

THE THIRD ORDER

Of the Society of St. Pius X



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Dear Postulants and Professed members,

As you have already heard, the Society has been offered an 'ultimatum' by Rome. And in order to settle any rumours about the position of the Society and Rome, I have included extracts from the official statement given by the Society on the question.

CONCERNING THE ULTIMATUM OF CARDINAL CASTRILLON HOYOS

On June 4, 2008, at the request of Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, President of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*, the Superior General of the Society of Saint Pius X, His Excellency Bernard Fellay, went to Rome accompanied the 2nd Assistant General, Rev. Fr. Alain-Marc Nély.

Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos' document expressed five demands: besides a positive answer requested before the end of June, the Society of Saint Pius X, in the person of its General Superior, had to commit itself (1) "to give a response proportionate to the pope's generosity"; (2) "to avoid any public comment which would not respect the person of the Holy Father and would have a negative impact upon ecclesial charity;" (3) "to avoid claiming a magisterium superior to the Holy Father's and not to set the Society in opposition to the Church;" (4) "to demonstrate its will to act in all honesty and ecclesial charity, and in the respect of the authority of the Vicar of Christ."

The conditions seem to be meant to obtain an atmosphere favorable to a further dialogue, rather than imply any precise commitment on definite issues. The Society of Saint Pius X wishes that the dialogue be on the doctrinal level and take into accounts all the issues, which, if they were evaded, might jeopardize a canonical status hastily set up. The SSPX considers that the preliminary withdrawal of the 1988 decrees of excommunication would foster serenity in the dialogue.

The SSPX does not claim the exercise of a magisterium superior to the Holy Father's, nor does it seek to oppose the Church. Following in the footsteps of its founder, it wants to hand down what it has received.

In a letter to Pope Benedict XVI, dated June 26, 2008, Bishop Fellay answered in this sense. Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos acknowledged receipt of the letter the next day.

Until further details are available, we will make no comment.

Fr. Alain Lorans

This is how things stand at the moment. We follow the line of thinking that the Archbishop followed in 1976 and 1988. We continue as before, looking for the good of the whole church and not just our own particular good. It is at this time that I would especially ask for your prayers for our leaders both in and outside of the Society that the most good can be done for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Finally as a practical point, members ought to be familiar with our rule of life and for this reason I encourage you all to re-read the rule. Here are the essential obligations that we have committed ourselves to:

PERSONAL OBLIGATIONS

Daily:

- 1-Sanctification of the individual and of those for whom members of the Third order are responsible.
- 2-Recitation of the Rosary
- 3-Attendance at the Immemorial Mass, if possible; or 15 minutes of meditation.

Weekly:

Attendance at the Immemorial Mass and not the Novus Ordo Missae, because of the danger of acquiring a Protestant spirit.

Every two weeks:

If possible, the sacrament of penance, or at least once a month.

Every two years:

A retreat.

Practical Notes:

1- Recommended reading: The acts of St. Plus X, the Catechism of the Council of Trent, the New Testament, the Imitation of Christ, the lives of the saints. Try to spread good reading material. 2- Fasting on Ember Days, on Vigils of great feasts, on Ash Wednesday, and Holy Saturday. Abstinence on all Fridays. 3- To abstain from television, from unclean reading, to practice sobriety.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE MARRIED

1- To observe in a spirit of submission to Our Lord, the laws of marriage toward the goal of having a large family. To renounce absolutely all positive action toward the goal of not having children. 2- To make of the family home a sanctuary consecrated to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary where evening prayers are recited in the family and, if possible, the rosary. Liturgical life should be paramount on Sundays and Feast days. Avoid everything that could harm the souls of children; television, unclean magazines.

3- To choose truly good and traditional schools and to contribute to their establishment.

4- To be prudent in the choice of leisure activities and of vacation spots.

PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL DUTIES

1- To follow the example of the Holy Family and to pursue the duties of justice and charity, whether one be employer or employee. 2- To promote and defend the social reign of Our Lord Jesus Christ in society to combat Liberalism and Modernism, scourges of modern times which are delivering the Church to her enemies.

These obligations are not very difficult to practice and they can obtain so many graces simply by doing our duty. Let us be generous in keeping our rule and praying for Holy Church.

In the Sacred Heart through the Immaculate heart of Mary,



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

