the laity was faithful to its baptism; that **at one time the pope, at other times a patriarchal, metropolitan,<sup>2</sup> or other great see, at other times general councils, said what they should not have said, or did what obscured and compromised revealed truth ....<sup>3</sup>**

The same is true now, in the present Great Apostasy. Pope Francis and the rest of the Church's hierarchy as well as the Second Vatican Council, have hidden, compromised, and falsified the truths of the Catholic Faith.

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<sup>1</sup> *St. Matthew's Gospel*, 16:18.

<sup>2</sup> Patriarchs and metropolitans are positions of leadership in the Catholic Church.

<sup>3</sup> *The Arians of the Fourth Century*, by John Henry Cardinal Newman, Seventh Edition, Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1890, pp. 466-67 (bracketed words added for clarity; emphasis added).

St. Basil the Great, Doctor of the Church, recounts how only heresy was loudly professed during Arian times and how true Catholics avoided the church buildings because those buildings were places of evil. Here are St. Basil's words:

Religious people keep silence, but every blaspheming tongue is let loose. Sacred things are profaned; **those of the laity who are sound in faith avoid the places of worship as schools of impiety, and raise their hands in solitudes,** with groans and tears to the Lord in heaven.<sup>4</sup>

What was true during Arian times, is also true during the current Great Apostasy. Faithful and informed Catholics are marginalized and ignored, while the so-called Catholic leaders in the civil and ecclesiastical spheres let loose their "blaspheming tongues" (as St. Basil called them).

Moreover, as was true during Arian times, so it is also true now. Faithful and informed Catholics would never go into a conciliar church (or other compromise church) to pray because those churches are "schools of impiety" (as St. Basil called them).<sup>5</sup>

St. Basil the Great recounts how, because they were driven out of the churches (which were occupied by a false religion), faithful Catholics sanctified the Sunday wherever they could worship in solitude, despite their sufferings. Here are St. Basil's words:

**Matters have come to this pass: the people have left their houses of prayer, and assemble in deserts, – a pitiable sight; women and children, old men, and men otherwise infirm, wretchedly faring in the open air, amid the most profuse rains and snow-storms and winds and frosts of winter; and again in summer under a scorching sun. To this they submit, because they will have no part in the wicked Arian leaven.**<sup>6</sup>

Again, what was true during Arian times, is also true during the current Great Apostasy. Faithful and informed Catholics sanctify the Sunday in their homes or wherever else they can pray in peace and solitude, wishing to have no part of the wicked conciliar leaven.

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<sup>4</sup> *The Arians of the Fourth Century*, by John Henry Cardinal Newman, Third Edition, E. Lumley, London, 1871 (*Epistle* 92) pp. 467-8 (emphasis added).

<sup>5</sup> For a more in-depth explanation why we should not go into conciliar churches, read this article: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/evil-praying-conciliar-church.html>

<sup>6</sup> *The Arians of the Fourth Century*, by John Henry Cardinal Newman, Third Edition, E. Lumley, London, 1871, p.468, quoting St. Basil's *epistle* 242 (emphasis added).

St. Basil the Great recounts how Catholic Tradition was banned but anything else was accepted. Those Catholics who were faithful to Tradition were deprived of the churches and altars for Mass. Here are St. Basil's words:

**Only one offence is now vigorously punished – an accurate observance of our fathers' traditions.** For this cause the pious are driven from their countries, and transported into deserts. The people are in lamentation, in continual tears at home and abroad. There is a cry in the city, a cry in the country, in the roads, in the deserts. Joy and spiritual cheerfulness are no more; our feasts are turned into mourning; our houses of prayer are shut up, our altars deprived of the spiritual worship.<sup>7</sup>

As was true during Arian times, the same is true during the current Great Apostasy. Anything is permitted except Catholic Tradition, and it alone is "vigorously punished" (to use St. Basil's description). Faithful and informed Catholics are deprived of their churches and altars for Mass. We are also, in effect, "driven out" of the churches of liberal groups because it would be a compromise to enter there.

Just as in Arian times, so also now in the present Great Apostasy, the conciliar Catholics have the churches but we have the Catholic Faith. Here are the words of St. Athanasius, Doctor of the Church, consoling his flock during the Arian crisis:

May God console you! ... What saddens you ... is the fact that **others have occupied the churches** by violence, while **during this time you are on the outside**. It is a fact that **they have the premises – but you have the apostolic Faith. They can occupy our churches, but they are outside the true Faith. You remain outside the places of worship, but the Faith dwells within you.** Let us consider: what is more important, the place or the Faith? The true Faith, obviously. Who has lost and who has won in this struggle – the one who keeps the premises or the one who keeps the Faith?

True, the premises are good when the apostolic Faith is preached there; they are holy if everything takes place there in a holy way ... **You are the ones who are happy: you who remain within the church by your faith, who hold firmly to the foundations of the Faith which has come down to you from apostolic Tradition.** And if an execrable jealousy has tried to shake it on a number of occasions, it has not succeeded. They are the ones who have broken away from it in the present crisis.

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<sup>7</sup> *The Arians of the Fourth Century*, by John Henry Cardinal Newman, Third Edition, E. Lumley, London, 1871, p.468, quoting St. Basil's *epistle 243* (emphasis added).

No one, ever, will prevail against your faith, beloved brothers. And we believe that God will give us our churches back some day.

Thus, the more violently they try to occupy the places of worship, the more they separate themselves from the Church. They claim that they represent the Church; but in reality, they are the ones who are expelling themselves from it and going astray.

Even if Catholics faithful to Tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Jesus Christ.<sup>8</sup>

To quote St. Athanasius, who consoled his flock during the Arian crisis, we should also be consoled in the present Great Apostasy:

- We remain Catholic, whereas the conciliar revolutionaries “claim that they represent the Church, but in reality ... are the ones who have broken away ... in the present crisis”;
- Although small in number, “even if Catholics faithful to Tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Jesus Christ”.
- As in Arian times, so now in our time, “we believe that God will give us our churches back some day.”

### **Why are/were Faithful Catholics willing to suffer greatly, both in Arian times and during the present Great Apostasy?**

The spiritual life is inherently aimed at espousal of our souls as brides of Christ.<sup>9</sup> For those Traditional Catholics who love Our Lord more, their sufferings during this present Great Apostasy are a joy because they suffer for the Bridegroom of their souls, Who is Christ. This joy in suffering is explained in the Traditional Catholic *Exhortation before Marriage*, in these words:

Only love can make suffering easy; and perfect love can make it a joy. We are willing to give in proportion as we love.

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<sup>8</sup> Letter of St. Athanasius to his flock (emphasis added), available here: <https://onepeterfive.com/the-church-is-like-the-light-of-a-dying-star/>

<sup>9</sup> To read more about the goal of the spiritual life, read this article: <http://www.catholiccandle.org/2019/06/20/our-souls-should-be-docile-brides-of-christ/>

However, even for the rest of us, we see that this suffering and ostracism from (the human element of) the Church is much better than committing a sin – even a venial sin – not to mention the grave sin of joining with the Masses or sacraments of the compromise groups. Here is how Cardinal Newman states this truth:

The Catholic Church holds it better for the sun and moon to drop from heaven, for the earth to fail, and for all the many millions on it to die of starvation in extremest agony, as far as temporal affliction goes, than that one soul, I will not say, should be lost, but should commit one single venial sin, should tell one willful untruth, or should steal one poor farthing without excuse.<sup>10</sup>

## Conclusion

Let us Traditional Catholics bear our tribulations with joy – if our love for Christ makes us joyful in our sufferings, through the extra graces He gives during this present Great Apostasy.

Otherwise, let us at least firmly bear our sufferings with a strong heart and with peace of soul, “knowing that the same affliction befalls [our] brethren who are in the world.” 1 *Peter*, 5:9.

**Catholic Candle note:** *Catholic Candle* normally examines particular issues thoroughly, at length, using the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas and the other Doctors of the Church. By contrast, our feature **CC in brief**, gives an extremely short answer to a reader’s question. We invite readers to submit their own questions.

## CC in Brief

**Q.** We call Our Lady the “Mother of God”. But God is eternal and has no beginning. Why don’t we call her the “Mother of Jesus” instead?

**A.** Although it is correct to call Our Lady the “Mother of Jesus”, she is also truly the Mother of God. Our Lord is a Divine Person, not a human person. Mary is the mother of a **Person** – and that Person is God.

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<sup>10</sup> *Apologia Vita Sua*, by John Henry Cardinal Newman, Image Books, Doubleday, Garden City, New York, © 1956, p.324.

## ***Educating Your Children – Part 4***

**Catholic Candle note:** This is the Fourth Part in a series on EDUCATING YOUR CHILDREN during the current 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:** Examines what is involved in Home Schooling. Part III can be found here:

<http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/08/01/educating-your-children-part-3/>

**Part IV** (this present article): Looks at some of the Benefits of educating your children at home.

### **The Benefits of Home Schooling**

What are the benefits of Home Schooling? There must be some, right? Well, it turns out there are countless extraordinary benefits, and we will examine some of them in this last installment of the *Educating Your Children* series.

But first, let's take a quick look at the elephant in the school room. You know, the parent who is quick to say that she/he never taught before, doesn't have a college degree, and isn't sure she can handle it. How valid is that concern? If you find yourself assailed by that doubt, remember that God *intended* parents to be the primary educators of their children. He will help, for sure.

Practically speaking, with the pitiful condition of schools today, it would be *hard not to have your Home School be an improvement* over them. And if you think that you couldn't teach everything that your children need to know, remember that the "outside" schools can't do that either. The key here is that your teaching can give them the tools they need in order to succeed in life, but more importantly, to get to heaven.

One of the small points often overlooked is that the Home School teacher can and does (re)learn a great deal as she goes along. It was probably some years earlier that she mastered compound fractions and the provisions of the Bill of Rights, *etc.*, and refreshing

her memory with the daily school assignments might sometimes seem like re-connecting with old friends.

In Part III we talked about how it can be a means for developing a greater family unity. Once you get your Home School up and running, it tends to promote a closeness within your family. Not an us-against-the-world mentality, but a feeling that you can count on each other.

Let me digress a bit to enhance that point. Once when visiting the rural home of one of our daughters in another state, her two boys, about 7 and 9, took their younger sisters for a walk in the woods (on their property). They didn't know I was watching, but I saw them help the girls over logs and tangled brush, and just generally make it safer and easier for them. You could easily see that it was the most natural thing in the world to them. I marveled what good brothers they were, and my daughter said, "Do you know why? It's because they're home-schooled. They don't have anyone from school looking over their shoulders and whining, "How come you have to take your little sisters with you?"

Now this doesn't mean, of course, that squabbling siblings will never disagree or argue, but it does mean that they tend to get along with each other; after all, these are their closest companions and friends. As a matter of fact, I have been greatly impressed over the years with how well the homeschoolers treat each other – with kindness and more like a friend than a sibling.

This brings up another subject. Some of your friends and acquaintances, well-meaning or not, will inevitably bring up the subject of "socializing" your children, meaning how will they learn to interact with other children if they don't attend "outside" schools? There are several answers to this. First, is that they have family to socialize with, as mentioned above. And this includes cousins, good old (traditional Catholic) cousins. Our families were fortunate in having dozens of that precious commodity. There was hardly a week went by that some of them didn't "exchange" children after Stations of the Cross on a Friday, for example, and "reclaim" them after Mass on Sunday. (Of course, that was when we could still attend the SSPX under Archbishop Lefebvre.)

(Now it's true that not every family has "dozens" of traditional Catholic cousins, or for that matter, can devote one room in their house to "the school room," or can fly off to a foreign country to check out their schools/churches, but if you're trying your best to educate your children to be truly "children of God," the good Lord will send you other methods of accomplishing this. For example, instead of flying off to Portugal or Ireland to learn the truth about the status of the Church, *you have The Catholic Candle!* Something that did not exist in those earlier days.)

Another means of socializing is sports. Playing Little League baseball or football (if so inclined) is generally feasible. Music, hiking, and chess club are also potential activities. Or a Science Club with other home schoolers. Of course, the corruption of bad

companions can come from any direction, so potential companions should be thoroughly scrutinized these days. (This is not a “home school issue” as such.)

Another HUGE benefit of teaching your children at home is that you get to control the flow of information that finds its way into their minds. Thus, instead of learning about evolution and global warming, they will learn about God’s creation of the world and His control over the weather for these thousands of years. And you can see that your children learn American History and Geography, and they won’t think New Mexico is a foreign country.

One more substantial benefit is that your children are being taught by people who love them and are totally invested not only in their temporal welfare but, more importantly, in the salvation of their souls and their happiness.

However, as important as it is to see how your children can benefit from homeschooling, there is another benefit to consider. Grandparents make pretty good adjunct teachers in many home schools, so they are a good resource for the teacher-parents. But an *additional* advantage to homeschooling must not be overlooked. It is to the grandparents themselves! I have been helping to homeschool my grandchildren for many years, and I can’t stress enough how much benefit *I* have received from this. *You get to know them wonderfully well.* You build a loving relationship with them, a true closeness that can remain even after they are no longer “your” students.

Now it is an unfortunate truism that many parents may not be able to call on *their* parents to give them a hand in this most important endeavor for a variety of reasons, *e.g.*, a job, poor health, or distance. But to those who are able, I can guarantee that the time and the effort could not be better spent.

A further benefit that probably might not be appreciated until you’re knee-deep in homeschooling is the satisfaction it brings to you, knowing you are doing your best. The peace of mind alone is incalculable.

Home-schooling is challenging and rewarding labor. Is it easy? Not so much. But is it worthwhile? You bet!

With God's help it has worked for our family and others, and it will work for you if you will not settle for less than a solid traditional Catholic education for your children.

Should you choose to take this path, please know that you will be in our prayers every day.

***Catholic Candle* note:** To assist parents in homeschooling, 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

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

The Voice of Christ:

Do not consider yourself forsaken if I send some temporary hardship, or withdraw the consolation you desire. For this is the way to the kingdom of heaven.

The Imitation of Christ, Book III, Chapter 30.

## **Excuses for Compromise Confessions**

Our Lord permits the current Great Apostasy in which we are living. It is for our good: “All things work together unto the good for those who love God.” *Romans*, 8:28.

Further, we must remember that Our Lord can never be outdone in generosity. He gives extra graces to Catholics in the catacombs, who stand firm against compromise. He does not abandon them but merely changes His methods of blessing and sanctifying them. Our Lady of Fatima informed us about God’s approaching change of method.

For example, we don't have Mass and Holy Communion because there are no uncompromising priests (at least in most places in the world). Instead, Our Lord gives much greater efficacy than ever before, to the Holy Rosary, so that it fills all needs.<sup>11</sup>

Similarly, the lack of uncompromising priests also means we don't have confession (at least in most places in the world). But again, our generous Lord knows our needs and He does not abandon us. He only uses alternate means to sanctify us. He gives great power to alternatives which **are** within our power during these apostate times. St. John Chrysostom, Doctor of the Church, tells us the important use we can make of good works to blot out sin during the current Great Apostasy:

There is ***no sin which almsgiving does not blot out***. It is the fitting remedy to heal every wound. But almsgiving does not only mean giving money, but also refers to every other good work helping others, including a physician healing the sick or a wise man giving good counsel.<sup>12</sup>

There are some people who call themselves "Traditional Catholics" yet who accept compromise confessions under the appearance of good.<sup>13</sup> They rationalize their compromise by excuses such as:

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<sup>11</sup> Sister Lucy, seer at Fatima, revealed this truth in the following words addressed to Fr. Fuentes:

God is giving two last remedies to the world: the Holy Rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. ... Prayer and sacrifice are the two means to save the world. As for the Holy Rosary, Father, in these last times in which we are living, the Blessed Virgin has given a new efficacy to the praying of the Holy Rosary. This in such a way that **there is no problem that cannot be resolved by praying the Rosary, no matter how difficult it is – be it temporal or above all spiritual ....**

Words of Sister Lucy, seer at Fatima, from her December 26, 1957 interview by Fr. Augustin Fuentes, vice-postulator of the cause of beatification for Francisco and Jacinta. (Emphasis added.) This interview can be found at:

<http://radtradthomist.chojnowski.me/2019/03/is-this-interview-that-caused-her.html>

<sup>12</sup> St. Thomas Aquinas quoting and following St. John Chrysostom, in the *Catena Aurea* on *St. Luke's Gospel*, Ch. 12, section 9 (emphasis added).

<sup>13</sup> St. Ignatius of Loyola received the *Spiritual Exercises* from Our Lady, in a cave at Manresa, Spain, in 1522. In these *Spiritual Exercises*, here is how Our Lady warns us about committing sin under the appearance of good:

Fourth Rule: It is proper to the evil Angel, who forms himself under the appearance of an angel of light, to enter with the devout soul and go out with himself: that is to say, to bring good and holy thoughts, conformable to such just

➤ **Excuse #1:** “We are sinners and so we can’t be without confession”. ***This is a false humility and a lack of trust in God.***

- A Catholic with true humility would say: “God is in charge and I will do His Will. When He permits me to be without the Sacraments out of love for Him and for the uncompromising Catholic Faith, I won’t presume I know what I need better than God does.”
- A Catholic who trusts in God would say: “God will not abandon me, if I don’t abandon Him. He will take care of me and give me the means for my salvation, if I don’t abandon (and offend) Him by compromising and going to compromise priests.”

➤ **Excuse #2:** “We need to go to the Sacraments to show our children how important the Sacraments are.” ***This is a false piety.*** True piety would reject compromise Sacraments because they offend Our Lord and thus are ***against*** true piety. When parents compromise in this way, they are merely teaching their children the life-long lesson that the Faith is “negotiable” and can be compromised for the Sacraments. Beginning in the 1960s, conciliar Catholics taught their children the same lesson when they stayed in their local parishes for the sake of the Sacraments.

Our Lord is offended and angered by such compromise confessions! Let us remain faithful to Him and use the means of salvation which He sends us, rather than the means which we choose, thinking we know better than He does.

## Why did Rome Beatify and Canonize the Evil Doers?

Rome had (and has) a problem after the Second Vatican Council. How do you give credence to – and make believable – the anti-Catholic results of the Council? Well, the Masons and the Church leaders in Rome decided that if the popes at the time of and after the Council (1962-1965) were beatified/canonized, it would go a long way to convince gullible Catholics that the Council results were good and holy.

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soul, and then little by little he aims at coming out drawing the soul to his covert deceits and perverse intentions.

*Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, Rule Four for the Discernment of Spirits, Second Week.

It worked, because most Catholics now believe and accept the following evils of the Council (whether those Catholics have ever heard of Vatican II or not):

1. The replacement of the Tridentine Mass with an anti-Catholic service (*i.e.*, the *Novus Ordo* mass) that does not give grace. Without grace, you lose the Faith. The Blessed Mother stated at La Salette, France, on Sept. 19, 1846, that “Rome will lose the Faith and become the seat of the anti-Christ.”
2. Religious liberty (*i.e.*, you can choose any faith and be saved).
3. Universal salvation (*i.e.*, everyone will go to heaven).
4. The adulterating of the Catholic Sacraments to have them more in line with Protestant false “sacraments”.
5. “Catholic divorce” – annulments for false or doubtful reasons.
6. Maintaining that the Council was necessary to update the Catholic Faith to make it more relevant in the modern age. (If you believe that was necessary, you have already lost the Faith – because the Faith does not change.)
7. The establishment of a new anti-Catholic conciliar church to replace the Roman Catholic Church.
8. Rome also had to make many changes in the beatification/canonization process in order to make it fit the *less-than-saintly* lives of the popes involved in and after the Council. The following disastrous changes were made:
  - a. Reduced the number of miracles required,
  - b. Shortened the time before declaring the heroic level of virtue,
  - c. Allowed the beatification and canonization processes to be influenced by popular emotions and public opinion,
  - d. Gave diocesan bishops the right to instruct the trial and to judge. Therefore, since bishops are making the determination on the canonizations, these decentralized decisions are less consistent, lack the quality control and uniformity of the Vatican’s prior decisions.
  - e. Accepted lower standards of life unworthy of canonized saints – many of these conciliar “saints” are so far from heroic sanctity that in many cases there is not even reasonable assurance that such “saints” even died in the state of grace.

- f. Eliminated the Devil's Advocate (who is similar to a prosecutor and is the one who challenges the evidence), thus changing the canonization proceedings into an academic process rather than a courtroom-style procedure.
- g. Accepted doubtful "miracles" without serious investigation.

These changes give Catholics a great uncertainty they did not have in the past, and cause much doubt concerning the beatifications and canonizations after Vatican Council II, now and in the future.

The following popes were involved in the conciliar church, during and after the Council, and their causes for beatification/canonization were or will be moving through the process.

- "St." John XXIII, who initiated the Council and agreed with and promoted the anti-Catholic changes.
- "St." Paul VI, who agreed with and fostered all of the anti-Catholic changes.
- "St." John Paul II, who also agreed with the changes of the Council and enacted additional anti-Catholic changes.
- Former Pope Benedict XVI, who agreed with the changes but was so pressured that he chose to abdicate the papacy in order to make room for a more liberal pope (*i.e.* Pope Francis), who will increase the number of heresies to be accepted. I believe Benedict will be beatified and canonized in due time for his efforts to promote the evils of the Council.<sup>14</sup>
- As for Pope Francis, the conciliar church is already talking about the need to beatify and canonize him.<sup>15</sup>

As stated above, the plan is to make the anti-Catholic Council seem holy, accepted, and believable by beatifying and canonizing all the popes involved in it or promoting it, during or after. Who would have believed 60 years ago that the human element of the

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<sup>14</sup> In connection with Pope Paul VI's supposed "canonization", and in an apparent joke masking an underlying truth, Pope Francis quipped, "As for Benedict XVI and myself, we're on the waiting list" for sainthood. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/02/18/18/pope-says-hes-on-sainthood-waiting-list>

<sup>15</sup> See, e.g., *Pope Francis documentary: A film that could buttress the case for sainthood*, found here: <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/film/pope-francis-documentary-a-film-that-could-buttress-the-case-for-sainthood-1.3582228>

Catholic Church would be so completely destroyed? Believe it also because the Blessed Virgin foretold this at La Salette.

Have faith! An all-powerful God is in charge, so all is not lost! We must pray and do penance following Our Lady's request at Fatima. The human element of the Catholic Church will come back strong and holy.

God will raise up uncompromising Traditional Catholic leaders from among unworthy men, just as He is able to raise up sons of Abraham from the stones on the banks of the Jordan River.<sup>16</sup>

## **False Human Respect: The Age-Old Deceit of the Devil vs. The Desire of Pursuing and Loving the Truth**

### ***Objective Truth Series – Reflections Article #14***

In our last reflection we considered how God wants us to seek His help in our problems. However, we must also consider that God intends that man have a desire for Him especially as our last end. Because we were created to be with God, it is built into our nature to want to have knowledge of Him. Hence there is a natural seeking or desire to know God and truth. It is God's Will that we pursue this desire. God wants to satisfy this thirst for the knowledge of the truth.

God wants us to perfect our intellects and He uses this way to draw our souls to Him. Of course, He wants us to learn more about Him for His glory and not our own. God captivates our minds while we are thinking about Him or any aspect of truth.

Humans are created with the ability to ponder the facts about something and have a sort of mental discussion about these facts. Thus, we come to concrete conclusions and acquire knowledge of the truth. In this way, God also sparks our desire to know Him more and

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<sup>16</sup> On the banks of the Jordan River, St. John the Baptist declared to the Jews:

Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of penance; and do not begin to say, "We have Abraham for our father". For I say unto you, that **God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham.**

St. Luke's Gospel, 3:8 (emphasis added).

more. We then desire more Truth and we love Truth more, and, consequently, we'll want God more and more. "Thy Word is Truth," says Our Lord in His prayer to His Father in St. John's Gospel (Ch. 17:17).

St. Thomas defines truth as "*the mind's conformity to reality*." When our minds are conformed to reality, we are seeing how the facts fit together to make a proper conclusion. We indeed discover the truth.

God puts the delight of truth in our minds and hearts. The soul has an excitement about truth within itself. Therefore, our hunger and thirst for truth, once sparked, should grow and grow. "They that eat me, shall yet hunger; and they that drink me, shall yet thirst" [*Eccl. 24:29*].

So, with this hunger and thirst for the truth, there naturally comes a greater love for truth **and** a desire to **spread** the truth. "Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father Who is in heaven" [*Matt. 5; 15-16*]. Our Lord is telling us that we should not be ashamed of the truth. We should not be afraid to stand up for the truth.

"And I say to you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God. But he that shall deny me before men, shall be denied before the angels of God," says Our Lord in St. Luke's Gospel [*Luke 12; 8-9*]. Here Our Lord is saying again to not be afraid of standing up for the truth, and to rejoice, to glorify God by spreading the truth.

The devil, on the other hand, hates the truth. He tempts us to have a fear of standing up for the truth. Of course, this fear is a false and irrational one. This temptation is a typical tactic of the devil. It is using shame in the wrong way.

When we just do things to please others and/or when we do not stand up against errors or unreasonable behavior because we are afraid to stick out, then we are betraying the truth. This is a way of betraying Our Lord. This betrayal comes from what is called **false human respect** or **human respect pride**.

Our Lord warned His Apostles of the way the world will view them, and, for that matter, us too. "You shall be hated by all men for My Name's sake: but he that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved" [*Matt. 10; 22*]. And Our Lord says also, "Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." [*Matt 5; 10*] Further, "If the world hates you, know ye, that it hath hated Me before you. If you had been of the world, the world would love its own: but because you are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you." [*John 15; 18-19*]

Our Lord tells us not to worry by saying, "And I say to you, My friends: Be not afraid of them who kill the body, and after that have not more that they can do. But I will show

you whom you shall fear: fear ye him, who after he hath killed, hath power to cast into hell. Yea, I say to you, fear him” [Matt 12; 4-5].

Our Lord consoles and reassures us, “In the world you shall have distress: but have confidence, I have overcome the world.” [John 16; 33]

We live in neo-pagan times of the great apostasy. Common sense, reason, and truth are attacked viciously everywhere. *Political correctness* is the modern world’s term used to describe exactly what Our Lord forbade, namely, speaking and doing the things and actions which the world favors, but which are against God and His commandments.

In our times there is a tremendous pressure and tension throughout the world for all humans to succumb to the modern world’s immorality. It really reminds us Catholics of what is referred to in the *Apocalypse 13; 15*, “And it was given him to give life to the image of the beast, and that the image of the beast should speak; and should cause, that whosoever will not adore the image of the beast, should be slain.”

However, when we read the following in the *Apocalypse*:

Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to every man according to his works. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are they that wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb: that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. Without are dogs, and sorcerers, and unchaste, and murderers, and servers of idols, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie .... *Apocalypse 22:12-15*.

We should be terrified to **not** tell the truth.

These quotes should make us long for the truth all the more. Likewise, they should urge us to stand up for the truth, fully knowing that this is what Our dear Lord expects of us. They also fill us with the fear of human respect pride and make us want to humbly speak out to tell the truth.

Besides praying for the grace of final perseverance, we should pray for the love of the truth – that we have a deep devotion to the truth; that we always seek the truth; and that God gives us the fortitude to be willing to suffer and die for the sake of the truth. With all of the powerful words of Scripture to remind us about truth, **and** the delight we take in learning the truth, maybe our hearts would swell to say the following:

Oh, the science of truth, Divine,  
Thou, man is made to know, **by design**,  
Thou, the First Cause, Thou, Our Last End,  
Thou, to learn, our life, we must spend.



By pondering, of facts we find,  
Proper conclusions, come to mind.  
One's seeking Thee, becomes desire,  
And, an ever-increasing fire,

E'er thirsty and hungry, are we,  
To know more and more, about Thee.  
To fill the soul, more with Thy light,  
Becomes now, our only delight.

Oh, then Truth, becomes our sole love,  
Humility, a proper fruit of,  
Only truth can make us replete,  
Our satisfaction to complete!

No wonder, we wish to adore,  
We do seek, ever more and more,  
Oh, Truth, for Thy own sake alone,  
We want to possess for our own.

'Cause for this end, didst Thou us make,  
Thus to live and die, for Truth's sake,  
That Thy truth, we ever pursue,  
To Thee, keep our hearts, ever true.

And if we the whole world could gain,  
By smearing the truth with false stain,  
Then our friendship with Thee, would cease,  
And would **destroy**, our inner peace.

Friend of the world, **and** friend of Thee  
Could **never** reality be,  
To focus on how we are viewed,  
To **worry** e'er, how we're construed.

E'er trying with the world to fit,  
With our conscience, does not well sit,  
This nightmare's **easy**, to deflect,  
Put aside, false human respect.

Only Sin alone, should we fear,  
Not say things, just to please the ear,  
May we the courage to ne'r seek,  
To agree with fads, from week to week.

‘Cause truth does not change, nor should we,  
With error in harmony be,  
We must e’er pray, ready to fly,  
The worldlings who want us to lie.

With Truth may we ever abide,  
And **long** to **stay**, on Our **Lord’s** side,  
In this earthly sojourn, truth love,  
Desire **to be** with Truth above!

**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. Therefore, we examined the evil of such murder by the “donation” of a vital organ. Find the article here:

<http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/08/01/our-duty-not-to-donate-or-accept-donated-vital-bodily-organs/>

Finally, it is sometimes advisable to appoint a wise and virtuous person to make decisions concerning our medical treatment when we cannot do so ourselves at some future time. This goal is accomplished in many jurisdictions through a document called a *Power of Attorney for Healthcare*, or a *Medical Power of Attorney*. Below, we examine this type of document and offer guidance (which would apply in many jurisdictions) based on the past experience of some of the *Catholic Candle* Team.

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

## Guidance Concerning a Medical Power of Attorney

### What is a *Medical Power of Attorney*?

Granting a “power of attorney” simply means giving a person the legal authority to act for you in certain matters. In other words, granting a “power of attorney” simply means making a person your agent. It does not refer to the person being a licensed attorney for the practice of law. A *Power of Attorney for Healthcare* (also known as a *Medical Power of Attorney*) is a document through which you grant to your agent the legal authority to make medical decisions for you, when you cannot do so for yourself.

### Why should you grant someone a *Medical Power of Attorney*?

Living, as we do, in a pagan world, we are surrounded by people urging us to make sinful decisions. But we have a non-delegable duty to resist evil pressures and to do our best to make correct Catholic decisions.<sup>17</sup> To help us make those Catholic decisions, we must have recourse to prayer, to study/research, and to advice from wise and virtuous persons.

Some of those Catholic decisions concern our medical treatment. Further, it is foreseeable that the time might come when we cannot make medical decisions for ourselves because we are delirious, in a coma, or are otherwise unable to make them.

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<sup>17</sup> Concerning this moral duty generally, read this article: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/you-are-responsible-for-your-salvation-no-shared-responsibility-can-lessen-your-responsibility.html>

Therefore, it is prudent to provide for that possibility now by deciding who could best make the correct Catholic decisions for us then, in the event we cannot do so.

Below, we provide a draft *Power of Attorney for Healthcare* document. This draft might need to be revised based on the laws of your particular jurisdiction.

However, first let's consider the *type* of person you should select for this important responsibility of holding your power of attorney for your medical treatment.

### **Selecting an agent to hold this medical power of attorney**

You should select carefully the person to whom you give a medical power of attorney. This person should be:

1. Willing
2. Available
3. Sufficiently instructed in the Catholic principles which must be applied to your condition
4. Sufficiently intelligent to understand your condition
5. Decisive enough to make a decision without unreasonable delay
6. Strong and steadfast in the face of opposition

Below, we discuss each of these important conditions needed to make a person a suitable agent to hold your medical power of attorney.

#### **1. Your agent should be willing**

Depending upon your future medical situation, it might be a substantial burden on a person to be responsible for making your medical decisions. Therefore, common courtesy demands that you do not impose this burden on someone without first asking his permission.

Further, you will get better, more diligent decisions from a person if he has voluntarily accepted the responsibility for making your medical decisions and is willing to do it (if/when you cannot make the decisions).

## **2. Your agent should be available**

Even if a person is very willing to help you and accepts the responsibility for making your medical decisions if/when necessary, he would be a poor choice as your agent if it were foreseeable that he would likely not be reachable when urgent medical decisions must be made.

With the ubiquity of cell phones, this is usually not a problem. However, if a person is foreseeably often unreachable, that would make him a poor choice as your medical agent.

A person who is in your area is preferable to a person who would need to make decisions without being able to actually assess your condition in person and meet in person with your doctors and other caregivers, when necessary.

For whatever agent you do choose, place all of his contact information (*i.e.*, all ways to reach him) right into the form you use to grant him the power of attorney to make your healthcare decisions. In this way, every caregiver who has a copy of your *medical power of attorney* would also have all of your agent's contact information.

Because the future comes with many uncertainties, it is possible that your agent will not be available despite your best-laid plans. Therefore, it is prudent that your *medical power of attorney* document would designate an alternate agent who would act in the event that your first agent is unavailable.

## **3. Your agent must be sufficiently instructed in the Catholic principles which must be applied to your condition**

Even if a person is willing and available, he would be a poor choice to act as your agent if he does not understand the Catholic principles controlling the medical decisions which must be made. To take two examples:

- Your agent must understand that so-called “brain death” is not real death<sup>18</sup> and that he has a continued duty to take all reasonable measures to preserve your life and health even if the hospital declares that you are dead (meaning that you are so-called “brain dead”).

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<sup>18</sup> For further information about this issue, read this article:  
<http://www.catholiccandle.org/2020/08/01/our-duty-not-to-donate-or-accept-donated-vital-bodily-organs/>

- Your agent must understand that the assertion that your life lacks “dignity” is not a basis for failing to sustain your life.

#### **4. Your agent must be sufficiently intelligent to understand your condition**

However willing and available a person might be and however well-instructed in the relevant Catholic principles, he would be a poor choice as your agent if he cannot understand your medical condition and clear-headedly apply those Catholic principles to your medical condition.

For example, Catholic principles require that a person be given sufficient fluids (and not be killed by dehydration). However, if a patient’s organs have shut down and the patient is internally drowning in his own fluids because his body can no longer expel those fluids even with the aid of diuretics, then your agent should understand that the requirement of giving the patient hydration no longer applies (because it will no longer help sustain his life).

#### **5. Your agent must be sufficiently decisive so that he can make a timely decision**

However willing and available a person might be and however sufficient his understanding, a person would be a poor choice as your agent if he was not able to make a reasonably prompt decision when necessary – even when the consequences of that decision are grave.

A crucial decision should not be made through inaction and so your agent must be capable of being decisive when necessary.

#### **6. Your agent must be strong and steadfast in the face of opposition**

However well a person might otherwise fit the requirements to be a good agent to hold your medical power of attorney, he would be a poor choice if he is not strong enough to remain steadfast in the face of opposition from medical personnel and emotional relatives.

Hospitals and doctors sometimes apply tremendous pressure on a decisionmaker if he seeks to prolong a patient’s life. They might declare they refuse to provide the additional treatment – waiting to see how your agent will react to that declaration.

Or, the caregivers might selectively disclose information to your agent, seeking to steer him into the medical decision they wish him to make. This situation might require

unusual tenacity in your agent to investigate and to insist upon treatment which would be in your best interests.

In extreme situations, to protect your life or welfare, your agent must be willing to threaten to hire an attorney and file a lawsuit to ensure your medical care or to prevent you from being murdered. This lawsuit could either be you seeking a judge's order to restrain medical caregivers from harming you,<sup>19</sup> or you threatening to hold them personally liable for medical malpractice.

Similarly, your medical agent must be strong enough to withstand the opposition of emotional family members who cry and plead: "How can you be so cruel and make Mom suffer?", or relatives who shout or say: "Let Dad die with dignity".

### **How *not* to choose a medical agent**

Do not choose as your medical agent an unsuitable person because that person would have hurt feelings if he were not chosen. Similarly, do not choose an unsuitable agent because of love or friendship. The selection of your agent can literally be a matter of life and death for you. Hurt feelings or emotional attachment should not be a consideration in the selection.

Generally, it is not a good idea to select a group, *e.g.*, all of your adult children, to jointly make decisions concerning your medical treatment. "Committees" are inefficient decisionmakers. Further, sometimes medical decisions must be made quickly. The more decision makers there are, the larger the potential delays in both successfully contacting the group and in their reaching a consensus decision.

Generally, a single decisionmaker is best. However, if multiple decisionmakers are used, an even number of decisionmakers is a bad choice unless there is provision for breaking a deadlock (a tie) if there is a disagreement. Although an even number of agents is generally a bad idea, it is a good idea to have a single agent with provision for an alternate agent if the first agent is unavailable.

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<sup>19</sup> See, *e.g.*, [https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/82-year-old-wife-goes-to-court-to-stop-canadian-husband-being-lethally-injected?utm\\_source=top\\_news&utm\\_campaign=standard](https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/82-year-old-wife-goes-to-court-to-stop-canadian-husband-being-lethally-injected?utm_source=top_news&utm_campaign=standard)

We recommend that your *medical power of attorney* document has features similar to this draft form:

## **Draft durable power of attorney for health care**

I, [name], residing at [address and other contact information], hereby appoint my close friend, [name and all contact information], as my attorney in fact (“Agent”) to act for me and in my name, in any way I could act in person, to make all decisions for me concerning my personal care, medical treatment, hospitalization, and health care.

If at any time and for any reason [insert agent’s name here] is unable or unwilling to act as my Agent, then I hereby appoint [alternate agent and all contact information here], as the then-successor Agent.

The powers I grant to my Agents do not include the power to direct or consent to withholding food or nutrition, water or hydration, oxygen, IVs, or common medicines such as antibiotics, which might be necessary or helpful for my well-being or for sustaining my life. The powers I grant to my Agents do not include authorizing cremation or donating any of my organs to anyone, for any purpose. My Agents shall have the same access to my medical records that I have, including the right to disclose the contents to others.

My Agents shall also have full power to authorize an autopsy and full responsibility for selecting the funeral home and choosing the “hard goods” (casket, *etc.*) and services related to my funeral, to be paid for through my [identify will or trust here]. I wish to be buried in the grave plot [information here concerning the cemetery, plot number, *etc.*].

I designate my Agent to have all authority to make all decisions concerning the religious aspects of my funeral and burial, including selecting the priest, if any, for the funeral and burial, *etc.* All expenses related to these decisions shall be paid by my [identify will or trust].

I ask that at no time, including at my wake, that I be eulogized or that it be suggested that my soul is known to be already in heaven. I would like the five Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary to be recited at my wake (not the Glorious Mysteries).

If a guardian of my person is to be appointed, I nominate my Agents acting under this power of attorney as such guardian, to serve without bond or security.

I understand the full significance of the broad powers I am granting to my Agent in this instrument. This is a durable power of attorney which has no expiration date and is not rendered null or void by the passage of time or by my disability or my declining health.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

The principal has read this instrument and signed it in my presence.

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Residing at: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Residing at: \_\_\_\_\_

Specimen signature of my Agents      I certify that the signatures of my Agents are correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[1<sup>st</sup> Agent's name typed here]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of person granting power of attorney]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[2<sup>nd</sup> Agent's name typed here]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name of person granting power of attorney]

Note: Obviously, this *medical power of attorney* should be modified according to your circumstances. For example, this form should be modified to reflect your prepayment of your funeral expenses, if you have prepaid them.

**Final consideration – what should I do with my Medical Power of Attorney after it is signed?**

After your *medical power of attorney* is completed and signed, do not merely put it with your important papers or in a safety deposit box at a bank (although those are good places to leave a copy).

Broadly disseminate your *power of attorney* to your family, friends, and caregivers – because when you have a medical emergency, they are going to be focused on your treatment, not focused on searching through your important papers to find your *medical power of attorney*.

Give your *power of attorney* to your hospital, your family doctor, your specialist doctors, your oral surgeon, your assisted living facility, your medical rehabilitation facility, *etc.* The more broadly you spread your power of attorney, the more likely it will be that it will

be known and used in an emergency because more people will know about it and have access to it.

## Conclusion

In the culture of death in which we live, it is foreseeable that we might be harmed (or killed) by our treatment not corresponding to the requirements of Catholic principles. A *medical power of attorney* is a tool to help us to prevent potential harm and to obtain help making those decisions when we are unable to do so.

It is prudent to provide now for a capable and virtuous agent who can make treatment decisions for us, according to Catholic principles, at that future time.

We recommend that you give your agent a copy of the articles in this series on *end-of-life* matters.

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