

Catholic Candle

☛ May 2021 ☛ catholiccandle.org ☛ catholiccandle@gmail.com

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. Why does the N-SSPX now lean liberal with its followers?

A. If a traditional Catholic or a Society doesn't fight against liberalism *every day*, gradualism will take over and they *will* become liberal after a time. The New SSPX no longer fights against liberalism daily as Archbishop Lefebvre did. They may merely mention the problem of liberalism, but are not fighting against it.

The New SSPX and *Judas-type* Liberalism

If you have followed the New SSPX in its effort to be reconciled with Rome ever since Archbishop Lefebvre died, you noticed a type of Liberalism that deceives its followers. Rome insists that the SSPX accept the evils of Vatican II, and the SSPX can't do that – oh, they would if they could and still hold on to their pseudo-traditional followers. But they can't do that quite *yet*.

So, how has the “new” SSPX managed to hold onto these followers so far and still please Rome? I'll tell you how. They use Judas-type Liberalism. What is Judas-type Liberalism? It's when you have one N-SSPX leader making a liberal VC II statement, followed later by another N-SSPX leader making a traditional refutation of that statement. In this way, the pseudo-traditional followers of the Society can believe the statement that salves their conscience and, of course, reject what bothers them. So, you see, it is a Liberalism that deceives the ill-informed consciences of the Society supporters, but satisfies Rome that the N-SSPX is beginning to see the “truth” of the Second Vatican Council, which is a requisite for reconciliation. Rome is happy with the N-SSPX, and so are its followers. The N-SSPX found they could please both by being “for” and “against”

something at the same time. Judas-type Liberalism has been successful ever since the archbishop died.

Let me demonstrate Judas-type Liberalism based on a speech by Father Benoit De Jorno on Nov. 28, 2020. He is the Superior of the N-SSPX district in France, and he refutes previous statements by Bishop Fellay. Here is Fr. De Jorno:

Since 1969, a new rite has been introduced into the Church, profoundly modifying its worship and, as a consequence, seriously damaging the Faith, because, as we know, 'lex orandi, lex credendi' – the rule of prayer is the rule of faith. The Society of St. Pius X, standing against this sickening novelty from the very moment of its foundation¹

Fr. De Jorno also warned against humanism, saying:

[T]his deadly humanism has penetrated the Church, has become conciliar; with the Second Vatican Council, a great change, a great upheaval, a new doctrine has profoundly infiltrated the Church; ecumenism in particular is a cancer that gnaws at her bone marrow. And the scourge is precisely the new mass, which as we know, significantly departs from Catholic tradition.²

These more conservative words are surely contrary to the repeated position taken by Bishop Fellay, who attended the new mass himself, showing by his own example the Society's position that the new mass is acceptable. After he attended the new mass, he enthusiastically praised it.³

Bishop Fellay's two assistants also attended the new mass when visiting Pope Francis, showing by their own example the N-SSPX's position that the new mass is acceptable.⁴

¹ As reported in the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary Newsletter dated Feb. 11, 2021.

² As reported in the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary Newsletter dated Feb. 11, 2021.

³ Quotation, citation, and analysis here: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/fellay-promotes-hybrid-mass.html>

⁴ Quotation, citation, and analysis here: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/fellay-theory-baptismal-character.html>

The new SSPX says the new mass gives grace.⁵ In reality, the new mass never gives grace.⁶

Bishop Fellay says that “what needs to be corrected” in the new mass are things like making a better vernacular translation.⁷ This tells people that the “new” SSPX does not have a problem with the new mass itself.

Now, increasingly, the “new” SSPX respects the values of the world and wants to fit in with the world, *e.g.*, the “new” SSPX says its school (in Missouri) is “very much like other schools”.⁸

The “new” Society no longer remembers what it is like to be a *sign* of contradiction, like Our Lord.

Another aspect of the “cult of man” (humanism) is to adopt the “modesty” standards of the world. The “new” SSPX now progressively promotes mini-skirts, women with bare shoulders or exposed flanks, and women wearing trousers.⁹

The above examples of Judas-type Liberalism are only a few of the many, but they show the N-SSPX tactics as to how they please Rome and their followers’ consciences at the same time.

Don’t hold out hope that the N-SSPX will change course and become uncompromising and traditional, as the conciliar hierarchy promotes *ever-more-extreme* modernism, because

⁵ Quotation, citation, and analysis here: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/sspx-softer-new-mass.html>

⁶ <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/new-mass-never-grace.html> & <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/williamson-contradicts-archbishop-lefebvre.html>

⁷ Quotation, citation, and analysis here: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/fellay-promotes-hybrid-mass.html>

⁸ <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/sspx-wants-fit-in.html>

⁹ Read these articles for more information:

- <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/sspx-immodesty-sell-books.html>
- <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/pfluger-culture-women-trousers.html>
- <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/sspx-the-n-sspx-sisters-sell-out-on-modesty.html>
- SSPX’s *DICI* Magazine, #310, p.5.

the Society believes they can achieve reconciliation without defections, using the Judas-type Liberalism to put the final “piece of the puzzle” in place to please Rome. This final piece is the acceptance, at least in part, of the soul-destroying Novus Ordo mass.

Based on the past success of the Judas-type Liberalism, I predict and won’t be surprised if in 2023 (or before), when Rome celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, they will reconcile with the N-SSPX, who will use “soft” Liberalism again to avoid defections by its supporters. They may well begin by promoting a hybrid Mass, (*i.e.*, the “best” parts from the Conciliar service mixed with the Traditional Mass). Bishop Fellay already promotes a hybrid mixture of the new mass and the Traditional Mass.¹⁰

I predict that the N-SSPX will begin using the hybrid mass slowly. First, the hybrid mass will be used at N-SSPX chapels once a month and be available as one ***option***. Later, the hybrid mass will be the only one available on some occasions, *e.g.*, once a month, after the Society is certain they will not lose followers or revenue.

In closing, you can see what the naïve followers of the N-SSPX are up against. We must hold fast without compromise and can be sure that Our Lord’s grace will help us and He will never abandon His soldiers in the Catacombs. Our uncompromising position and our love of Our Lord will surely eliminate fear and problems we would otherwise face at our Personal Judgment.

Let us pray hard daily for the misguided leaders of the N-SSPX and their naïve followers. Moreover, because the SSPX was dear to the heart of Archbishop Lefebvre while he was on earth, (and supposing that he is in Purgatory or Heaven), he is no-doubt continuing to pray hard for his now-wayward Society. Let us join our prayers to his.

Words to Live by – from Catholic Tradition

The Voice of Christ:

Your tardiness in turning to prayer is the greatest obstacle to heavenly consolation

The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas à Kempis, Book III, Ch. 30.

¹⁰ <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/fellay-promotes-hybrid-mass.html>

Self-forgetfulness – letting the Love of God Consume Our Lives

Objective truth series – Reflection #22

In our last several reflections we have been considering focusing more and more on our eternal goal, the work of our lives, namely, the salvation of our souls. We penetrated more deeply what it really means to save our souls—to see the Beatific Vision!

The emptiness of this world is easy to see especially when we compare this world to the delights of heaven. We can easily conclude that to see God is worth all the efforts we can make. Certainly as God gives us a greater desire for heaven, He increases our love for Him. Yet, there is another aspect of our love of God which emerges especially when we see the world getting more godless every day, namely, the hunger and desire we have to see God loved. St. Therese of Lisieux wrote in a prayer she composed to the Holy Face, “*I am consumed with the desire to love Thee and make Thee loved by all men.*”

When we consider how there is so much craziness going on around us in the world, we see the huge apparent sprint of the evil *globalists* as they try to get more control of everything with each new day. Furthermore, these *globalists* have a clear agenda to erase God and His Commandments from the face of the earth. It is so tempting to only consider our own current dangers and to get anxious about what will happen to us. However, we must remind ourselves that we are in God’s Providential Hands and there is much consolation in this truth. Indeed, we also know that God is allowing these events in order to perfect our souls.

And yet, our focus should naturally turn from ourselves, to the innumerable insults that are hurled against God, His Church, His Blessed Mother, and His Saints. We can see by the blatant attacks of the enemy, that God is **so hated** in these neo-pagan times of this great apostasy. Our hearts ache out of love for God and a desire to console Him. We should remember that just devotedly doing our duty-of-state with love for God, is a very important way to give Him glory **and** console Him.

In this way, too, we begin the life of self-forgetfulness. The simple focus on wanting to please God and work for His Glory, not only increases our love for Him, but also is God’s means to increase His Divine Friendship in our souls. God is great and merciful to shower such undeserved goodness on His poor creatures!

“He must increase: but I must decrease.” [St. John 3:30] These words of St. John the Baptist apply to us as we strive to do all we can for the greater honor and glory of God and to show Him all our love. But, more than this, is that this decreasing of ourselves in our own view of ourselves, naturally brings us lower and lower until we see our utter nothingness. This nothingness does not disturb us because we see it as our natural place.

As Our Lord told St. Catherine of Sienna, “You are she who is not and I am He Who is.” We are nothing and God is our all.

When we get caught up in our daily service of God and our neighbor out of love for God, our lives are busy working for God and our neighbor. We may find ourselves trying to help our neighbor in many ways. Some examples may be: trying to keep up our neighbor’s morale in these times when irrational fears are being pushed on everyone; trying to keep him informed when we are surrounded by false news; trying to convert others back to the pre-Vatican II Faith; or teaching others about the traditional uncompromising Faith which they have never heard about [seeing that we are now 56 years post Vatican II]. “*The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few.*” [St. Matt. 9:37]

With so much work to do for God’s Glory and to show Him our love, there really is no time or concern to think about ourselves. We are glad to do all we can for God and spend ourselves in His service. This is what it means to let our lives be consumed in the love of God. What a mercy of God to let us serve Him and He accepts our poor service! Besides such good works to our neighbor for love of God, we’ll find that we love spending time in prayer—adoring God; telling Him our sorrow for our own sins and the sins of the hateful world; telling Him over and over again that we love Him; and thanking Him for all His Goodness and Mercies He has shown to us.

God’s sculpturing of our souls slowly over time does bring many changes in our souls which includes the soul becoming more selfless. He works patiently on us and if we are docile, His chiseling will not seem painful to us. We can sense that He is steadily chipping away our selfishness and we naturally find that we want to do things for Him more because we love Him more and more. In addition, as we see things in the world falling apart around us, and because we know that we do not in any way deserve God’s wonderful mercies that He has showered upon us, our hearts cannot help counting our blessings often. How could gratitude not grow with each passing day? We want to do something for Him to thank Him. We want to share our blessings with other souls! A consuming need to love God takes over and the desire to see Him loved is part of this. With grateful hearts, may God let us burn in the fire of the consummation of His Love! This is how Divine Friendship works—to spread His Glory, to be spent in His service, and to care about nothing else than Him! Oh, if we could truly say like St. Paul, “*And I live, now not I: but Christ liveth in me.*” [Gal. 2:20]—with heartfelt pangs of love for God we would want to say something like the following:

For God alone must be my goal,
Only He can full-please a soul,
Focusing on myself would be,
Like living a lie—death to me.

To keep my focus on God entire
Brings on love and my soul's desire
To become selfless, melting flame
To make of God, my only aim.

This fits His plan for souls that see,
Solely for Him should the soul be,
The lifetime goal, the soul's one end
To have Him, as a Divine Friend.

With things all 'round falling apart,
Thus, to tear, God out of each heart,
The devil spreads hatred so wide,
Ne'er wanting souls, to be God's bride.

Fret then, just distracting the soul,
From the purpose of man's true role,
Intimate union with The Spouse,
Evil seeks this Friendship to douse.

The Devil sows then fears and dread
Wanting souls to hate God instead
'Gainst love of God, and true good deeds
He tempts men to desire false "needs"

So bitter hatred fills the air
And each day more fall to despair
Insults to God are hurled galore
Than seemingly ever before

Our souls ache to repair these crimes
The wretched evils of our times,
To give God the glory— His due,
Knowing He, is loved, by so few.

And to help poor folks so confused
Who are attacked and ill-used
Who search for truth, so hard to find
They're led like sheep to keep them blind.

Out of love we help our neighbor,
Gladly for God do we labor,
For Him our life tirelessly spend,
Knowing by this we love our Friend.

Working hard 'til our eyes grow dim,
Doing all out of love for Him,
Wanting nothing than be consumed,
Giving all until we're entombed.

If we like St. Paul can self-forget
We can grow more in love yet
With our dear Lord, Our Spouse Divine,
E'er adoring the Mystic Vine!

Catholic Candle note: The article below is an update of an article and data about the plummeting SSPX totals from its “rosary crusades”, comparing 2009, to 2016, and now in 2021.

Measuring How Much Piety has Atrophied in the “New” SSPX

St. Paul infallibly teaches us: “without Faith, it is impossible to please God.” *Hebrews*, 11:6. Therefore, without faith, no piety pleases God or can be a true piety.

There is no true Faith outside the Catholic Church. Therefore, there can be no true piety outside the Catholic Church.

As a person's Faith weakens, so does his piety, diminishing his prayer life. Our Lord told us that strong prayers require strong Faith and that strengthening our Faith will strengthen our prayers. Here are His words:

If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain,
“Remove from hence hither”, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible
to you.

St. Matthew's Gospel, ch.17, v.19.

Just as our prayers become stronger when our Faith becomes stronger, likewise our prayers weaken when our Faith weakens.

The “old” SSPX recognized this obvious correlation, when discussing the conciliar church. For example, in 2002, the SSPX said (regarding the use of the rosary in the conciliar church): “the rosary ... has fallen into disuse and even contempt”.¹¹

¹¹ http://archives.sspcx.org/miscellaneous/luminous_mysteries_of_rosary.htm

Of course, this decline in prayer took time among conciliar Catholics, just as their decline in Faith also took time. Nonetheless, their decline in piety and prayer was *inevitable*, given their decline in Faith.

This same decline in Faith and piety is now occurring in the “new” SSPX, although (of course) this takes time and the decline still has far to go. The decline of Faith is chronicled in *Catholic Candle*¹² and elsewhere. Similarly, the corresponding decline of piety is palpable in every “new” SSPX parish, although in some more than others (as was similarly true among conciliar parishes in the 1970s).

One measure of the “new” SSPX’s overall decline in piety, is the tally of the latest rosary crusade:

- During the latest 4¼ month rosary crusade in the U.S. District (from November 21, 2020 through April 1, 2021)¹³ the “new” SSPX claims its followers said 282,508 rosaries.¹⁴ If we multiply this by three, it would give us the approximate annual rate of **847,524**.
- Compare this to the 2016 one-year rosary crusade (beginning in August 2016), when the SSPX U.S. District tallied approximately **1.5 Million** rosaries.¹⁵
- Compare that to the one-year rosary crusade (beginning May 2009), when the same U.S. District tallied approximately **5.5 Million** rosaries.¹⁶
- In other words, after the weakening of the Faith within the SSPX, especially since 2012, SSPX followers prayed the rosary in 2020-2021 at a monthly rate which was a little more than half (56.5%) of the rate in 2016 and only roughly one seventh (15.4%) the monthly rate of 2009!

¹² Read dozens of articles proving this fact, quoting the “new” SSPX’s own words, cited back to its own sources, here: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/priests/sspx.html>

¹³ <https://sspx.org/en/news-events/news/new-rosary-crusade-announced-superior-general-mass-vocations-61808>

¹⁴ [https://fsspx.news/sites/sspx/files/prayer crusade the mass and vocations our treasures en 3.pdf](https://fsspx.news/sites/sspx/files/prayer%20crusade%20the%20mass%20and%20vocations%20our%20treasures%20en%203.pdf)

¹⁵ <http://sspx.org/en/news-events/news/deadline-turn-rosary-crusade-tallies-online-sunday>

¹⁶ http://archives.sspx.org/rcr_pdfs/2010_rcrs/may_2010_rcr.pdf

To our readers who still attend the “new” SSPX chapels:

Are you worried and scared? Are you afraid to forgo sacraments that are frequent and relatively easy to obtain? If you leave the “new” SSPX, do you fear you will lose whatever piety and prayer life you have?

The opposite is true! If you stand up for the Faith and reject compromise and liberalism, God will strengthen your Faith *and* your piety, as He does for all Catholics who stand up for Him!

If you put the Faith **first** and thus stand against compromise and liberalism, God will strengthen your Faith *because* you put it (and Him) **first** and act by the light of your Faith, by shunning the evils you now silently tolerate.

Likewise, because your prayer life and piety grow proportionately with your Faith (as shown above), *you will improve your prayer life* without those compromise sacraments you now receive from the “new” SSPX and which you dread forsaking.

If you stay in the (new) SSPX, your Faith and piety will inevitably atrophy, just as even the staunchest conciliar Catholics inescapably weakened.

The most important thing you can do for your piety and prayer life, is to leave the “new” liberal SSPX and its sacraments! **Do it now!**

***Catholic Candle* note:** The article below concerns the descent of the U.S. government (and other Western governments) into tyranny.¹⁷ While the evidence we give below comes mostly from the U.S., similar evidence can be found in other Western countries.

Although it is true that we suffer under increasing tyranny, we must also remember that revolution is a sin and Catholics are not revolutionaries. Read the explanation for that truth here: <https://catholiccandle.org/2021/02/01/revolution-is-in-the-air/>

The Current Leftists Follow the Usual “Tyrant’s Playbook” to Obtain and Retain Power

¹⁷ In this article, we use the word “tyranny” in the broad sense of “unjust or oppressive governmental power.” This definition is the first one given in *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*, 5th Edition.

This same “Playbook” also shows us how to Resist Tyranny

Human nature always remains the same and so the virtues of good men and the vices of evil men remain essentially the same as they always were. One consequence of this truth is that the “playbook” for acquiring and maintaining a tyrannical government is essentially the same as it was throughout all history.

For this reason, our best guides/teachers concerning the features of tyranny (and the rest of the science of political life) remain the ancient (and greatest) philosophers of all time, namely, St. Thomas Aquinas (the greatest Doctor of the Catholic Church), and the magnificent Aristotle.

St. Thomas and Aristotle describe how governments act when they seek to achieve and maintain tyranny. We see their descriptions of tyranny given so long ago now being exemplified daily in news reports, especially since March 2020.

A tyrannical government seeks discord among its citizens to prevent them from uniting against the tyranny.

A tyrannical government fears that its people will unite against the tyranny imposed on them. Thus, such government seeks to divide its people into warring or contentious factions or classes, to keep them too weak and disunited to effectively oppose the tyranny.

Here is how Aristotle explains this truth:

[One] art of the tyrant is to sow quarrels among the citizens; friends [being] embroiled with friends, the people with the notables,¹⁸ and the rich with one another.¹⁹

Current application: Our increasingly-tyrannical government actively fosters division and contention among its people. Thus, for example, the government fosters division of the people into a plethora of “victim” groups whose grievances are constantly stoked and whose resentment it encourages. The tyrannical government and its allies²⁰ (e.g., in the

¹⁸ Webster’s Dictionary defines the noun “notable” as: a person of note. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/notable>

¹⁹ Aristotle’s *Treatise on Politics*, Bk. 5, Ch. 11 (bracketed word added for clarity).

²⁰ https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt_morningbrief/does-the-us-have-time-to-counter-beijings-unrestricted-warfare_3792855.html

mainstream media, Big Tech, radical universities, big corporations²¹, big banks²², *etc.*) promote such division along the lines of race²³, gender, unnatural vice, “transgender”, immigration status, and many other bases.

Our increasingly-tyrannical government encourages people to “snitch” (tattletale) on each other, for non-compliance with abusive COVID-restrictions, seeking to set its people against each other.²⁴ As the mayor of Los Angeles stated: “snitches get rewards.”²⁵ This mentality should be abhorrent to a free people.

A tyrannical government seeks to eliminate opportunities for its people to build bonds of friendship and trust.

Not only does a tyrannical government promote divisiveness among its people, but it also seeks to prevent the opposite from happening, *viz.*, development by its people of strong bonds of friendship and trust between each other. Such bonds would allow the people to unite against the oppressive government and in other ways join together in ways not controlled by the tyrants.²⁶

²¹ The big corporations, *e.g.*, Delta Airlines and Coca Cola, are leftist allies, pushing the leftist agenda. *See, e.g.*, <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/hundreds-of-ceos-companies-launch-attack-against-election-integrity-bills>

²² See, *e.g.*, this article: *US Financial Regulators Moving ‘Very Fast’ to Take on Climate Change*, which can be read here: https://www.theepochtimes.com/us-financial-regulators-moving-very-fast-to-take-on-climate-change_3805907.html

²³ <https://catholiccandle.org/2021/03/03/black-lives-matters-program-is-the-same-as-that-of-satan-and-marx/>

²⁴ Read more about how mask-wearing destroys the cohesiveness of society, in part three of this article: <https://catholiccandle.org/2020/12/01/856/>

²⁵ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/la-mayor-says-snitches-get-rewards-if-they-report-neighbors-covid-violations>

²⁶ In his incisive analysis based on his first-hand observations of the U.S. in the 1830s, Alexis De Tocqueville, stressed that the strength of the United States was in its citizens joining together in **voluntary** associations to accomplish their goals and solving their problems **for themselves**. That spirit is the opposite of the spirit of a servile and socialist people, which demands that the government take care of them and solve their problems. Here is part of De Tocqueville’s analysis of the American people of that time:

Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions, constantly form associations. They have not only commercial and manufacturing companies, in which all take part, but

Here is how St. Thomas explains the tyrant's suppression of the people's bonds of friendship and mutual trust:

They [*viz.*, tyrants] also see to it that there be no friendly relations among these [*viz.*, the people] so that they may not enjoy the benefits resulting from being on good terms with one another, for as long as one has no confidence in the other, no plot will be set up against the tyrant's domination. Wherefore they ... forbid anything which furthers society and co-operation among men, such as marriage, company at table, and anything of like character, through which familiarity and confidence are engendered among men.²⁷

Similarly, Aristotle teaches that tyrants act this way:

[A tyrant] must not allow common meals, clubs, education, and the like; ... he must prohibit literary assemblies or other meetings for discussion, and he must take every means to prevent people from knowing one another, for acquaintance begets mutual confidence.²⁸

Current application: Among the countless examples of our increasingly-tyrannical government seeking to alienate the people from each other, we see lockdowns by which abusive government seeks to prevent the association of good people with each other, while allowing Marxist protestors and rioters to have free reign to promote disorder, civil unrest, destruction, and other evils.²⁹

Our increasingly-tyrannical government closes restaurants as well as commands the people not to gather in their homes with friends and relatives. One Canadian Premier

associations of a thousand other kinds – religious, moral, serious, futile, extensive, or restricted, enormous or diminutive. The Americans make associations to give entertainments, to found establishments for education, to build inns, to construct churches, to diffuse books, to send missionaries to the antipodes; and in this manner they found hospitals, prisons, and schools. If it be proposed to advance some truth, or to foster some feeling by the encouragement of a great example, they form a society. Wherever, at the head of some new undertaking, you see the government in France, or a man of rank in England, in the United States you will be sure to find an association.

Democracy In America, by Alexis De Tocqueville, Volume II, Ch.5.

²⁷ St. Thomas Aquinas, *On Kingship*, bk.1, ch.4 (bracketed words added for clarity).

²⁸ Aristotle's *Treatise on Politics*, Bk. 5, Ch. 11 (bracketed words added for clarity).

²⁹ For a further analysis of lockdowns as a tool to suppress the people, not a virus, read section two of this article: <https://catholiccandle.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/lockdowns-are-to-control-people-not-a-virus-2.pdf>

boasted that he is “the guy who’s stealing Christmas” because he abusively banned social gatherings then.³⁰

Our increasingly-tyrannical governments are abusing their authority by alienating people from each other by stifling social contact through mask mandates, so-called “social-distancing” and other anti-social commands.³¹

The tyrants prohibit people from gathering at funerals and from visiting the sick at hospitals because those acts promote charity and human bonds between members of society.

Our oppressors ordered the closing of most businesses, clubs, and meeting places. They banned serious attempts at education and allowed only ineffective “pretend” education over Zoom.

Our increasingly-tyrannical government’s destruction of society’s cohesiveness has become more abusive recently, but has long included the evil of pushing mothers out of the home³² to get a “career”³³ and to destabilize the family³⁴ by promoting divorce and temporary “romantic” liaisons while at the same time discouraging marriage.³⁵

Just as in communist countries, Western governments are implementing (or currently developing) “vaccine passports” to control the people’s travel in order to cement control over them.

³⁰ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/canadian-provincial-leader-boasts-of-stealing-christ-mas-to-keep-people-safe>

³¹ <https://catholiccandle.org/2020/12/01/856/>

³² <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/biden-unveils-1.8-trillion-plan-to-subsidize-daycare-get-mothers-out-of-the-home>

³³ <https://catholiccandle.org/2020/10/01/the-importance-and-need-for-stay-at-home-moms/>

³⁴ See this article: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/feminism-is-anarchy-in-the-family.html>

³⁵ See this article: <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/book-review-ungodly-rage-the-hidden-face-of-catholic-feminism.html>

Our increasingly-tyrannical government seeks to know everything we do.

Our increasingly-tyrannical government seeks to keep the people under constant surveillance.

Here is how Aristotle explains this conduct of tyrants:

Further, [a tyrant] must compel all persons staying in the city to appear in public and live at his gates; then he will know what they are doing: if they are always kept under, they will learn to be humble. In short, ... a tyrant ... endeavor[s] to know what each of his subjects says or does, and ... employ[s] spies³⁶

Applications:

One dramatic example is the Obama-era initiative directing the National Security Administration to conduct the MYSTIC and RETRO programs to gather and record the voice phone calls of Americans and others.³⁷ This program was secretly begun in 2009 and only revealed in 2014 by whistleblower Edward Snowden.³⁸ Because of subsequent political pressure, the U.S. federal government announced that it “voluntarily” limited the scope and reach of these programs. It is unclear how the true status can be known since the program’s very existence was kept secret for about five years.

There are video cameras watching people virtually everywhere. These cameras are in use not only in communist countries such as China³⁹ but also in places such as Belgium⁴⁰,

³⁶ Aristotle’s *Treatise on Politics*, Bk. 5, Ch. 11 (bracketed words added for clarity).

³⁷ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/nsa-surveillance-program-reaches-into-the-past-to-retrieve-replay-phone-calls/2014/03/18/226d2646-ade9-11e3-a49e-76adc9210f19_story.html?wpisrc=al_national

³⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MYSTIC_%28surveillance_program%29

³⁹ Read this article: *China is installing surveillance cameras outside people's front doors ... and sometimes inside their homes* found here: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/04/27/asia/cctv-cameras-china-hnk-intl/index.html>

⁴⁰ To learn more about ubiquitous surveillance in Belgium and France, read this article: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/camera-surveillance-stepped-up-in-belgium-and-france>

France, Britain (4.2 million cameras),⁴¹ and Atlanta, Georgia, (11,000 cameras)⁴² watching everything the people do.

In other ways also, communist governments⁴³ and the increasingly-tyrannical Western governments, such as Germany⁴⁴, constantly surveille their people.

Increasingly-tyrannical Western governments seek to corrupt the morals of the people

A tyrannical government seeks to erode the virtues of its citizens – especially courage – as well as to harm its people’s spiritual good in other ways, because virtue makes citizens act according to both reason and firm principles; but these very qualities are independent of the control of the tyrannical government. Thus, virtuous men cannot be easily manipulated by the whims of an evil government. Here is how St. Thomas explains this truth:

Nor does the tyrant merely oppress his subjects in corporal things but he also hinders their spiritual good. Those who seek more to use, than to be of use to, their subjects prevent all progress, suspecting all excellence in their subjects to be prejudicial to their own evil domination. For tyrants hold the good [citizens] in greater suspicion than the wicked, and to them the valor of others is always fraught with danger. So, the above-mentioned tyrants strive to prevent those of their subjects who have become virtuous from acquiring valor and high spirit in

⁴¹ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/big-brother-is-watching-britain-government-announces-24-hour-cctv-surveillance>

⁴² There are around 11,000 cameras surveilling Atlanta Georgia.
<https://www.ajc.com/news/local/real-time-crimefighting-around-000-cameras-watch-over-atlanta/qlF76c7sgdwBvtIa3luX8H/>

⁴³ See e.g., China’s routine electronic surveillance of its people’s phones and other mobile devices. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/china-cracks-down-on-citizens-scans-handheld-devices-for-illegal-informatio>

⁴⁴ [German Intelligence Agency spies on its citizens who:](#)

- ❖ [oppose the “pandemic” lockdowns.](#) <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/germany-puts-anti-lockdown-group-under-surveillance-for-possible-extremist-ties/ar-BB1gboSl>
- ❖ [are so-called “pandemic” deniers.](#) <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2220022972385/german-intelligence-puts-coronavirus-deniers-under-surveillance>

order that they may not want to cast off their [*viz.*, the tyrants'] iniquitous domination.⁴⁵

Application: Among the countless examples of tyrannical governments oppressing the virtue of its citizens, we see governments attempting to disarm the people⁴⁶ lest they courageously defend themselves against criminals and/or tyranny.

Likewise, tyrannical governments seek to stifle other instances of standing up for morals, such as a cake bakery refusing to make a cake to celebrate a “lifestyle” of vile impurity.⁴⁷ In another example, a British man is arrested for reading the Bible in public, concern what marriage and the family are.⁴⁸

We see the government-supported schools teaching how to commit the vilest impurities and indoctrinating students about the advantages of murdering innocent babies.

The increasingly-tyrannical governments (and their media allies) promote immorality as well as acting on emotion, rather than encouraging people to use their reason.⁴⁹

The tyrants order most of society to “lockdown” and command the closing of churches⁵⁰ while permitting marijuana dispensaries⁵¹ and clinics murdering innocent babies⁵² to be designated “essential businesses” which can remain open.

⁴⁵ St. Thomas Aquinas, *On Kingship*, bk.1, ch.4 (bracketed words added for clarity).

⁴⁶ https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt_breakingnews/biden-administration-announces-plans-to-curb-ghost-guns-push-red-flag-legislation_3767395.html

⁴⁷ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/christian-bakers-fined-for-refusing-to-bake-cake-supporting-gay-marriage-in>

⁴⁸ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/uk-pastor-violently-arrested-for-homophobic-statements-while-reading-from-bible>

⁴⁹ To read how our increasingly-tyrannical government and its allies are corrupting the morals and reason of its people, read this article: <https://catholiccandle.org/2021/04/02/empathy-a-tool-for-good-or-for-evil/>

⁵⁰ See, e.g., <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/uk-govt-orders-places-of-worship-shut-down-catholic-bishops-comply> & <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/california-churches-refuse-to-shut-down-in-face-of-local-leaders-threatening-to-cut-power>

⁵¹ See, e.g., <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-life-hercules-actor-blasts-govt-for-saying-abortion-are-essential-church-is-not>

⁵² See, e.g., <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/kansas-governor-backs-abortion-as-essential-health-care-during-pandemic>

Our increasingly-tyrannical government seeks to prevent its citizens from obtaining wealth and power which is independent of the government, but promotes wealth and power for those persons who are the tyrants' own allies in oppressing the people.

A tyrannical government fears its citizens who are rich and powerful unless it controls those citizens or unless they are allies in the tyranny.

Aristotle teaches:

It is characteristic of a tyrant to dislike everyone who has dignity or independence⁵³

St. Thomas further explains this truth:

They [*viz.*, tyrants] moreover strive to prevent their subjects from becoming powerful and rich since, suspecting these to be as wicked as themselves, they fear their power and wealth; for the subjects might become harmful to them even as they are accustomed to use power and wealth to harm others.⁵⁴

Aristotle adds more points along the same line:

[A tyrant seeks to] impoverish his subjects; he thus provides against the maintenance of a guard by the citizen and the people, having to keep hard at work, [so they] are prevented from conspiring. ... Another practice of tyrants is to multiply taxes⁵⁵

Application: We see Bill Gates, George Soros, the Big Tech companies, Big Pharma,⁵⁶ the “Big box” stores all thriving and all using their political and economic muscle to promote the increasing tyranny which is oppressing the people. Meanwhile, the governments’ abusive lockdowns and regulations are oppressing small business and

⁵³ Aristotle’s *Treatise on Politics*, Bk. 5, Ch. 11.

⁵⁴ St. Thomas Aquinas, *On Kingship*, bk.1, ch.4 (bracketed words added for clarity).

⁵⁵ Aristotle’s *Treatise on Politics*, Bk. 5, Ch. 11 (Bracketed words added for clarity).

⁵⁶ For example, COVID vaccine maker, Moderna, increased its profits 13-fold during this last year. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/covid-19-jab-maker-moderna-posts-13-fold-revenue-increase-thanks-to-vaccine>

Likewise, Pfizer posted \$4.5 billion in profits recently.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/04/business/pfizer-covid-vaccine-profits.html>

bankrupting the “mom and pop” businesses, which are forced to shut down because of lockdowns (if other government meddling does not kill them first). Also, this destruction of our economy causes unemployment, impoverishment and dependence on the government.

Further, inflation and debasement of our currency are like hidden taxes to impoverish the people.⁵⁷

The leftists not only push socialism, big government, and tremendous spending sprees in Western countries, but also increase taxes, seeking to destroy the financial independence of the people.

Our increasingly-tyrannical government promotes endless foreign wars

When a government is tyrannical, it seeks to engage in continual military activities in other places in the world, to weaken the country and make people tired of conflict so they are less likely to be willing to challenge their own tyrannical government. Such foreign wars also impoverish the people and tend to make them rally behind their (tyrannical) leaders because they face a foreign foe. Here is how Aristotle teaches this truth:

The tyrant is also fond of making war in order that his subjects may have something to do and be always in want of a leader.⁵⁸

Dystopian novelist, George Orwell, portrays how tyrannical governments stay in power, in part, because of continual trumped-up wars. Here is the setting of his novel, *1984*:

[W]ar had been literally continuous, though strictly speaking it had not always been the same war. ...⁵⁹

In principle, the war effort is always so planned as to eat up any surplus that might exist after meeting the bare needs of the population. In practice, the needs of the population are always underestimated, with the result that there is a

⁵⁷ See, for example:

- https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt_morningbrief/inflation-fears-grow-as-commodity-prices-take-off_3802545.html
- https://www.theepochtimes.com/mkt_morningbrief/bidens-hidden-tax-increase_3801947.html

⁵⁸ Aristotle’s *Treatise on Politics*, Bk. 5, Ch. 11.

⁵⁹ 1984, George Orwell, ch.3.

chronic shortage of half the necessities of life; but this is looked on as an advantage. It is deliberate policy to keep even the favoured groups somewhere near the brink of hardship, because a general state of scarcity increases the importance of small privileges and thus magnifies the distinction between one group and another.⁶⁰

Application:

The U.S. and other Western countries have embarked in a long string of foreign wars where victory was seemingly not the goal and these countries withdrew after sufficient time, energy, blood and treasure were exhausted. These countries are now working toward supposed withdrawing from Afghanistan (the U.S.'s longest war) and Iraq, preceded by earlier "adventures" in Iraq, Kuwait, Vietnam, Korea, Libya (two wars), Syria, Uganda, Somalia (two wars), Serbia, Haiti, and Bosnia, in the last three decades.⁶¹

As governments become increasingly tyrannical, the people become dispirited, demoralized, and discouraged from participating in public life, and they hide themselves.

When a government is tyrannical, people "keep their heads down" and don't join in public life because they do not want to be attacked. Here is how St. Thomas explains this truth:

[As it says in the *Book of Proverbs*, 28:28]: "When the wicked rise up men shall hide themselves", that they may escape the cruelty of the tyrant. It is no wonder, for a man governing without reason, according to the lust of his soul, in no way differs from the beast. Whence Solomon says [Prov 28:15]: "As a roaring lion and a hungry bear, so is a wicked prince over the poor people." Therefore, men hide from tyrants as from cruel beasts and it seems that to be subject to a tyrant is the same thing as to lie prostrate beneath a raging beast.⁶²

Application: In 2019, a mother in Notre Dame, Indiana was disturbed by the indecent attire worn by the young women in church, wrote a local newspaper editorial asking women to dress more modestly.⁶³ She was attacked contemptuously from all over the

⁶⁰ 1984, George Orwell, ch.17.

⁶¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_the_United_States

⁶² St. Thomas Aquinas, *On Kingship*, bk.1, ch.4 (bracketed words added for clarity).

⁶³ <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/ellievhall/notre-dame-leggings-mother-sons-letter-editor-protest>

U.S. including in the Washington Post.⁶⁴ That is one of countless messages leftists send, telling people of common sense, who have somewhat conservative views, to stay quiet or you will be attacked.

In another example, a “Christian” bakery closes down because the owners were exhausted because of harassment by leftists.⁶⁵

Similarly, conservative-leaning teachers and university professors and many others in public life “keep their heads down” or retire early (just when we need them the most), to avoid being viciously attacked.

Aristotle sums up the character of tyrants

Aristotle recaps a tyrant this way: *there is no wickedness too great for him.*⁶⁶

Application: We see the truth of Aristotle’s observation in the decadence promoted by our increasingly-tyrannical governments. For example, Virginia’s governor and many other government leaders have sunk so low as to promote infanticide.⁶⁷

What can we do to oppose the increasing tyranny we are facing?

We are soldiers of Christ the King and we have a duty (and the honor!) of doing what we can to oppose the coming kingdom of Satan. But what can we do? Here are four things all of us can do:

1. Sanctify ourselves;
2. Pray hard for sinners and pray for the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary through the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the pope and bishops of the world;

⁶⁴ https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/hating-on-the-notre-dame-moms-wretched-view-of-leggings-takes-the-easy-way-out/2019/03/29/52edef40-5185-11e9-a3f7-78b7525a8d5f_story.html

⁶⁵ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/a-year-after-refusing-to-provide-cake-for-gay-wedding-christian-bakery-clos>

⁶⁶ Aristotle’s *Treatise on Politics*, Bk. 5, Ch. 11.

⁶⁷ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/virginia-gov.-supports-infanticide-of-babies-born-alive-after-failed-abortion>

3. Be a good example to others by our own conduct; and
4. Spread and speak the truth in your “little corner of the world”.

Below, we briefly discuss each of these points.

1. Sanctify ourselves

This is our principal duty in life and is the first element of serving and glorifying God.

Holiness of life is our main weapon in the fight against Satan and his minions. As St. John teaches: “this is the victory which overcometh the world, our faith.”⁶⁸ Our virtue and holiness are not only our main weapons but they also give effectiveness to our other weapons.

2. Pray hard for sinners and pray for the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary through the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the pope and bishops of the world

Our fight is for Christ the King. Our fight is more against Satan than against his evil minions. As St. Paul teaches:

Our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places.⁶⁹

That is always true. But in our times, one can see even more obviously that we are fighting Satan himself, as, *e.g.*, we increasingly see that our leftist enemies openly promote their connection to, and service of, demonic spirits.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ 1 *St. John*, 5:4.

⁶⁹ *Ephesians*, 6:12.

⁷⁰ Read about Satan’s connection with the Marxists here: <https://catholiccandle.org/2021/03/03/black-lives-matters-program-is-the-same-as-that-of-satan-and-marx/>

3. Be a good example to others by our own conduct

Our Lord told us: “So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”⁷¹ God wants us to live lives which are a beacon of light in the darkness around us.

Thus, we should not fear to live our Faith in public, without pretension and without apology. This means, *e.g.*, unostentatiously praying your meal prayer in public (*e.g.*, when you are in a restaurant), praying your morning rosary on the bus (when that is where you are when it is time for your prayers), not cowering before the “mask police” when entering a store or post office, *etc.*

As stated in the precept attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel always. When necessary, use words.”

Living the holy Catholic Faith without cowardliness will do much for the strength of your own Faith as well as for the encouragement of others. Our example will help our neighbor maintain his bearings in this disorienting world.

It is easy for people to lose hope because it seems that the whole world is against us. However, it is a great blessing to be alive now and to be serving Christ the King.⁷² We should live our lives cheerfully and courageously, always remembering that “If God be for us, who is against us?” *Romans*, 8:31. Our firmness and calm joy will “rub off” on others.

As much as possible, don’t cooperate with any of the tyranny being imposed by the governments and their allies. Be bold for Christ the King! In this way, you avoid giving bad example and you strengthen people to act courageously themselves.

4. Always spread and speak the truth in your “little corner of the world”.

God does not want us to teach everyone – otherwise He would have made us the “teacher of the world”. He gave us a tiny corner of the world in which to profess the truth – His Truth – to those that He puts in our path. We can do this in conversations, spreading good books and articles, *etc.*

For example, some of the *Catholic Candle* team, whose duties of state include weekly trips to the grocery store, have engaged in countless discussions about the Catholic Faith, which were started by store clerks or other customers because those *Catholic Candle*

⁷¹ *St. Matthew’s Gospel*, 5:16.

⁷² <https://catholiccandle.neocities.org/faith/hope-during-the-current-great-apostasy.html>

team members were modestly dressed, not wearing a mask/muzzle (when everyone else did), *etc.*

These discussions often have resulted in giving those clerks or customers rosaries, catechism books, good Catholic advice, *etc.*

This is what we should all do, as opportunity presents itself.

Let us always remember: we are first and foremost Catholics! We are subjects of Christ the King! Everything else we are, is secondary!

Thoughts of Comfort and Clarity During Revolutionary Times

(With a grateful “nod” to *Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens, especially the first and last paragraphs of this novel about the French Revolution)

‘Tis best of times and worst of times,
‘Tis age of wisdom and the fool,
It is the epoch of belief,
As well, the epoch incredulous.

It is the season of the Light,
And also season of the Dark,
The spring of promise and of hope,
The winter, which despair doth mark.

‘Tis best of times because our times,
Are made for us to save our soul,
The times to prove who loves Our Lord,
And places first th’ eternal goal.

‘Tis worst of times because our times,
Have revolution in the air,
The wolves and leftists in control,
We, for our martyrdom, prepare.

‘Tis age of wisdom, in our times,
We, saints or Satanists must be,
We must have greatest trust in God,
And live the right priority.

Yes, 'tis the time of fools galore,
With high regard for software fast,
But no care for eternal truth,
Nor the great learning of the past.

It is the epoch of belief,
A blind trust in the “science” fake,
“Religion” of the mask mandate,
And climate “crisis” man did make.

It is the epoch incredule,
Reject whatever use to be,
Reject Tradition, truth and good,
Trust feelings though, and “empathy”.

God Willed us to live now, and help,
Our children – both the young and grown,
This, leading to far-better rest,
God grant! – than we have ever known.

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