

The Flock

The Newsletter of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

"They may have our buildings - but we still have the faith" - St Athanasius (ca 350)

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HAS BERGOGLIO, THE PACHAMAMA PAPA, AT LAST CONSECRATED RUSSIA TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY? By Graham Moorhouse

Is a Church fronted by such characters as Jorge Pachamama Bergoglio and Sodom James Martin actually capabable of making a valid consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of our Heavenly Mother?

What are we to make of Pope Francis' consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary? Is this at



last what Heaven asked for - and what traditional Catholics have been praying for, for the last 100 years? My answer is I don't know, but I certainly hope and pray that it is. Furthermore, men like Bishop Athanasius Schneider, men much holier than I, have given it the thumbs up. We are, at the time of writing, still waiting to hear from Archbishop Viganò. Other men whose judgement I value, like Christopher Ferrara, seem to have, at least, an open mind.

The fact that Francis, a globalist plant and probably the worst pope in history, a pope who sounds more like a Lutheran when he preaches and seemingly trots out more heresies than one could throw a stick at, may be the man who finally did it, does not faze me. God has form when it comes to this sort of thing. He invariably picks the most unlikely of vessels to work His will. Who of us would have picked the three children of Fatima, illiterate, obscure, poor and sickly, to be the vessels that heralded, outside of Our Lord's Resurrection, the greatest miracle in history, the miracle of the sun? And that's just one of hundreds of examples one could pick.

Francis' whole speech was, as one would expect, liberally peppered with woke Vat2, Amazon Synod, and Pachamama trite cant: with references to our common home - and youth, of course, had to have its statutory mention. But not a word of anything that would upset the globalists, such as we have murdered more innocent human beings by abortion than have died in two world wars; no mention of the destruction of the family, nor of abominations such as gay "marriage", the devastation caused to the fabric of

society by radical feminism, the sexualising of small children, the promotion of a deviant, sterile sexuality to the young, the teaching of infants that they can choose between 83 genders, etc. And, no apology, of course, for the popes collectively defying Our Lady for nearly a century - Heaven asked Rome to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart in 1929, we are a mere 93 years late.

On the other hand, for all his bizarre shenanigans Francis does appear to have a genuine love for Our Lady and he referred to Our Lady as "The Mother of God" on numerous occasions, which must have sent our "ecumenical partners" and hundreds of modernist theologians into near cardiac arrest. Indeed, talk of the Immaculate Heart of Mary would also be a bogy word for the Modernists.

One matter of concern is the fact that Our Lady asked for the consecration to be done in communion with all the world's bishops. Rome invited the bishops to participate, but how many did is anyone's guess. We can only hope that sufficient did so to satisfy Heaven.

Another concern is that Our Lady was specific in her request, the consecration of Russia, not the consecration of every man and his dog, with Russia thrown in. Does it matter provided "Russia" was mentioned alongside all the other entities? Notwithstanding that the current war in Ukraine is largely the responsibility of Francis' globalist friends, I certainly don't believe that the mention of Ukraine matters in the current circumstances, especially as Ukraine was part of Russia when out Lady asked for the consecration. However, I will use an analogy: suppose my wife gave me a lovely photo of herself and expressed the wish that I displayed it on my office desk. If she was to visit my office and find the photo on my desk alongside 20 other photos of different women, would she be pleased? I have serious doubts. And would my response, "Well, I did what you asked and displayed your photo." placate her. Again, I have my doubts.

Which brings me to the central issue, "obedience." It would seem self-evident to most traditional Catholics that when Heaven asked for something to be done, we should be obedient and do it exactly as and when Heaven asked. The last thing we should be doing is mucking about with it to make it more politically correct and more palatable to man. It is this evident lack of a spirit of obedience that concerns me the most. Just how lenient is Heaven prepared to be? Again, I don't know.

Another aspect that must be mentioned: Our Lady asked that in addition to the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart, the devotion of the Five First Saturdays should be practised in reparation for sin. There was no mention of this by Francis. So this is where the laity can play a role. Not only can we make a point of practising this devotion, we can encourage others to do so and encourage our priests to promote this devotion. The laity can also do penance, pray and fast in a spirit of reparation for the offence caused to Our Blessed Lord by our sin.

One problem the laity have is we still do not know the contents of the third secret of Fatima; we have the vision of the Bishop in White being killed in Rome, but no explanation of this vision. This means that we are trying to make intelligent judgements

whilst having been denied the right to see the full picture. Which is a little like being put into a boxing ring with one hand tied behind one's back.

Ultimately, none of my musings matter. If this consecration has satisfied Heaven, we will know soon enough, for within the next couple of decades there should be a dramatic change for the better in the world's and human affairs. In the meantime, say your rosary every day and add the devotion of the Five First Saturdays to your spiritual life. That way, at least the Catholic laity can please their Heavenly Mother.

FOLLOW THE SCIENCE: AN HONEST LOOK AT THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE Written by Christopher A. Ferrara (Copied from the Remnant)

As of the date of Putin's invasion, it appears that some 65% of Ukraine's population was unvaccinated. Did Putin really have a choice?

War is no laughing matter. But what is laughable, as well as criminal, is the manner in which the



perpetually lying media and the bipartisan War Party have managed to hide the historical facts which demonstrate that what is happening in Ukraine at this very moment is yet another debacle orchestrated by the arrogant buffoons who administer an American foreign policy that could not have been better designed to destabilize existing regimes, throw vast regions of the world into turmoil, and generate endless war and suffering that never touches the instigating elites. Putin's invasion of Ukraine is the war these ghouls did everything in their power to provoke. Indeed, they would have been furious had Putin *not* invaded. Now they are delighted at the emergence of yet another selfmade crisis they will exploit to the hilt.

Think what you will of Putin and his move against Ukraine, but who among us can deny, given our bitter experience, the truth of his observation on February 24 that even "US politicians, political scientists and journalists write and say that a veritable 'empire of lies' has been created inside the United States in recent years. It is hard to disagree with this – it is really so." The U.S. invasion of Iraq, assisted by its United Kingdom puppet, was premised on a Big Lie about "weapons of Mass destruction" that Bush and his collaborators plainly knew did not exist. The outcome of that debacle was the destruction of the Iraqi state, the death of some 500,000 civilians due to the war itself and the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, and then a bloody civil war involving Sunni, Shia and Kurdish factions in which another 100,000 innocents lost their lives. Iraq to-

day is a Shiite theocracy, closely allied to the Shiite theocracy in Iran. Since the immoral and illegal U.S. invasion, the Christian population in Iraq has fallen by over 80% —from 1.4 million, most of them Chaldean Catholics, to "less than 250,000." No one summarized this moral travesty at the time better than the Australian journalist John Pilger:

How have we got to this point, where two western governments take us into an illegal and immoral war against a stricken nation with whom we have no quarrel and who offer us no threat: an act of aggression opposed by almost everybody and whose charade is transparent?

How can they attack, in our name, a country already crushed by more than 12 years of an embargo aimed mostly at the civilian population, of whom 42 per cent are children - a medieval siege that has taken the lives of at least half a million children and is described as genocidal by the former United Nations humanitarian coordinator for Iraq?

Regarding Iraq, the Editor of this journal sacrificed a huge chunk of his readership in order to speak the self-evident truth even the "support our troops" brigade would eventually be forced to acknowledge. And yes, we did tell you so.

And what but a tissue of lies emanating from the Empire of Lies was U.S. "foreign policy" in Afghanistan? For more than 20 years, American blood and treasure were poured into desert sands 7,000 miles from our shores in pursuit of the fool's errand of attempting to make Afghanistan into a replica of Delaware. Biden's disastrously botched withdrawal allowed the Taliban, many of whom were formerly members of the CIA-funded Mujahedin, to take over the country as the Afghan government collapsed. The entire 20-year-long war was thus instantly rendered pointless.

Trump's election was in large part the result of the electorate's revulsion over the results of permanent Washington's insane blundering about in the Middle East: between Iraq and Afghanistan, 7,000 soldiers dead, countless more horribly maimed for life, and \$8.5 trillion down the drain. For nothing. For vastly worse than nothing.

Then there was the 1999 U.S.-led NATO bombing of Serbian Christians which did not pause even during Holy Week. The aim there was to coerce Serbia's acceptance of the secession of the province of Kosovo in an insurrection by ethnic Muslim Albanians whose weapons were supplied by the Clinton administration. An appeal by the Orthodox hierarchy to Clinton to stop the bombing was unheeded. After Serbia was bombed into accepting the creation of the Muslim-dominated Republic of Kosovo, "spring ethnic cleansing by Serbs was 'replaced by the fall ethnic cleansing of Serbs, Romas, Bosniaks and other non-Albanians accompanied by the same atrocities."

Consider also the extra-judicial killing of Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gadhafi in 2011, which included sodomization with a bayonet. As that Ghoul of Ghouls, Hillary Clinton, famously exulted over U.S. involvement in the uprising that led to al-Gadhafi's assassination, including the bombing of Libyan targets by B-52 and B-1 bombers: "We came, we saw, he died." The result is a humanitarian crisis that persists to this day due to the "permanent fracture of Libya as armed militant groups

have tried to divide the country along political and tribal lines. Moreover, in the absence of a primary governing body, migration and human trafficking have remained problematic." Even Libya's post-Gadhafi transitional government vowed "it will prosecute anyone found responsible for the death of Muammar Gadafy [sic] after his capture." Hillary did not appear in the dock.

Turning to Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen during the Obama administration—which continues to this day—it was American-made bombs away once again. For example, as Rand Paul has noted: "American-built planes with American bombs were used by the Saudis to bomb a funeral procession in Yemen. Over 100 people were killed, and 500 mourners were wounded. *Active-duty American pilots have been refueling the planes* dropping bombs across Yemen." The Saudis' aim is to bomb into oblivion the Houthis who, back in 2015, overthrew the government of the Saudis' man Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. The Houthis were allied with members of the Yemeni military who were loyal to Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's former President who was toppled during the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011 and later assassinated (by Houthis!). Who financed and helped orchestrate those uprisings? The United States, of course.

By citing these examples of America's ruinous Middle East interventions it is not my aim to provide a moral justification for Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That would be the fallacy of *tu quoque*. But it cannot honestly be denied that Putin's invasion is an American Rules operation: bomb, invade, destroy in order to effect the desired regime change. Bomb, invade, destroy are the rules of U.S. "foreign policy" in the Middle East. In Putin's case, however, an American Rules war on Ukraine at least makes strategic sense as compared to the utterly senseless U.S. invasion and wholesale destruction of Iraq, which makes the invasion of Ukraine look like a minor skirmish. If that claim seems excessive, consider the assessment of the renowned historical scholar Andrew Bacevich, Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History at Boston University. In a piece entitled precisely "The Ukraine Invasion is nothing compared to Iraq," Bacevich mocks the claim that Putin is violating "norms" of international law:

The frequently heard charge that Putin's invasion of Ukraine violates ostensibly sacred international "norms" holds no water. No such norms exist — at least none that a great power will recognize as inhibiting its own freedom of action. For proof, we need look no further than the recent behavior of the United States which has routinely demonstrated a willingness to write its own norms while employing violence on a scale far exceeding anything that Russia has done or is likely to do.

Bacevich is at pains to add that "Russian actions in Ukraine deserve universal condemnation." But then, so did U.S. actions in Iraq and Iran, the latter involving U.S. support of none other than Saddam Hussein when he was still useful to Washington: "[A]s crimes go, Putin's aggression pales in comparison with the human toll exacted by Saddam Hussein's US-supported war of choice against Iran. As for the calamitous results of the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, the impact of Russia's incursion into Ukraine rates as trivial by comparison." That is simply the fact of the matter.

What is happening in Ukraine, says Bacevich, is but a reflection of "geopolitical imperatives that predate the modern era. Nation-states compete against one another to advance their own interests. Pursuant to that competition, they employ various means, with suasion typically the preferred option. Given the uncertainty inherent in war, along with the likelihood of unintended consequences and higher than expected costs, violence tends to be a last resort. But last resort does not mean never. In international politics, these are the enduring facts of life." Even Obama acknowledged the facts of life concerning Ukraine: "The fact is that Ukraine, which is a non-nato country, is going to be vulnerable to military domination by Russia no matter what we do.... But this is an example of where we have to be very clear about what our core interests are and what we are willing to go to war for."

Yet, as I write this piece, lunatics in the U.S. Congress and among the babbling bobbleheads of the perpetually lying media are clamouring for a U.S.-enforced no-fly zone over Ukraine, meaning a hot war with Russia over a nation of no strategic importance whatsoever to this country—an event that would almost certainly trigger World War III. Why are these lunatics willing to risk the fate of humanity over the integrity of Ukraine's borders? The answer, however inadvertently, was revealed by a member of Ukraine's parliament in a video Tweet that included a shot of her posing fetchingly with a rifle: "But right now it's a critical time because we know that we not only fight for Ukraine, [but] we fight for this New World Order for the democratic countries." By "New World Order" she probably does not mean the New World Order with its one-world government but simply universal liberal democracy in which unborn children are murdered at will by the millions and men pretending to be women are allowed by woke morons to trounce real women in athletic events. In any event, the gun-toting bottle blond has intuited that she stands for something much larger than Ukraine.

Poor Ukraine. As Lee Smith rightly observes, she is but a dispensable pawn in an American Rules game of geopolitical chess. Recall the "Russian Reset" of 2009-13 during the Obama administration. Recall the mockery to which Mitt Romney was subjected by the Democrats and the media and even most of his rival candidates when he suggested during the runup to the 2012 election that Russia was then "our No.1 geopolitical foe." As Ann Coulter notes, the *Times* ran an editorial ridiculing Romney for "a shocking lack of knowledge about international affairs or just craven politics," while the BBC huffed that Romney's view of Russia showed "his lack of experience in foreign policy." Rachel Maddow—before she became the hysterical Hammer of Putin sneered at the very idea of a "threatening Russia." Recall, as well, the Beltway elites' former opposition to sending lethal weapons to Ukraine back in 2015. As Coulter reminds us, in that year the *Times* ran an interview with Matthew Rojansky, director of the Kennan Institute, who explained that "sending lethal weapons to Ukraine would make the U.S. 'a belligerent party in a proxy war with Russia, the only country on Earth that can destroy the United States. That's why this is a big deal.' This was 'the view of many experts,' the *Times* added." Also opposed to lethal weapons for Ukraine at the time were German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Leslie Gelb, president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations and Professor Graham Allison of Harvard, national defense expert.

Nor can we forget that Joe Biden was Vice President when Putin annexed Crimea in response to the U.S.-orchestrated overthrow of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych in 2014 (about which more below). As Buchanan explains: "Rather than lose Sevastopol, Russia's historic naval base in Crimea, Putin seized the peninsula and declared it Russian territory." The Obama-Biden administration's response to *that* invasion of Ukraine was, as even the neo-con Brookings Institute admits, "weak and underwhelming"—i.e., ineffectual sanctions. Further, says Brookings, although "Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014 was the final nail in the coffin of the Reset, President Obama remained reluctant to view Moscow as anything more than a local spoiler, and thought the whole mess was best handled by Europeans." Which happens to be exactly the truth.

But with the election of Donald Trump, Russia was instantly transmogrified, as Coulter writes, "into the most evil country on earth" and Putin into the arch-nemesis of the U.S. with whom Trump had treasonously "colluded" in some vague manner to "steal" the 2016 election. And so, to prove that he was no puppet of Putin as the fantasy claimed, Trump did precisely what his opponents had rejected during the Obama years: shipping lethal weapons to Ukraine. But that did not prevent his impeachment for allegedly holding up the shipment until he received information on Hunter Biden's corrupt Ukrainian dealings—information he and the American people had a right to receive, and Trump had a duty to obtain. But the supposed quid pro quo with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy—which he himself flatly and repeatedly denied—never existed. Like Trump's nebulous "collusion" with Russia, it was pure fantasy.

As we can see, in the chess game the U.S. is playing with its Ukrainian pawn, American foreign policy on Russia (to quote Coulter again) "flips back and forth with the politics of the moment." But overall, Putin views Ukraine as a grave threat because, "for nearly two decades, the U.S. national security establishment under both Democratic and Republican administrations has used Ukraine as an instrument to destabilize Russia, and specifically to target Putin." Consider, first of all, how Zelenskyy came to power following the aforementioned overthrow of President Yanukovych (once the Russian Reset had outlived its usefulness). Due to the "Orange Revolution" of 2004-2005—one of a string of U.S.-orchestrated "color revolutions" in former Soviet republics—Yanukovych's election in 2005 was annulled and he lost the new election ordered by the Supreme Court of Ukraine. But in 2010 the pro-Russian Yanukovych had the temerity to be elected again, this time in an election even Wikipedia admits "was judged free and fair by international observers." The globalist establishment, led by permanent Washington, would have none of that. So, with dreary predictability, Yanukovych was overthrown during the U.S.-backed "Revolution of Dignity" in 2014.

Two months after Yanukovych's flight from the country, then Vice President Biden visited Ukraine "as the public face of the administration's handling of Ukraine." Days later, Hunter Biden was on the board of Burisma, and millions of dollars began flowing

into the Biden family's collective pocket. There has never been a more blatant conflict of interest in the history of American foreign relations. Except perhaps the Biden family's corrupt dealings with China, including off-the-books meetings between Vice President Biden, Hunter Biden and Chinese Communist officials in the White House, after which came the Chinese business deals that reaped some \$31 million for the Bidens. (This would explain why Biden had nothing to say during his bumbling State of the Union address about China's support of Putin's invasion, including China's assistance in working around the U.S.- and EU-imposed financial sanctions.)

Following the one-year term of Interim President Oleksandr Turchynov in 2014 and the five-year term of Petro Poroshenko-during which Vice President Biden extorted the firing of the state prosecutor investigating his son's (and thus his own) corrupt dealings with Burisma—Zelenskyy was elected as the sixth President of Ukraine. A former TV comedian and actor, the first Jewish president of the country was known for performing diabolically obscene "comedy" skits of such unspeakable depravity I cannot even describe them, much less link to them. This sicko is now being hailed as a latter-day Churchill (a vastly more impressive sicko) and the heroic defender of democracy for the Ukrainian people. But Zelenskyv is just another U.S.-sponsored autocrat. In May of 2021 he had his most prominent political opponent, the pro-Russian head of the Opposition for Life party, Viktor Medvedchuk, placed under house arrest on charges of "treason," where he remains to this day. For good measure, Zelenskyy issued a decree shutting down three pro-Russian TV channels for at least five years and sanctioning eight media and TV companies "in order to protect national security." The head of the Ukrainian Union of Journalists protested that "The deprivation of access to Ukrainian media for an audience of millions without a court [proceeding] ... is an attack on freedom of expression." Those millions include the population of eastern Ukraine, which is essentially Russian. Indeed, Ukraine as a whole has historically been part of Russia during the Empire and the Soviet Union. Today, the separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk formally consider themselves part of Russia once again.

Also quite useful to Western elites is Zelensky's wife Olena, who dutifully "initiated Ukraine's accession to the G7 international initiative on gender equality, the Biarritz Partnership," which Ukraine joined in September of 2020—one of only six countries outside the G7 to do so. Among other depraved Western desiderata, the advisory committee of the Biarritz Partnership calls for rigorous enforcement of school girls' "sexual and reproductive rights." The terminally amoral Western democracies could not ask for more obedient Ukrainian stooges than Ukraine's first couple, the beneficiaries of a U.S.-backed coup. That is why, beyond the obvious military threat of Ukraine as a potentially nuclear-armed NATO member abutting Russia, Putin at least professes to fear the cultural and social consequences of the eastward expansion of Western powers to Russia's very borders. As he said in a speech and colloquy with an international gathering of journalists, intellectuals and politicians last October:

"Looking at what is happening in a number of Western countries, we are amazed to see the domestic practices, which we, fortunately, have left, I hope, in the distant past. The fight for equality and against discrimination has turned into aggressive dogmatism bordering on absurdity, when the works of the great authors of the past – such as Shakespeare – are no longer taught at schools or universities, because their ideas are believed to be backward. The classics are declared backward and ignorant of the importance of gender or race. In Hollywood memos are distributed about proper storytelling and how many characters of what colour or gender should be in a movie. This is even worse than the agitprop department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union....

"Some people in the West believe that an aggressive elimination of entire pages from their own history, "reverse discrimination" against the majority in the interests of a minority, and the demand to give up the traditional notions of mother, father, family and even gender, they believe that all of these are the mile- posts on the path towards social renewal....

"Anyone who dares mention that men and women actually exist, which is a biological fact, risks being ostracised. "Parent number one" and "parent number two," "birthing parent" instead of "mother," and "human milk" replacing "breast milk" because it might upset the people who are unsure about their own gender. I repeat this is nothing new; in the 1920s; the so-called Soviet Kulturtraegers also invented some newspeak believing they were creating a new consciousness and changing values that way. And, as I have already said, they made such a mess it still makes one shudder at times.

"Not to mention some truly monstrous things when children are taught from an early age that a boy can easily become a girl and vice versa. That is, the teachers actually impose on them a choice we all supposedly have. They do so while shutting the parents out of the process and forcing the child to make decisions that can upend their entire life. They do not even bother to consult with child psychologists – is a child at this age even capable of making a decision of this kind? Calling a spade a spade, this verges on a crime against humanity, and it is being done in the name and under the banner of progress.

Honesty compels one to admit that if Putin's name were not attached to these "anti-American" and "anti-democratic" remarks, they would receive a standing ovation from any audience composed of this journal's readers.

Honesty also requires the recognition that this war is none of our business, as even Obama rightly suggested, and that the Western elites and their media mouthpieces are encouraging the Ukrainian people to fight and die in a conflict they cannot win, as the brilliant Col. Doug McGregor patiently explained to a clueless Trey Gowdy, leaving him speechless. Putin's goal, says McGregor, is to reach a negotiated neutral status for eastern Ukraine—which, again, is essentially Russian—in order to create a buffer against NATO, perhaps including outright annexation, while leaving western Ukraine alone as he lacks the military means to capture and hold it. McGregor noted that Biden has indicated to Putin that this would be an acceptable resolution of the conflict. Said McGregor:

We are imputing to him [Putin] things that he does not want to do, in our usual effort to demonize him and his country. We need to remember that Ukraine is fourth from the bottom of countries in the world as corrupt. Russia is perhaps three or four places above them. This is not the liberal democracy, the shining example, that everyone says it is. Far from it. Mr. Zelenskyy has jailed journalists and his political opposition. I think we need to stay out of it. The American people think we should stay out of it. The Europeans think we should stay of out it. And we should stop shipping weapons and encouraging Ukrainians to die in what is a hopeless endeavor.

The U.S. and the Europeans will indeed "stay out of it," adding fuel to the fire from afar. Meanwhile, the U.S. will continue to import Russian oil, thereby indirectly financing Russia's war machine, as well as oil from Iran. And the Biden administration will do absolutely nothing about China's role in support of Putin's invasion, which not only China, but India, Pakistan and 32 other nations have declined to condemn by abstaining from a vote on the U.N.'s condemnatory resolution.

It's all a game by the powers that be, with small and dispensable nations being the pieces on their globalist chessboard. To quote Lee Smith: "By tying itself to an American administration that had shown itself to be reckless and dangerous, the Ukrainians made a geopolitical blunder that statesmen will study for years to come: A buffer state had staked its future on a distant power that had simply seen it as an instrument to annoy its powerful neighbor with no attachment to any larger strategic concept that it was willing to support."

In the game of chess, one must be prepared to sacrifice a pawn or two in the effort to kill the King. If the effort fails, the pawns are gone, and the king—in this case, Putin—survives. So, it seems, will it be with the people of Ukraine. May God help them. And may Our Lady of Fatima intervene to prevent the world war the godless, reckless fools who rule a dying West are determined to provoke.





Christopher A. Ferrara: President and lead counsel for the American Catholic Lawyers Inc., Mr. Ferrara has been at the forefront of the legal defense of pro-lifers for the better part of a quarter century. Having served with the legal team for high profile victims of the culture of death such as Terri Schiavo, he has long since distinguished himself as a premier civil rights Catholic lawyer. Mr. Ferrara has been a lead columnist for The

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AN ADDRESS RE TRADITIONIS CUSTODES BY FR JAMES MAWDSLEY Edited by Graham Moorhouse

Last July his letter accompanying Traditionis Custodes, Pope Francis declared his intention eradicate traditional the liturgy. He impossibly claimed the Novus Ordo constitutes the unique expression of the lex orandi of the Roman Rite. It is important to withstand the



Pope on this *publicly* - one reason is to save his soul. King Herod was not a Christian when he wanted the infant Jesus put to death - and now shall the Pope put Christ to death. Caiaphas was high priest of the old covenant when he arranged for Jesus' execution - now shall the vicar of Christ, try to have Christ's Memorial destroyed.

The Cardinals are officially friends of the Pope. We can hope some of them have remonstrated quietly with the Pope as Jesus instructed. "And if he listens to them, you will have regained your brother." But as Francis has not backed away from this sacrilege, the passage continues, "If he will not listen to you, invite one or two more. And if

he will not listen to them, tell the Church." Why does Jesus say one must go public to the Church? Countless Catholics are wounded by this beating from the Pope, there are priests and faithful who are devastated by it. And there are also those many Catholics who've been kept in the dark about the hierarchy's long assault on tradition, because this assault didn't begin with Francis. Maybe one good that can come from this is that more people wake up to tradition - as they are in fact doing.

Jesus warned against causing scandal. Just before those verses from Matthew, Jesus said, "But he that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea." What then, if not just one, but tens of thousands are being pushed out by the shepherds?

Another reason to go public is so that those who are aware of this attack on tradition and who care about it, don't think that they are crazy. Don't let Francis gaslight you. What is happening is evil beyond description. The highest power on earth is attacking the greatest good on earth, when it's his job to defend and preserve tradition and to pass it on to the next generation.

Archbishop Roche, in an interview in which almost every sentence he spoke was either untrue or misleading, stated that the negative reaction to Traditionis Custodes has been very little. Well, Archbishop, what to expect when a reign of terror is unleashed? Of course, people are keeping their heads down. Many clerics do not say openly what they think because they're afraid of vicious reprisals. They're afraid of confirmations or baptisms being banned in the old rite, or being told they can no longer celebrate the old Mass, as is already happening; the carnage has already begun.

Truth is needed for spiritual health. Without truth we starve. It's not enough to know it in our hearts. We need to hear truth spoken by men in authority, by bishops and Cardinals, we need to hear them publicly confirm that nobody has the right to attack tradition. We need to go public also for those Catholics who don't know or don't care what's happening because they don't come to Mass anymore, because for 70 years they've been robbed. We might not understand if we simply think the Pope is attacking the old Mass. The fact is that the Pope is attacking God's revelation. And that should matter to everybody. To reject tradition is to reject Christ. We know that it would be evil to change the Scriptures. St John warns us that if any man shall take away from the words of the Book, God shall take away his part in the book of life. And St. Paul warns us that if even an angel from Heaven preached a gospel to you beside that which we have preached to you, let him be anathema.

But the truth of Christ comes through both Scripture and tradition. And just as it's evil to doctor or corrupt the Scriptures, so it is evil to obstruct tradition. The received rites may not be condemned; they're received in order to be guarded, defended, celebrated, and passed on to the next generation to the end of time. The prophet Isaiah spoke to us, "O my people, your leaders mislead you. The Lord enters into judgment with the elders and princes of his people. What you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor."

The prophet is confronting the leaders and princes who are crushing God's people is speaking to the hierarchy of today. And Jesus as well, with such clarity, "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! For your close the kingdom of Heaven before men. For you yourselves do not enter, and those who are entering, you would not permit to enter."

You may personally hate the old Mass, but you can see that Christians love it. They love to encounter Christ there. They pray there more deeply than anywhere. Why would you take this away? St Paul says about the various gifts, "He who governs, in solitude." That means he who rules in carefulness for those under him. And yet we see this abuse by a spiritual father trying to destroy those who hold onto tradition.

And a third reason for going public is for the future, so that we do not have another destroyer following Frances. This is even more important than the suffering of our own generation. In recent years, fears have been raise, however unrealistic, that the next Pope might be Cardinal Parolin or Tagle. But would things be much better under any other? This didn't begin with Francis; this attack on tradition has been going on for 70 years. There are plenty of men in the chanceries of the world who will keep this gratuitous destruction going if they find another destroyer in Rome to lead them. Men like Cardinal Cupich, who announced his persecution of traditionalists on Christmas day. Cupice wants no truths on Christmas day; he prefers war and slaughter. Of all the days of the year, he chose Christmas to drop the axe. Who does that? Is that not sick? All the blogs restrain themselves on the great feasts; they put the focus wholly on Christ, or they go silent, but not Cardinal Cupich, he wants no peace of Christ at Christmas, he wants carnage. He is like another Herod.

Archbishop Roche, one of Francis' Traditionis Custodes enforcers, claimed the vast majority of bishops of the world are very much behind what the Holy Father is saying. That's unbelievable given the reactions of the vast majority bishops of the world, but this is precisely why we need to hear in public from bishops what the truth is, otherwise men like Archbishop Roche will get away with their black propaganda. And it's so depressing to think that the shepherds can't find it in them the courage to defend Christ, and to defend the flock, and to defend tradition. They must go public?

Luke described how the chief priest and the scribes and the ancients were afraid to answer Jesus question about St. John the Baptist, but they didn't dare to tell a lie. They said, "If we say of men, the whole people will stone us; for they are persuade that John was a prophet." The people then would not tolerate BS from their religious leaders and neither should we - we know where it leads when eventually the people were manipulated into following their corrupt leaders into calling for the death of Christ.

Christ has risen. Do we want to crucify Him again? The Church to be herself, needs to return to tradition, "Restore us to thyself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old!" One good thing that might come from all this is that we all learn that there is no power on earth, no prime minister, no president, no Bishop, no Cardinal, no Pope, no one has the authority to close all the churches or to try to ban the traditional Mass. The antichrist will want to do that. And what's going to happen if we're so stu-

pid that we say, oh, well, this leader has said it so we'll have to do it. No, we need to be immunized now against this folly, we have the sources of our faith: Scripture and tradition. The Pope's job is to preserve that, not to be a source of revelation himself, not to set a new direction for the Church. The direction for the Church has been given us by Jesus Christ. Peter and Paul and the Apostles took it in that same direction and for 2000 years it has been unchanged. This is no time for anybody to try to set a new direction for the Church. The antichrist will try that in his time, but we need to learn now that it's impossible. Those who wish to be faithful, who wish to cleave to Christ must do so. God bless you all.

YOUR EDITORS TAKE ON THE UKRAINE CONFLICT

Re Russia's invasion of Ukraine, I'm not an apologist for Putin, I merely find the rank hypocrisy of western governments and their bought and paid for media nauseating.

We and the US and other western governments, in the last fifteen years or so, have bombed Serbia into submission, destroying much of its infrastructure, and killing God alone knows how many civilians in the process. I remember that one of our bombs hit a TV station killing a couple of dozen journalists and support staff. We bombed Tunisia and organised the assassination of its leader; he was murdered by having a bayonet shoved into his rectum - how many innocent civilians died in that campaign I have no idea. We bombed Syria in an attempt to force regime change - again, how many innocent men, women and children died in that bombing, I have no idea. We invaded Afghanistan, and stayed there killing locals for 20 years. We invaded Iraq and over half a million innocent men, women and children died in the course of the ensuing conflicts.

In none of these countries did we have any strategic interest: we just didn't like their politics. And most of them are today worse off for our involvement. We have handed over Afghanistan to medieval knuckleheads who think nothing of publicly flogging a young woman for the crime of speaking to a man on her iPhone, or of burying a young woman up to her waist and then throwing rocks at her until she is dead for some minor sexual peccadillo. By the way, the Taliban are the child of the Mujahidin, who were trained and armed by America. The Christian population in Iraq (most of them Chaldean Catholics) who have lived in peace for some 2,000 years has fallen by over 80% - from 1.4 million, to less than 250,000 - as a result of persecution of Christians by the medieval morons we and the Americans have put in power.

Yet when Russia invades a country on its own border, in which it clearly has a legitimate strategic interest, the west and its tame media goes into overdrive denouncing Putin 24/7 as a tyrant. Humbug! Humbug! Humbug!

There are half a dozen wars going on in the world right now; why is the media only interested in this one? Even as I write Western airmen are fuelling planes for Saudi pilots to go and bomb Yemenis. They not so long ago killed 140 mourners at a funeral, including women and children - Ops. Have you got anything against the Yeminis? I'm sure as hell I haven't. When did you vote to have your taxes spent bombing them, whilst our tame media looks the other way?

And as for the mainstream media, we really do need to wake up to the fact that it is a veritable empire of lies. Which is the sort of thing that happens when your media is staffed by woke Bolshevist activists pretending to be journalists. Here are just a few recent examples:

- 1. During the Rohingyas expulsion from Myanmar (Burma), to prove how wicked the Myanmar army was, the BBC was showing us picture of victims of conflicts that had taken place twenty years earlier in other countries and even other continents, and pretending they were crimes perpetrated by the Myanmar army!
- 2. Then we had the mainstream media showing videos of chemical weapons being used by President Assad on his own people. Why Assad would want to use chemical weapons on his own people was never explained. There was just one problem, the exact same videos could be found on the Internet, but it ran on for an extra 5 minutes. During that extra time, the children, who had supposedly been gassed, jump up and, looking perfectly happy and healthy, say to the film crew things like, "Have we finished? Can we go home now."
- 3. Then we have the whole Covid fiasco. The mainstream media started out in early 2020 showing pictures of Chinamen dropping dead in the streets, supposedly from Covid. Whilst I was asking obvious questions like, "How come they have camera crews on hand to film such random events?" and "If they are dead, how come they are putting their hands out to break their falls?" I'm pretty sure dead men don't do that. But, sadly, it seems most people happily swallowed the fake BS.
- 4. Then around March/April 2020 we had the story pushed out by the mainstream media over about four days about people dying in Italy from Covid at such a rate that Italian funeral directors were unable to cope. We were gleefully shown pictures of coffins piled up in marquees, funeral yards and lorries, etc. There was just one problem, more people died in Italy in the first quarter of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, than in the first quarter of 2020, so how come the funeral directors couldn't cope in 2020? Fortunately, I have two good Italian friends who sent me the answer: the coffins were piled up because the Italian government had temporally banned funerals. Are you expecting me to seriously believe that the BBC and the rest of the lying western media didn't know this when they ran these stories?
- 5. And as for the Russia/Ukraine conflict, a week ago I was watching a report I believe put out by CNN (the nearest the Americans have to the BBC). It showed a street, supposedly in Ukraine, full of hundreds of body bags, the victims it claimed of indiscriminate Russian bombing. There was just one problem: if, instead of focusing on the face of the reporter, you looked carefully over his right shoulder while he was talking, you would spot something very odd: one of the body bags blows open and the "corpse" inside reaches up and pulls the zip shut!
- 6. Then, of course, there is the whole global warming scam. There is not a scrap of scientific evidence to support the lie that CO² has any negative effect on the planet the sun controls the earth's climate yet that doesn't stop the mainstream media

banging on about it endlessly. Apparently, we should believe the scam because some Swedish teenager (who hasn't even got an "O" level in science) says its true.

Another salient fact: the West has been meddling in the internal affairs of Ukraine for decades. The Ukrainians twice elected a pro-Russian president. On both occasions, the West smuggling in money, weapons and agent-provocateurs to ferment a fake uprising to unseat the elected president. The current president, a ex-depraved comic, is a west-ern/CIA plant who wanted Ukraine to join NATO.

Of course Russia doesn't want NATO, a hostile military alliance, on its border - anymore than we would tolerate an independent Scotland joining the Warsaw Pact. Furthermore, eastern Ukraine and the Crimea are peopled by ethnic Russians who want independence from Western Ukraine. Russia negotiated a peace deal about eight years ago between the warring factions, it was called the Minsk Agreement. This agreement allowed for a certain autonomy of those regions who wanted it (like Scotland in the UK) and guaranteed that Ukraine would remain neutral (like Switzerland). The problem is that Ukraine has not honoured the agreement it signed up to. It regularly bombs those regions seeking autonomy and has sought to join both NATO and the EU. Are you aware that Ukraine, with western backing, has been shelling the Donbas region and the Crimea, and according to some authorities some 14,000 civilians have died from this shelling? You won't be told that by our western bought and paid for media.

Whether or not I agree with the Russian invasion of eastern Ukraine is irrelevant, I simply do not believe that the war-mongering, bone-headed globalists who rule most of the West left Putin much choice.

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PS The following is a translation of the opening paragraphs of a speech made by Putin to the Russian parliament. The speech goes on longer, but the following are the opening paragraphs and give one an insight into the conflict from the Russian viewpoint. There are always two sides to these conflicts. It is important to hear both sides before mindless soaking up western media propaganda:

"We are meeting at a difficult time, when our Armed Forces are conducting a special military operation in Ukraine and Donbas. Let me remind you that at the very beginning of it, in the early morning of February 24, I publicly and openly named the reasons and the main goal of Russia's actions. This is assistance to our people in the Donbas, who for almost eight years were subjected to real genocide by the most barbaric methods – blockade, large-scale punitive actions, terrorist attacks and constant artillery shelling. And for what? Only for the fact that they sought basic human rights – to live according to the laws and traditions of their ancestors, to speak their native language, to raise their children the way they want.

At the same time, the Kiev authorities not only ignored and sabotaged the implementation of the Minsk package of measures for the peaceful settlement of the crisis throughout all these years, but at the end of last year they publicly refused to implement it altogether. They have also begun to put into practice plans to join NATO. Moreover, there were also statements by the Kiev authorities about their intention to create their own nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. It was a real threat. Already in the foreseeable future, with foreign technical assistance, the pro-Nazi regime in Kiev could get its hands on weapons of Mass destruction, and the target for it, of course, would be Russia.

In Ukraine, there was also a network of dozens of laboratories where military biological programmes were conducted under the leadership and with the financial support of the Pentagon, including experiments with samples of coronavirus, anthrax, cholera, African swine fever and other deadly diseases. Traces of these secret programmes are now being intensively tried to cover up. But we have every reason to believe that in the immediate vicinity of Russia, on the territory of Ukraine, in fact, biological weapons components were created.

Our repeated warnings that such a development poses a direct threat to Russia's security have been rejected by Ukraine and its patrons in the United States and NATO, with ostentatious and cynical disdain.

Thus, all diplomatic options were completely exhausted. We were simply left with no options to peacefully solve problems that arise through no fault of our own. And in this regard, we were simply forced to launch a special military operation.

The appearance of Russian troops near Kiev and other cities of Ukraine is not connected with the intention to occupy this country. We do not have such a goal, and I also explicitly stated this in my address on February 24.

As for the tactics of combat operations, which were developed by the Ministry of Defense of Russia and our General Staff, they have fully justified themselves. And our men – soldiers and officers – show courage and heroism, do everything that depends on them to avoid losses among the civilian population of Ukrainian cities.

I want to say this for the first time: at the very beginning of the operation in the Donbas, the Kiev authorities were asked through various channels, in order to avoid senseless bloodshed, not to enter into hostilities, but simply to withdraw their troops from the Donbas. They didn't want to. Well, that's their decision. Awareness of what is happening in the real world, on the ground, will inevitably come.

The operation is developing successfully, in strict accordance with pre-approved plans.

I would like to note that Ukraine, encouraged by the United States and a number of Western countries, purposefully prepared for a scenario of force, carnage and ethnic cleansing in Donbas. A Massive offensive into the Donbas and then Crimea was only a matter of time. And our Armed Forces foiled these plans.

Kiev was not only preparing for war, for aggression against Russia, against Donbas—they were fighting it. Attempts to organize sabotage and terrorist underground in Crimea did not stop. In recent years, hostilities have continued in the Donbas, shelling of

peaceful settlements. During this time, almost 14,000 civilians were killed, among them children."

LIZ O'HANLON RIP OBITUARY FOR AN IRISH FLOCK READER AND FEARLESS CHAMPION OF THE FAITH - By Richard Greene (a long time friend of Liz)

A great lady Liz O'Hanlon passed to the Lord on the 26th January 2022. She was a great promoter and lover of the Traditional Mass and promoter of the penny catechism all over Ireland and overseas.

Her death is deeply regretted by her husband Redmond and five children, Sarah, Sinead, Redmond, Claire, and Patrick and her grandchildren and relatives and many friends. I first met Liz and her husband Redmond in 1991 as their local public representative, I was running in a general election for Dáil Éireann (Ireland's Parliament). When they discovered that I was running as a pro-life candidate, I was immediately welcomed into their home and a friendship of over 30 years had begun.

Liz ran a catechism class in her home and as my children were the same age as hers, our children attended it and benefitted much from that and that is no small part of her great legacy. She loved the Traditional Mass and liturgy and attended it daily in St John the Evangelist church in Monkstown, County Dublin. She became a rock of support to the priests who served in the above-mentioned church and the community that attended Mass there, through her tireless work in running the bookshop, helping organise functions after various religious ceremonies such as baptisms, holy communions, confirmations, and special occasions.

During the last 40 years, there were many hard battles fought in referendums and political campaigns against the evil of abortion, the promotion of homosexuality, so-called same sex marriage, and other evil agendas in the Republic of Ireland.

In all of those campaigns, Liz was actively involved in them by her tireless leafleting and canvassing and attending protest rallies. When I was active in standing for elections or involved in organising campaigns against EU referendums such as the Single European Act, Mastricht, the 2 Nice referendums, and the 2 Lisbon Treaty referendums. All of these paved the way for the Irish state now being "a basket case" for Christian morals and religious belief, described as such by a prominent Polish politician recently.

On the 29th March 2021, she showed her lifelong courage and commitment to all that is good and true by writing to the new Archbishop of Dublin, His Grace Dermot Farrell, expressing her outrage of the closing of all the churches and stopping of the sacramental life of the church, during the Covid-19 Pandemic. "My Lord Archbishop, on Friday the 26th March I attended the funeral of a 31 year old man who died suddenly the previous Sunday along with approximately 200 other mourners, we were confined to the church grounds 'as there was no room in the Inn'. My main concern for the young man was the salvation of his soul since on your instructions the church had been closed to the faithful on and off for more than a year since the 'scandemic' started."

She let him know that for the past 60 years that with no proper instruction of the faithful, the liturgy is so watered down, it's meaningless. Sacraments have suffered a similar fate. She told the Archbishop by closing down the sacramental life of the church for the faithful during the pandemic 'the apostasy is now complete' and it is no wonder that the Irish people voted in droves for 'sodomy to be recognised as marriage and voting to eliminate constitutional protection for pre-born children so that they can be killed daily'.

Liz enjoyed life and had a great sense of humour and fun and her laugh was joyful and infectious. She will be a great loss to Father Abbe and his brother priests who served the Mass goers of St John the Evangelist Church in Monkstown. When I congratulated her on that, she replied 'ah Richard, these priests are my adopted sons'.

Her illness came upon her suddenly a few days before Christmas, but she bore it with great dignity and prepared for her final parting with her family constantly saying the rosary around her bedside, received the last rites of the church and confession from Father Abbe and the name of Mary on her lips as she died.

In King Lear Act 5, Edgar says: 'men must endure their going hence, as their coming hither. Ripeness is all.' (William Shakespeare)

Liz O'Hanlon was ripe indeed to meet the Lord as a great wife to Redmond and mother to her 5 children and grandchildren and 'her adopted priestly sons' and her many friends.

BREATHING WITH BOTH LUNGS – AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DIALOGOS INSTITUTE - By Theo Howard

Figure 1: The former-church of San Domenico (now the Arap Mosque), in Galata, Constantinople, where the Dominicans established their fruitful mission. The former-church is the only example of medieval religious Gothic architecture remaining in the city.

One of the many encouraging signs in the Traditionalist 'movement' today is the growing understanding that the contemporary crisis in the Catholic Church does not simply originate in the neo-modernist recrudescence of the 1940s to the 1960s, nor in the original modernist wave of the 1900s that St Pius X fought against, but in fact has a plethora of deeper roots reaching back even to the disputes between rival religious scholastics in the late-Middle Ages. I mark this recognition as part of the maturation of Catholic Traditionalism that is to be welcomed and fostered.

An increasing number of traditionalist scholars are critiquing the 'manualist tradition' of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries as inadequately fulfilling the wishes of Pope Leo XIII's call in *Aeterni Patris* to revive the philosophy of St Thomas Aquinas. This is a complex and thorny issue, so without going into too much detail I will provide a brief summary: after Pope Leo's encyclical *Aeterni Patris*, St Thomas' works were often judged to be too dense and complex by many seminary teachers, and so students would instead read neo-scholastic commentaries, or 'manuals', on St Thomas' thought,

that were characterized by concise formulae that tended to abstract the richness of his thought away from its biblical and patristic sources. The resulting theology and philosophy was rather dry, and seemingly removed from its origins, ending up looking something like what Dr Sebastian Morello has called 'Russian-doll Thomism', with commentaries being made of commentaries being made of commentaries, and St Thomas' original florescence being somewhat diminished as a result. The unfortunate reaction to this 'manualism' – which has been defined as 'Apatristic Scholasticism' – was the *Nouvelle théologie* and the call for a 'return to the sources' (*ressourcement*) which seemed to have been so obscured. This current then became infected with the ideas of the heresy of modernism via the confluence with such poisonous streams as the German biblical 'historical-critical method', and the rest, as they say, is history.

The Dialogos Institute is a theological institute founded in 2015 to help remedy this disaster by recovering the patristic heritage of the Church in the spirit of faithful Latin and Byzantine Thomism. Many Catholics are unaware of the rich tradition of 'Byzantine Thomism' that budded in the two centuries prior to the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, and was critical to the successful, though short-lived, Union of Florence, healing the schism between East and West, in 1439. Byzantine Thomism was characterized by a fruitful cross-pollination of St Thomas' thought with the Greek Fathers, to the extent that one of the Dialogos Institute's founders – Dr Alan Fimiser (co-author of Integralism: A Manual of Political Philosophy) – has called it the true fulfilment of Eastern Christian theology and one lung of 'Bi-pulmonary Thomism'. The Dialogos Institute's important mission is, therefore, to help recover the tradition of Byzantine Thomism, and thus help 'restore the collapsed lung' of the Church in the East.

When Pope Innocent III heard about the sack of Constantinople by the Venetians and Crusaders in 1204, he was both incensed and grieved over the great crime. With time however, he came to see, that God may be affecting the good of reconciliation of East and West through the catastrophic evil of the sack. The Latin conquest coincided with the foundation of the mendicant orders and the friars would henceforth go on to play a predominant role in the religious life of Latin Christians in the East.

The first representatives of the Dominican Order arrived in Constantinople in 1232 and eventually established themselves not only in the city itself, but also, under the aegis of the Republic of Genoa, in the colony and citadel of Galata, northwards, across the water of the Golden Horn. Despite the Byzantine recapture of Constantinople from the Latins in 1262, for the next two hundred years the Catholic Community flourished here in Galata, with numerous churches, convents, friaries and monasteries built. Through the Dominican *Studium generale*, Galata also became the conduit for the transmission of the thought of St Thomas Aquinas, and Scholasticism generally, to the East.

The man responsible for the translation of both the *Summa contra gentiles* and the *Summa theologica* from Latin into Greek was the noble-born Byzantine scholar Demetrios Kydones in the 1350s, who remarked that St Thomas knew Plato and Aristotle better than the Greeks themselves. He would go on to translate some of the works of St Augustine, St Anselm and other Latin writers. Kydones' detailed study of Latin theol-

ogy informed his criticism of the Palamite doctrine, and by 1365, he made a profession of faith in the Catholic Church. Appreciating St Thomas' application of incontrovertible syllogisms to theology, Kydones saw a way of avoiding what he regarded as the pantheistic implications of Hesychasm¹. For him, reasoning and the use of syllogisms lay in the very essence of man. Kydones followed Thomas' notion of Divine Simplicity to reject the distinction between God's essence and energies, made by the Greeks of the Hesychast school, thus incurring the enmity of the followers of Gregory Palamas. Demetrios Kydones became Imperial Prime Minister under three emperors and rigorously advocated for re-union with the Latin Church. This movement for re-union was subsequently propelled by the Byzantine Thomist school, as well as by political considerations for the defense of Christendom against the rising Mohammedan Ottoman power. The Byzantines were also particularly impressed by the apologetic skills of Aquinas, which they put in the service of their own disputes with Mohammedanism.

As a result of this dynamic dialogue between the Byzantines and the Latins, even those who opposed reunion came to appreciate the greatness of the Angelic Doctor. Ultimately, Aquinas's reputation reached a pitch in Byzantium, before the tragedy of 1453, that it would not attain in the west until the late nineteenth century. Paradoxically, St Thomas Aquinas' high reputation in Byzantium coincided with a low point in his reputation in Latin Christendom, partly because of the tragic rivalry between the different religious orders. By the time of Martin Luther, the *Summa* does not seem to have been widely read at all – again, the perception about St Thomas' thought was largely formed by commentaries.

The Byzantine reception of Thomism bore fruit in the great reunion Council of Florence (1431–1445) under Pope Eugenius IV, where the seven hundred Byzantine delegates led by Patriarch Joseph II and Emperor John VIII accomplished the reunion of the Churches. The great bull of reunion *Laetentur Coeli* was proclaimed in the presence of Pope and Emperor from the Duomo in Florence.

The Dialogos Institute's work is to reap the harvest of the liturgical, spiritual and intellectual heritage of both Old and New Rome, and offers several tantalizing opportunities. For instance, Church life today is marked by almost a complete loss of the the perception of the *Sensus Fidelium*, which so guided the Church in the Patristic age. One wonders what St John Henry Newman would say about the suppression of one of the only parts of the Church faithful to Her teaching by the Supreme Pontiff (*Traditionis Custodes*). Indeed, a true 'return to the sources' of the faith through the Socratic method of disputation, might help remedy the hyperpapalism, identified by Dr Peter Kwasnieski and many others – by adumbrating moral limits on Universal Ordinary Jurisdiction – which has wrought so much damage to the Church in the last century.

The Dialogos Institute pursues these aims through conferences, publications and programmes of study illustrating the unity of the Church's traditions eastern and western,

¹ Hesychasm is a mystical tradition of contemplative prayer in the Eastern Orthodox Church

patristic and scholastic, clerical and lay. You can find out more and support the work of the Institute with a donation here: https://dialogos-institute.org/

"What closer allies have the Romans than the Romans?" - Demetrios Kydones

IN AN AGE DEDICATED TO LIES, TELLING THE TRUTH CAN BE A DANGEROUS BUSINESS

[The mother superior of Tyburn Convent reported in the early spring of 2021, that, prior to 2021, in her nearly 30 years of religious life, she had only received one request for prayer for someone injured by a vaccine, that was for a young French girl who had been paralyzed by a vaccine. However, in the first three or four months of 2021, her convent had received something in the order of 80 requests for prayers for people who had been killed by the Covid "vaccine".

This was picked up by the mainstream media and an article appeared in The Sunday Times on March 20, 2022 by David Collins and Catherine Pepinster denigrating Mother Marilla OSB. Ms Catherine Pepinster is a revert who has embraced the Catholicism lite of Vat2ism and its regime of endless novelties, and now makes a career out of denigrating and mocking those Catholics who prefer the undiluted faith as it has been practised for 2,000 years by our forefathers, saints and martyrs.

The following is Mother Marilla's brilliant response to that gratuitously unkind attack upon her and her sisters. - ED]



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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Gloria Deo Per Sacratissimum Cor Iesu!

21st March 2022

Feast of the Passover of our Holy Father Benedict

STATEMENT

This statement is in response to the article which appeared in The Sunday Times on March 20, 2022 by David Collins and Catherine Pepinster.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of those hundreds of people who have sent their messages of support for myself and our Congregation. Thank you so much for the many prayers, Holy Masses, your words of encouragement, flowers and gifts. We are deeply touched and truly grateful.

1. I am in agreement with the position stated in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's (CDF) Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid19 vaccines where it states:

"...practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary." (n.5)

I am also in agreement with the CDFs stipulation in paragraph 3 that vaccines should be "...safe and effective...".

I would also like to make clear that I am in agreement with the CDF's Doctrinal <u>Note on some questions regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life</u>, 21 November 2002, n.1:

"It is commendable that in today's democratic societies, in a climate of true freedom, everyone is made a participant in directing the body politic. Such societies call for new and fuller forms of participation in public life by Christian and non-Christian citizens alike. Indeed, all can contribute, by voting in elections for lawmakers and government officials, and in other ways as well, to the development of political solutions and legislative choices which, in their opinion, will benefit the common good. The life of a democracy could not be productive without the active, responsible and generous involvement of everyone, «albeit in a diversity and complementarity of forms, levels, tasks, and responsibilities".

I understand "true freedom" as to include the right to freedom of expression especially when there is a valid and reasonable concern for public health and safety. Seeking to denounce or to cause harm to the reputation, or indeed, to the physical person, in any way, of those expressing valid and reasonable opinions seriously damages true freedom and ultimately the common good.

2. The article stated: "Some of the allegations relate to nuns feeling under pressure not to have the vaccine."

On 17 March 2022, I was told that there was a gentleman on the phone who said that it was urgent and that he needed to speak to me, it was David Collins. He said that there were sisters from the convent making allegations that I was bullying them into not taking the vaccine. This was the first time that I had heard of these allegations. He quoted my verbal reply to him in the article. David Collins said that he was not able to tell me which sisters were making the allegations. I did not express to him my first thought which was, "I cannot even get the staircases swept properly how could anyone think that I can possibly prevent sisters from taking a vaccine that they wish to have?"

Throughout 2021 I have expressed clearly to every sister in our Institute that it is my right and also a moral duty to express my opinion regarding these anti-Covid injections, but they have the complete freedom of choice of whether they wish to take the anti-Covid injections or not. I have communicated this by email, by writing on the community chalkboard and also verbally to a few individual sisters. I, in fact, do not know the vaccine status of any of our sisters because I have not asked them. It is their own business and I do not pry into it. If sisters wish to tell me that is their own choice. In truth, I think that perhaps one or two sisters may have taken the vaccine, but I only suspect this because of an unusual adverse event which is very similar to a

prevalent adverse effect of the vaccines. I certainly am not sure of this as I have never asked whether they have been vaccinated or not. I try and look after the needs of the sisters as best as I can.

I will now quote in full my most recent email to the entire Congregation regarding this which was sent on 28/04/2021:

Subject: Free Choice

Dear RM Prioress,

Would you please explain to the sisters that they have the right to choose whether they wish to take the Covid 19 vaccine or not.

I do not force anyone to take the vaccine nor do I force anyone not to take the vaccine. If any sister wishes to take the vaccine she is free to make an appointment to have the injection of the vaccine.

I only ask for the safety of the community that any sister who has taken the vaccine that she isolate for a period of time.

With my blessings to all.

Yours devotedly in the Eucharistic Heart, Mother Marilla OSB Mother General

What upsets me more than being accused of bullying is the perception that our sisters are a bunch of cowardly mindless ninnies who cannot think for themselves nor form their own opinions. The sisters we have in our Congregation are intelligent, strong willed, dedicated and determined women. You have to be to live our life. Anyone who does not know this does not know our Congregation.

- **3.** The letter which was quoted in the article was a private and confidential letter written to Bishop Sherrington. I have not given any permission whatsoever for it to be quoted to anybody whatsoever. Quite definitely I have not given any permission for it to be quoted in a public arena. The letter was written in reply to two letters from Bishop Sherrington. None of the sisters have a copy of this letter.
- 4. The article states: "She [Mother Marilla] claims knowledge of a case in which a GP and a care worker 'who both worked at the same care home ask for our prayers for an entire wing of residents who had died within weeks of receiving the Covid injections'. There was no evidence provided in the letter to support such claims."
 - I was mystified at this statement. What kind of evidence is needed to support the claim that people have asked for our prayers? Or am I expected to ask people to give evidence that the prayer intention that they are asking for is valid?
- 5. The article states: "While many of the nuns at the convent have taken a vow of silence and rarely set foot in the outside world, Marilla has taken to the streets during anti-lockdown protests, filmed by demonstrators preaching about the vaccine being

extremely dangerous." This is misinformation. None of our sisters have taken a vow of silence. In addition, it is quite clear on the videos taken during the particular demonstration mentioned that I was on the front doorstep of Tyburn Convent. I strongly defend my right to be standing on our convent's front doorstep.

6. The headline of the article states: "Antivax Mother General reported to the Vatican".

I have said in public that before Covid 19, I would have most likely described myself as Provax since I have had many, many, vaccines from early childhood. However, regarding the anti-Covid injection I would most definitely consider myself vaccine hesitant. I have been threatened on numerous occasions to be reported to the Holy See and in particular to the congregation for religious for reasons of **perceived** noncompliance. In these cases, those who have issued such threats have almost entirely ignored fundamental rights.

7. The opinions that I have expressed over the anti-Covid injections have arisen out of a genuine and reasonable concern for the safety and health issues related to these same injections. It is deeply disturbing that instead of a willingness to investigate or even take seriously these concerns I have received instead reprimands, threats, and vilification. From the mainstream media, a veritable smear campaign. Journalism without integrity is propaganda. Rightly do I say that if anything it is me that is being bullied. Even more disturbing, is that I am not alone in experiencing this. The most eminent and respected professors and professionals of science and medicine have been treated in a much worse way than I.

I speak up now for those who have asked our prayers, who are grieving for loved ones who have died shortly after taking the anti-Covid injections. I speak up now for the hundreds of people who have asked our prayers for ongoing, painful and serious injury after taking the anti-Covid injections. In conscience I must speak up. Who has the liability for any death or injury resulting from these anti-Covid injections? Who is to compensate for all that they have suffered? It is long past the time to speak up for them. They are ignored, they are dismissed they have no one to turn to. They have turned to us to ask our prayers and we are praying for them and sacrificing for them. The Lord, the Divine Doctor, will Himself look after them. We pray also for those who are committing such injustices against those who raise their questions regarding the anti-Covid injections, may they act with integrity and true justice. And we pray for all of you, may the Lord bless you and protect you.

"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5: 11-12

Mother Marilla OSB (Superior General)

"BUT ONE OF THE SOLDIERS WITH A SPEAR OPENED HIS SIDE, AND IMMEDIATELY THERE CAME OUT BLOOD AND WATER." (JOHN 19:34)



The crucifixion is recorded by all of the four Evangelists, and St John was personally present. He records that Jesus died before the two criminals executed on either side of him whose legs were broken by Roman soldiers to hasten their deaths.

The usual cause of death from crucifixion is asphyxiation. It would be impossible to inhale properly hanging from one's extended arms, so one would need to lift oneself up on one's legs to breath in. This would be too painful to sustain, so the victim would transfer his weight back to his arms to breath out. Thus, by breaking the men's legs, the Roman soldiers made it impossible for the victims to inhale, and they would asphyxiate.

St John, recording what happened next, wrote: "But after they were come to Jesus, when they saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers with a spear opened his side, and immediately there came out blood and water. And he that saw it, hath given testimony, and his testimony is true. And he knoweth that he saith true; that you also may believe." (John 19: 33-35). The Fathers of the

Church saw in this "blood and water" a representation of the two sacraments – Eucharist and Baptism – which sprang forth from Our Lord's pierced heart.

Many believe the Shroud of Turin is the actual linen cloth in which Jesus was wrapped for burial, and that it bears a miraculous image of our crucified Saviour. I believed this up until 1988 when radiocarbon test concluded that it was late medieval - I felt at the time that there was no option but to accept the science. However, I later discovered that there was an extant drawing of the shroud made several centuries earlier by a French knight returning from the Crusades. The "science" was therefore clearly faulty, so I resumed my former belief that the shroud is genuine. Further, more recent studies in 2012 and 2015 argue that the science proves that the linen sheet dates precisely from the time of Jesus.

Given that it is now accepted that the shroud dates from the time of Jesus, a team from the University Hospital of Padua, Italy, was granted permission to conduct a forensic study of the injuries on the 'The Shroud Man', as they called him². This medical team

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² Bevilacqua M, Fanti G, D'Arienzo M, De Caro D. (2013) Do we really need new medical information about the Turin Shroud? Injury. Int. J. Care Injured 45: 460–464.

documented injuries so appalling that they could only be likened to those suffered by some car crash victims.

After making measurements on the Turin shroud, the Italian forensic team concluded that "The Shroud Man" suffered an extensive injury to the network of nerves in His right shoulder that carries movement and sensory signals from the spinal cord to the arm and hand. This is based on two observations: firstly, that the long bone in the arm that runs from the shoulder to the elbow (the humerus) is 3.5 cm below the shoulder on the right side. They conclude this was caused by a dislocated shoulder, but whereas most shoulder dislocations involve the head of the humerus lying either in front or behind its socket on the shoulder blade, Our Lord suffered a rarer form of dislocation where the head of the humerus lies below the socket. This form of dislocation accounts for only about 1% of shoulder dislocations, and is invariably caused by extreme trauma, being struck hard by a very heavy object, for example.

This dislocation was most probably caused by a fall when the cross was being carried on the right side. As a result of the fall, the "shroud man's" shoulder became trapped in a supporting strut of the cross beam.³ The cross then fell heavily across Christ's back causing a violent upward wrenching of His arm and the dislocation.

Secondly their measurements also show that the whole right shoulder is depressed, and the right hand is flat with straightened fingers. These findings, they attribute to loss of power of the neck, shoulder and hand muscles caused by the extensive tearing of the network of nerves serving the right arm.

As a result of these injuries the right arm is displaced downwards and the finger-tips of the right hand reach the outside of the left thigh. Measurements taken by the Italian team reveal that the right wrist is about 5cm (2in) vertically lower than the left wrist.

normal length.

of shoulder muscle power.

Private Agency (I)
Private (I)

sytem serving the arm and hand

jury to Christ's shoulder caused Him more pain than any of His other wounds. Indeed, the constant, searing pain that results from injury to major complex nerve systems is recognised by medicine as the most severe pain known to man;

it is so agonising that there is a danger of suicides

In addition, the right finger-tips project about 10cm (4in) closer to the side of the thigh than the left finger-tips. This shows that during crucifixion the right arm was stretched well beyond its

combination of the shoulder dislocation and loss

It would be reasonable to conclude that this in-

This was caused by the

³ Bevilacqua M, Fanti G, D'Arienzo M. (2017) New Light on the Sufferings and the Burial of the Turin Shroud Man. Open J Trauma 1: 047-053.

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among those who suffer it.

So it is truly remarkable that this particular unrecorded element of the Passion was described by St Bernard of Clairvaux in the 12th century, some 800 years before modern science confirmed it. Our Lord appeared to St Bernard, and the saint asked Jesus what was the greatest suffering of his Passion. Jesus replied: "I had on my shoulder, while I bore my cross on the way of sorrows, a grievous wound that was more painful than the others and which is not recorded by men."

More recently, the future Pope John Paul II, at the time a young priest, recorded that he asked Padre Pio (the 20th century Italian mystic, who suffered the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, in his own body) which of his injuries were the most painful. "It is my shoulder wound, which no one knows about and has never been cured or treated," Padre Pio responded.

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Fr Professor Patrick Pullicino, a Catholic priest serving at St Bede's in South London, has reviewed the Italian studies.

Fr. Prof. Patrick Pullicino, before his ordination as a Catholic priest was a medical scientist with an impressive Résumé. He obtained his MD with distinction, from the University of Malta in 1973. He then trained in the UK and specialised in neurology at the National Hospital, and then at the University of Rochester, New York, and obtained the Diploma of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He specialised in Cerebrovascular Disease at the Salpetriere Hospital in Paris and was Consultant Physician and Neurologist in Malta prior to becoming Director of the Stroke Program and tenured Professor of Neurology at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

He became Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Neurosciences at the New Jersey Medical School in 2001 and returned to the UK in 2005. He was principal neurologist of a large multicentre National Institute of Health clinical trial of anticoagulation in heart failure which he instigated and successfully submitted to the NIH for funding.

Degrees Held: MD, PhD (London), MRCP, FACP. University and NHS Appointments: Professor of Clinical Neurosciences, KIMHS, University of Kent; Adjunct Professor of Neurology and Neurosciences, New Jersey Medical School, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, USA; Head of Neurology, Ophthalmology and Psychiatry Teaching for Kings College 3rd Year Medical Students in Canterbury, and Consultant Neurologist, East Kent Hospital

Dislocated Shoulder

What was especially significant to Fr. Prof. Patrick Pullicino was the dislocation of the right shoulder, yanked so far from its socket that the right hand stretches 10cm (4 inches) lower than the left. Father, writing in the Catholic Medical Quarterly, concurs with the findings of the Italian forensic team that the dislocation was probably the result of a fall in which the arm of Jesus was trapped in the supporting strut of the cross.

Some believe that the "Cross" may have been T-shaped with the cross beam further supported by diagonal struts. Abrasions on the back of the Turin Shroud indicate that the Cross was shifted from Jesus' right side to his left, most probably because of His inability to use his dislocated arm after the fall. [It would not be unreasonable to speculate that Our Lord fell heavily as a result of the brutality of a Roman soldier pushing Him roughly in an effort to quicken his pace when He was already exhausted and staggering under the weight of His Cross - ED.]

The evidence from the Shroud clearly shows that Our Lord's right arm was stretched well beyond its normal length during crucifixion. This was made possible, Fr Prof. Pullicino agrees by the combination of the shoulder dislocation and the consequent loss of shoulder muscle power.

Effusion of Blood

At this point, Fr Prof. Pullicino argues that because of this right arm stretching, the main artery serving the arm and hand (the right subclavian/axillary artery) would also have been stretched taunt, as it was one of the few intact structures connecting the body and the right arm.

This artery leaves the chest cavity passing over the first rib and passing behind the collar bone. Transferring of body weight to the arms in exhalation would have caused further stretching of this artery. Transferring weight to the legs in inhalation would reverse this stretch. This would cause the stretched subclavian artery to move across the rib surface with each breath, and thus subject to constant friction⁴.

Superior floracic a.

Superior floracic a.

Thoracoscoreial a.

Lateral thoracic a.

Axillary artery

Subscapular a.

Arterior or cramflex floracid a.

Posterior of cramflex floracid a.

Producids brachi a.

Brachial artery

Thoracodorsal a.

Drawing illustrating how the main artery serving the shoulder and arm passes over the top rib and under the collar bone

Father postulates that over the course of three

hours, the subclavian artery became abraded, and internal bleeding into Our Lord's chest cavity ensued⁵. What this produced, explains Fr Prof. Pullicino, is a condition called a 'large tension haemothorax', a huge sac of blood filling the cavity between the lungs and the rib cage. It would have steadily increased in volume all the time Jesus

⁴ Edwards WD, Gabel WJ, Hosmer FE. (1986) On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ. JAMA The Journal of the American Medical Association 255: 1455-63.

⁵ Foudrain A, Lafitte S, Iquille J, De Dominicis F, Berna P. (2017) Delayed-onset tension hemothorax following blunt trauma and the rupture of a previously undiagnosed aberrant right subclavian artery. J Thorac. Dis. 9: E245–E248.

was on the cross, pushing the left lung and the heart to one side as it grew bigger. Fr Prof. Pullicino cites medical literature from 2020 that states that tension haemothorax can contain up to 40 per cent of the circulating blood volume⁶ and can lead to fatal circulatory collapse⁷.

Thus, when Christ's side was pierced by Longinus' spear, it would have released the pressure caused by this build-up of blood, somewhat like popping a balloon, and up to half of the blood in Jesus' body – about three pints – spurted out of him.

Effusion of "Water"

Prof Pullicino also has an explanation for the effusion of water witnessed by St John. He believes it was probably cerebrospinal fluid, one of the few liquids in the body that is sufficiently clear to have the appearance of water. He argues that it leaked into the space between the outer lining of the lungs and the lining of the chest wall adjacent to the upper lung, and cites a medical study of 2013 by Hebert-Blouin et al to demonstrate that this a known complication of the sort of severe shoulder injury that Jesus suffered. Hébert-Blouin et al have documented finding cerebrospinal fluid adjacent to the spine and in the space between the upper lung and the chest wall following injury to the network of nerves that conducts signals from the spinal cord to the shoulder, arm and hand.

There is normally about 150 ml of this clear fluid, which is produced at a rate of 20 ml per hour. An extensive tear in the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord associated with this sort of injury is likely to have drained most of the CSF from around the brain. Over the ensuing 3+ hours from the time of injury until death, a further 60 ml could have drained giving a potential loss of over 100ml.

What is still unproven however is whether such a fluid collection could form within such a short period of time after an injury, as the reported cases of this fluid collections were scanned weeks or months after the injury. It may be that the repeated body movements needed for exhalation and inhalation during crucifixion encouraged downwards tracking of the cerebrospinal fluid.⁸

Loss of cerebrospinal fluid is associated with severe headache, a yet further source of suffering for Our Blessed Lord.

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⁶ Pumarejo Gomez L, Tran VH. Hemothorax. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2021 Jan.https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK538219/

⁷ Zeiler J, Idell S, Norwood S, Cook A. (2020) Hemothorax: A Review of the Literature. Clin. Pulm. Med. 27: 1–12.

⁸ Hébert-Blouin M-N, Mokri B, Shin AY, Bishop AT, Spinner RJ. (2013) Cerebrospinal fluid volume–depletion headaches in patients with traumatic brachial plexus injury. J Neurosurg 118: 149–154.

Readers who are interested in this science behind the death of Jesus Christ can hear Professor Pullicino in conversation with Dr Gavin Ashenden, the former royal chaplain to the Queen, at *Merely Catholic*, the new weekly podcast of the *Catholic Herald*.

Please enter this link into your browser to listen. https://rb.gy/55pqko

THE TAKEOVER OF TWITTER BY ELON MUSK

The takeover of Twitter by Elon Musk could be one of the most significant events of the 21st century thus far, up there with the election of Donald Trump. Twitter is de facto the public square. And for a long time now it has been forbidden to tell the truth in the public square. If you did you were cancelled, which is the digital equivalent of assassinated. God, when He walked the earth, famously said, "I am truth." So, if you can now, or shortly will be able to, tell the truth on Twitter, than you can now do God in the public square. This is huge, it is impossible to overestimate the cultural significance.

We will be able to express truths like Anthony Fauci is full of s**t and ought to be behind bars; Ivermectin works; you can drug up, make up and chop up a bloke, but he's still a bloke; parents who transition their children belong behind bars; Hunter Biden is a crackhead; Nancy Pelosi is a drunk; Joe Biden eulogised a KKK leader; Joe Biden didn't get more votes than any man in American history (most of which were allegedly found behind closed doors at around 4 am); CO² is not a poisonous gas, and manmade global warming is globalist BS; the Covid "vaccines" are worse than useless and are killing far more people than the disease.

Your editor is back on Twitter now it is no longer controlled by woke Bolshevist activists. Wouldn't it be deliciously ironic if the very media used to bury truth in order to defeat conservatives in general, and Trump in particular, became (now uncensored) the very media that brings the whole crooked cabal crashing down? Trump may very well yet have the last laugh. Is it any wonder the woke elite are having a collective melt-down ... poor dears?

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