

THE THIRD ORDER

Of the Society of St. Pius X



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Dear Postulants and Professed members,

First of all I would like to wish all of you a very holy Easter with many blessings and graces for your families. This year there will be many graces given to the Society with the ordination to the Sub-deaconate of Mr. Todd Stephens from Tynong and the ordination to the priesthood of Rev. Mr. Jordie Stephens from Hampton; Rev. Mr. Ben Campbell from America and Rev. Mr. Gregory Norronha from India. It is encouraging to see some Australians being ordained this year. Let us not forget that the purpose of the Society is the priesthood and whatever pertains to the priesthood and nothing but that which concerns the priesthood. The small number of priestly and religious vocations from this country should be great concern for us. We can speak of causes on many levels, the family life, education, the spirit of generosity etc. But behind these things is the spirit of liberalism in which we are surrounded. So much so that we don't even realise it. And even if the externals of the faith are in good order, liberalism dissolves their efficacy to nothing. It is this liberalism which is the death of the missionary spirit. The question is not am I liberal, but where am I liberal?

The spirit of liberalism verses the spirit of Our Lord.

It is not so much the liberal outside the church that we must fear, but the liberal inside the church because he is more dangerous and even more the liberal tendencies of our own lives. Archbishop Lefebvre, in his book `They have uncrowned Him' analyses the liberal Catholic mentality. He calls it a sickness of the mind. The mind does not dare to affirm anything, without the counter affirmation presenting itself to it. They are perpetually tossed about between contradictory things, between tradition and novelty. The reason for this is that they too easily assume the ideas of the world in which they live and at the same time, because they fear offending these contradictory ideas, they are never at ease. In other words they are trying to put their Catholicism in harmony with the world. A world that is indifferent to Religion and the Truth of Revelation and centred on Man and this world. The way that the liberal Catholic would convert the world is by putting himself onto the level of the world and living as it lives.

The liberal will take the principles of the French Revolution, purify them of their excesses and assimilate them into the Church and into their life: Liberty, equality, fraternity, pluralism which can only lead to apostasy. Pope Pius IX condemns this error in the *Syllabus*: "The Roman Pontiff can and should be reconciled and come to terms with progress, Liberalism, and Modern civilization" The Archbishop commenting on these words, writes: "The Catholic Liberal declares, "What do you want? One cannot indefinitely be against the ideas of his time, row without ceasing against the current, appear backward of reactionary." The antagonism between the Church and the secular liberal spirit, without God, is no longer desired. They want to reconcile what is irreconcilable, make peace between the Church and the Revolution. Between the Our Lord Jesus Christ and the prince of this world. We cannot imagine an enterprise more blasphemous, and more dissolving of the Christian spirit, of the good fight for the faith, of the spirit of the crusade, that is to say, of the zeal to conquer the world for Jesus Christ."¹ It is only by integral faith without compromise that men are inspired to give themselves for the love of Christ and of souls.

¹ They have uncrowned Him. Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. Pg. 114

It is interesting to recall the words of the Archbishop to the then Cardinal Ratzinger on July 14 1987 in an audience where the Archbishop was offered a practical solution before the consecrations of 1988. The Cardinal had just stated that the Civil State can have no profession of any one religion and that it cannot prevent the spread of error. The Archbishop replied... " Eminence, even if you give us everything, a bishop, some autonomy from the bishops, the 1962 liturgy, allow us to continue our seminaries, we cannot work together because we are going in different directions. You are working to de-Christianize society and the Church, and we are working to Christianize them."²

Let us be constantly on our guard against the spirit of Liberalism and its various disguises. In fact it is what the Statutes require of us when describing the spirit of the 3rd order: " It is a spirit of vigilance with regard to everything which can corrupt the Faith". This is the deeper reason for living up to the rules of our statutes and the duties of our state, and of avoiding Television which carries with it the virus of the spirit of the world. It is also true to say that the more we live our Faith especially in the home by our profound conviction of the realities of our Faith, meditated on everyday, we will see more vocations from this country.

Just a reminder of the wishes of our superior general Bishop Felley to launch a "Rosary Crusade." By this crusade, we wish to put into the hands of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary the combat for the Faith, which we try to wage after her example. The general objective is the victory of Tradition through Mary. A particular objective may be added by the Superior General. For a start, Bishop Felley asks that we pray that the second precondition be achieved as it was formulated by the latest General Chapter: the withdrawal of the decree of excommunication of the four bishops of the Society and of its founder.

Finally, to help with the running costs of both the newsletters and days of recollection at the various Mass centres, I would like to take this occasion to ask for your financial assistance in the running of the Third Order in Australia. Cheques should be made out to **Third Order of St Pius X**. And cheques and money from should be sent to the following address within Australia:

**Third Order of SSPX
280 West Botany St.
Rockdale, NSW, 2216**

In Christ through Mary,



Fr. Christopher Curtis
Spiritual Director of the Third Order of SSPX
for Australia

² Biography of Marcel Lefebvre. Bernard Tissier De Mallerais Pg. 546-547

