

Spring/Summer 2018

TRADITIONALISM IS NOT THE GUARDING OF EMBERS, BUT THE PASSING ON OF FIRE



Lieutenant Colonel Arnaud Beltrame

Fifty years ago, British politicians and academics knew and preached the truth about Islam. When and why did they start lying about it? It's difficult to understand other than the old maxim that "*My enemy's enemy is my friend*". Islam hates Christianity and Jews and western civilization and so does the left. A brazen example of this lying followed the beheading in broad daylight of Fusilier Lee Rigby on the afternoon of 22 May 2013. The then Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, cited verse 32 chapter 5 of the Koran to 'prove' that Islam was a "*religion of peace*". This was Clegg's version: "*If any one kills a human being it shall be as if he killed all mankind whereas if anyone saves a life it shall be as though he saved the whole of mankind.*"

To understand how brazen this deception by the Deputy Prime Minister was, here is what that verse actually says in full: "... We decreed for the children of Israel that whosoever kills a human being, except (as punishment) for murder or for spreading

corruption in the land, it shall be like killing all humanity; and whosoever saves a life, saves the entire human race.” (emphasis added)

What does “*corruption in the land*” mean? The next verse explains that it means “*waging war on God and Muhammad*,” and further makes clear that the punishment for this is “*execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land*”

We can now render the sentence into the sort of modern English that makes sense: “*I Muhammad decree that if any Jew kills a man (unless he kills him for murder or for opposing Allah or me) it shall be as if he killed all mankind ...*” He then continues, “*And if he does oppose God or me, execute or crucify him, or cut off his hands and feet from opposite sides ...*” Does this really sound like a religion of peace to you?

The word Muslims use for non-Muslims is “Kaffir”, but it would be a grave error to see this word as neutral, like a Catholic referring to someone as a non-Catholic. On the contrary, it is a loaded word full of contempt for its object. While its literal meaning is “one who hides the truth,” its nearest equivalent in the English language would be the “n” word on the lips of a Southern Democrat; a word loaded with negative connotations, implying filthiness, stupidity, moral depravity, even suggesting a sub-human state, a word intended to convey contempt, revulsion and hatred.

Just as this sort of deep contempt for the “other” explains why a mob of Southern Democrats could lynch a black American and then sleep soundly afterwards, so it explains why a Muslim can drive a truck into a crowd of Kafirs and feel no remorse; and, should he escape, it explains why he can rely on his community to shelter him.

On March 23 in the French town of Trèbes, a 25-year-old Muslim, Redonaine Lakdim, originally from Morocco, entered a supermarket. He had his heart set on groping the seventy-two virgins promised by his disgusting religion to those who die slaughtering Kafirs. After dropping his sister off at school earlier, he began his rampage by hijacking a car and killing the driver, he then fired at jogging policemen hitting one in the shoulder. Lakdim then drove to the Super U store around two miles away, there he killed a butcher and a shopper, and took several hostages, including a terrified, weeping woman. France has been on high alert since a series of Muslim attacks in 2015 and 2016 that killed more than 200 people. Lakdim demanded the release of Salah Abdeslam, the sole surviving assailant of the November 2015 attacks in Paris that murdered 130 innocent people.

Lieutenant Colonel Arnaud Beltrame, a Gendarme officer, a man in his early forties, asked the Muslim to allow him to take the place of the woman. The Muslim agreed. Colonel Beltrame could have been under no illusions about the danger he was placing himself in as the Muslim had already killed two innocent men minutes earlier.

As soon as this story broke, an inner voice said to me, that Gendarme officer¹ is a traditional Catholic.

The late Christopher Hitchens was a militant atheist who used to delight his supporters by demanding: *'Name me an ethical statement made or an action performed by a believer that could not have been made or performed by a non-believer.'* There you have one Mr Hitchens, right there. Actually, Hitchens grew weary of his own question and, in the end, was forced to admit that Lech Walesa, the lone and indomitable leader of Polish resistance to the might of communism, would never have dared take on such a huge and merciless enemy without his faith to sustain him. I'm sure that he would have conceded the same about Col. Arnaud Beltrame.

As the story unfolded, it soon came out that my inner voice had been spot-on, Colonel Beltrame had responded to God's grace nine years ago and became a traditional Catholic. He worshipped at the church of the canons of the Abbey of Lagrasse, a religious order devoted to the traditional Mass ("The Mass of Always" as the French lovingly call it) and the old faith. The Colonel had even built a little oratory in his home, a space he set aside for prayer. And Col Arnaud Beltrame had met his fiancée, Marielle, at a Catholic retreat. The priest preparing them for marriage wrote, *"... this soldier, this paratrooper, this elite gendarme, melted before the woman he loved, and overflowed with delicate attentions and kind words."* They planned a traditional Catholic wedding this coming June - they had already had a secular wedding; this being a requirement of French law since the Revolution.

Lieutenant Colonel Arnaud Beltrame left his mobile phone switched on so that Gendarme Officers surrounding the building could monitor the situation. When they stormed the building and the Muslim Redonaine Lakdin had died in a hail of military small-arms fire, tragically, their comrade already lay mortally wounded. The Muslim's final toll was four dead and sixteen injured.

Medics worked through the night in a desperate attempt to save Arnold Beltrame. By first light, it was clear that it was hopeless and a priest from the Abbey of Lagrasse was called to his bedside. The last noble act of this noble soul, after receiving the Last Rites of the Church, was to marry his sweetheart. His bride was in floods of tears as they exchanged vows in the Catholic ceremony, before the hero succumbed to his wounds.

The secular state, utterly unable to comprehend the sort of divine charity that will move someone to lay down their life for another, nor the sort of Catholic manly

I We have no exact equivalent to Gendarmes in the UK. They are a military rather than a police force, but their focus is internal security. According to the Elysee, Beltrame had graduated from France's top military college, Saint-Cyr, in 1999. He was later chosen to join the gendarmerie's elite GSGN in 2003, and he was deployed to Iraq in 2005.

chivalry that instinctively drives a man to place himself in harm's way to protect a woman² - even a stranger - decided to honour Lt Col Beltrame for his heroism. He was given a state funeral attended by President Macron. This is the same state that a couple of years earlier was tear-gassing children and elderly men and women of Lt Col. Beltrame's persuasion for marching peacefully, a million strong, against same-sex sham marriage and the grotesque cruelty of sodomite adoption.

The French politician, Marion Maréchal-Le Pen (not to be confused with her pro-abortion aunt, Marine Le Pen) recently stated that France was in the process of turning from the Eldest Daughter of the Church into the little niece of Islam. There are moments in history that are like the waist of an hour glass, moments when the sand of the past passes through for better or worse to become the sand of the future. The traditional Catholic Lt Col. Arnold Beltrame and the Muslim Redonaine Lakdim stand at that waist like giant sign-posts. One pointing to the ancient faith that made France and Europe the most enlightened and advanced civilisation the world has ever seen, the other pointing to an Islamic hellhole where women and girls can be publicly flogged³ or stoned to death for sexual peccadilloes, gays murdered, little girls can be legally married at nine, and anyone with the temerity to query the wisdom of this can be crucified for blasphemy. And all because a 'prophet' who raped a nine-year-old child and publicly sawed off the heads of 800 unarmed captive Jewish men and children wrote a book that says that this is the sort of depravity in which his god wants his followers to indulge.

Colonel Beltrame was convinced that such an ideology could not be fought simply with weapons and computers. It can be permanently defeated only with spiritual conviction. The Catholic faith that he rediscovered, the Catholic wonders of French history that inspired him, are the best shield against a murderous religion that kills, and has nothing more to offers us than to kill again.

I personally know at least six traditional Catholics who were once Muslims. Who knows how many souls trapped in the darkness of Islam may be brought to the light of Christ by the example of Col. Beltrame? Not all Muslims are completely ensnared in the darkness of their death cult. Some will, in some corner of their soul, undoubtedly, find the example of love and self-sacrifice inspired by Christ and fully lived out by Col. Beltrame, to be so much more noble and attractive, and so much closer to the law that God inscribed on their hearts whilst yet in their

2 By complete coincidence, a Polish man, Robert, who worships at the same church as your editor, is recovering from a stab wound he received going to the aid of two women who had been attacked - please remember Robert and his family in your prayers.

3 One pretty young woman from Iran had received a hundred lashes by the time she was fifteen - she received one flogging for wearing nail varnish! She was then sold to an Imam, a friend of her father's, for \$50. The Imam then beat her so badly he dislocated her shoulder. When she complained to the Sharia court, she was told to go home and start pleasing her husband; that way he wouldn't need to keep beating her.

mother's wombs, than the example of their co-religionist, the hate-filled Redonaine Lakdim, and thousands of others Muslims like him.

The example of Col. Beltrame, have no doubt, will ultimately be responsible for bringing more Muslims to Christ than a thousand Christian apologists. Let us praise the Lord for the strength He placed in that manly heart, that officer's heart. that charitable heart, that chivalrous heart ... that traditional Catholic heart. The priest who instructed Col. Beltrame wrote that *"He [Col. Beltrame] hid from no one the joy God had offered him through the rediscovery (when he was approaching 33 years of age - the age Christ was crucified) of his Catholic faith. Let us pray for all the victims of this tragedy, including the deluded killer and his accomplices."*

The police have arrested Redonaine Lakdim's girlfriend and a 17-year-old associate. Col Beltrame didn't have to die, neither did the hundreds of other Frenchmen and other Europeans massacred by Muslims. Like the tens of thousands of humans sacrificed by the Incas on the altars of their sun god, Col Beltrame is just one more victim sacrificed by the civilisational traitors who govern us on the altars of the Left's gods of "diversity". The gods of diversity command us, apparently, to welcome the followers of a hate filled religion to walk freely among civilised people to rape, maim and kill as they please. There will, of course, be plenty more innocent victims, including women and children. Across the world, Muslims have randomly slaughtered over 5,000 people so far this year. It took the IRA almost thirty years to reach half that number.

"... wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction"

One thought leads to another. I have always believed that most human being are lost, i.e. damned. Why do I hold such an uncomfortable opinion? Well, for two basic reasons.

The first is that Our Blessed Lord could not have been clearer and pretty much stated it as a fact: *"Enter ye in at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there are who go in thereat. How narrow is the gate, and strait is the way that leadeth to life: and few there are that find it!"* - (Matthew 7:13-14) That seems pretty clear to me.

My second reason can be illustrated by a sort of parable. Imagine that Col. Beltrame was to manifest himself in a vision to the young woman he saved - I don't believe her identity has been published, so let's call her Yvette. Further imagine that Yvette says something like, *"Hallo! I'm really grateful for what you did for me, but I haven't got time to talk just now. I'm meeting some friends for coffee."*

The Colonel responds, *"When would be convenient to talk?"*

Yvette replies, *"I can't say really. You know me - busy, busy, busy."* With that she turns her back, picks up her car keys and her mobile and sweeps out the house without a backward glance.

Would Col. Beltrame, humanly speaking, after this exchange, be looking forward to spending eternity with Yvette? Of course not. But isn't this imaginary exchange I've just recounted pretty close to most people's attitude to Christ?

The God who threw the stars into their orbits and knit you and me together in our mother's wombs, became man and submitted Himself to one of the most horrible deaths imaginable to win us back and to open the gates of Heaven for us wretches. And what is the response of most men? Pretty much along the lines of my imaginary Yvette: *"Yes of course I'm grateful, but I haven't really got much time to do a great deal about it. I'd rather be having coffee with that pretty woman, or playing football with my mates, or attending to some interesting business. You don't seriously expect me to spend three quarters of an hour every Sunday with You! If I did, my family and friends would think I'm some sort of religious nut, and you wouldn't wish that on me, would you?"* And if that is our attitude, and manifestly it, or something similar, is the attitude of the majority, can we seriously expect Christ to welcome us into eternity with the words, *"Come blessed of My Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you."*? If we do so expect, I believe that we are seriously deluded.

And what can one say of those Irishmen who have recently voted to have the protection of the law withdrawn from the most innocent, weakest and vulnerable members of their community, so that women can have sex with people they don't like enough to bear their children? Do they too seriously expect to be welcomed into eternity with the words, *"Come blessed of My Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you"?*

CARDINAL SARAH'S HOMILY TO THE CHARTRES PILGRIMS



We here publish an English translation of the homily which his Eminence Robert Cardinal Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments delivered in the cathedral of Chartres to the pilgrims present for the annual Notre-



Dame de Chrétienté pilgrimage, which, in the opinion of your editor, is one of, if not the, most important event taking place in the world today.

Dear Chartres pilgrims,

“The light has come into the world,” Jesus tells us today in the Gospel (*John 3, 16-21*), “and men have preferred darkness.”

And you, dear pilgrims, have you welcomed the only light that does not deceive: that of God? You walked for three days, prayed, sang, suffered under the sun and in the rain: did you welcome the light in your hearts? Have you really given up darkness? Have you chosen to pursue the Way by following Jesus, who is the Light of the world? Dear friends, allow me to ask you this radical question, because if God is not our light, all the rest becomes useless. Without God all is darkness!

God came to us, he became man. He has revealed to us the only truth that saves, he died to redeem us from sin, and at Pentecost he gave us the Holy Spirit, he gave us the light of faith ... but we prefer darkness!

Let's look around us! Western society has chosen to establish itself without God. Witness how it is now delivered to the flashy and deceptive lights of a consumer society, to profit at all costs, and frenzied individualism.

A world without God is a world of darkness, of lies and of selfishness!

Without the light of God, Western society has become like a drunken boat in the night! She does not have enough love to take in children, to protect them beginning from their mother's womb, to protect them from the aggression of pornography.

Deprived of the light of God, Western society no longer knows how to respect its elderly, accompany unto death its sick, make room for the poorest and the weakest.

Society is abandoned to the darkness of fear, sadness and isolation. She has nothing to offer but emptiness and nothingness. It allows the proliferation of the maddest ideologies.

A Western society without God can become the cradle of an ethical and moral terrorism more virulent and more destructive than Islamist terrorism. Remember that Jesus told us, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10, 28).

Dear friends, forgive me this portrayal. But one must be clear and realistic. If I speak to you in this way, it is because, in my priestly, pastoral heart, I feel compassion for so many wayward souls, lost, sad, worried and lonely! Who will lead them to the light? Who will show them the way to the truth, the only true path of freedom which is that of the Cross? Are we going to leave them to be delivered to error, to hopeless nihilism, or to aggressive Islamism?

We must proclaim to the world that our hope has a name: Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the world and of humanity! We can no longer be silent!

Dear Pilgrims of France, look upon this cathedral! Your ancestors built it to proclaim their faith! Everything, in its architecture, its sculpture, its windows, proclaims the joy of being saved and loved by God. Your ancestors were not perfect, they were not without sins. But they wanted to let the light of faith illuminate their darkness!

Today, you too, People of France, wake up! Choose the light! Renounce the darkness!

How can this be done? The Gospel tells us: “He who acts according to the truth comes to the light.” Let the light of the Holy Spirit illuminate our lives concretely, simply, and even in the most intimate parts of our deepest being. To act according to the truth is first to put God at the centre of our lives, as the Cross is the centre of this cathedral.

My brothers, choose to turn to Him every day! At this moment, make the commitment to keep a few minutes of silence every day in order to turn to God, to tell him “Lord reign in me! I give you all my life!”

Dear pilgrims, without silence, there is no light. Darkness feeds on the incessant noise of this world, which prevents us from turning to God.

Take the example of the liturgy of the Mass today. It brings us to adoration, filial fear and love in the presence of God’s greatness. It culminates in the Consecration where together, facing the altar, our gaze directed to the host, to the cross, we commune in silence in recollection and in adoration.

Dear friends, let us love these liturgies that enable us to taste the silent and transcendent presence of God, and turn us towards the Lord.

Dear brother priests, I want to address you specifically. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the place where you will find the light for your ministry. The world we live in is constantly petitioning us. We are constantly in motion, without taking care to stop and take the time to go to a deserted place to rest a little, in solitude and silence, in the company of the Lord. There is the danger that we regard ourselves as “social workers”. Then, we would not bring the Light of God to the world, but our own light,

which is not that which men expect from us. What the world expects of the priest is God and the Light of his Word proclaimed without ambiguity or falsification.

Let us know how to turn to God in a liturgical celebration, full of respect, silence and sacredness. Do not invent anything in the liturgy. Let us receive everything from God and from the Church. Do not look for show or success. The liturgy teaches us: To be a priest is not above all to do many things. It is to be with the Lord, on the Cross! The liturgy is the place where man meets God face to face. The liturgy is the most sublime moment when God teaches us to “to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren” (Rom. 8, 29). Liturgy is not and should not be an occasion for grief, struggle or strife. In the ordinary form, just as in the extraordinary form of the Roman rite, the essential thing is to turn to the Cross, to Christ, our East, our Everything and our only Horizon! Whether in the ordinary form or the extraordinary form, let us always celebrate, as on this day, according to what the Second Vatican Council teaches: with a noble simplicity, without useless additions, without factitious and theatrical aesthetic, but with the sense of the sacred, with the primary concern for the Glory of God, and with a true spirit of a son of the Church of today and of always!

Dear fellow priests, always keep this certainty: to be with Christ on the Cross is what priestly celibacy proclaims to the world! The plan, again advanced by some, to detach celibacy from the priesthood by conferring the sacrament of the Order on married men (“*viri probati*”) for, they say, “pastoral reasons or necessities”, would have serious consequences, in fact, to definitively break with the Apostolic Tradition. We would manufacture a priesthood according to our human dimension, but without perpetuating, without extending the priesthood of Christ, obedient, poor and chaste. Indeed, the priest is not only an “alter Christus”, but he is truly “ipse Christus”, he is Christ himself! And that is why, following Christ and the Church, the priest will always be a sign of contradiction! ~ To you, dear Christians, lay people engaged in the life of the City, I want to say with force: “do not be afraid! Do not be afraid to bring the light of Christ to this world!”

Your first witness must be your own example: act according to the Truth! In your family, in your profession, in your social, economic, political relations, may Christ be your Light! Do not be afraid to testify that your joy comes from Christ!

Please, do not hide the source of your hope! On the contrary, proclaim it! Testify to it! Evangelize! The Church needs you! Remind all that only “the crucified Christ reveals the true meaning of freedom!” (Veritatis Splendor 85) with Christ, set free liberty that is today chained by false human rights, all oriented towards the self-destruction of man.

To you, dear parents, I want to send a special message. Being a father and mother in today’s world is an adventure full of suffering, obstacles and worries. The Church says to you: “Thank you”! Yes, thank you for the generous gift of yourselves! Have the courage to raise your children in the light of Christ. You will sometimes have to fight against the prevailing wind and endure the mockery and contempt of the world.

But we are not here to please the world! “We proclaim a crucified Christ, scandal for the Jews and folly for the Gentiles” (1 Cor. 1, 23-24) Do not be afraid! Do not give up! The Church, through the voice of the Popes – especially since the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* – entrusts to you a prophetic mission: to testify before all of our joyful trust in God, who has made us intelligent guardians of the natural order. You announce what Jesus has revealed to us through his very life: “Freedom is accomplished in love, that is to say, the gift of oneself.” (Veritatis Splendor 87)

Dear Fathers and Mothers, the Church loves you! Love the Church! She is your Mother. Do not join those who laugh at her, because they only see the wrinkles of her face aged by centuries of suffering and hardship. Even today, she is beautiful and radiates holiness.

Finally, I want to address you, you the younger people who are numerous here!

However, I beg you first to listen to an “elder” who has more authority than me. This is the Evangelist St John. Beyond the example of his life, St John also left a written message to young people. In his First Letter, we read these moving words of an elder to the young people of the churches he had founded. Listen to his voice full of vigour, wisdom and warmth: *“I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world”* (1 John 2, 14-15).

The world we must not love, as Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa commented in his homily on Good Friday 2018, to which we do not have to comply, is not, as we all know, the world created and loved by God, it is not the people of the world to whom, on the contrary, we must always go to, especially the poor and the poor of the poor, to love them and serve them humbly ... No! The world not to love is another world; it is the world as it became under the rule of Satan and sin. The world of ideologies that deny human nature and destroy the family ... structures from the UN, which impose a new global ethic, play a decisive role and have today become an overwhelming power, spreading through the airwaves through the unlimited possibilities of technology. In many Western countries, it is a crime today to refuse to submit to these horrible ideologies. This is what we call adaptation to the spirit of the times, conformism. A great British believer and poet of the last century, Thomas Stearns Eliot wrote a few verses that say more than whole books: “In a world of fugitives, the person taking the opposite direction will appear to run away”.

Dear young Christians, if it is permissible for an “elder,” as St. John, to speak directly to you, I also exhort you, and I say to you, you have overcome the Evil One! Fight any law against nature that would be imposed on you, oppose any law against life, against the family. Be of those who take the opposite direction! Dare to go against the grain! For us, Christians, the opposite direction is not a place, it is a Person, it is Jesus Christ, our Friend and our Redeemer. A task is especially entrusted to you: to save human love from the tragic drift into which it has fallen: love, which is no longer the gift of oneself, but only the possession of the other – a possession often violently tyrannical. On the Cross, God revealed himself as “agape”, that is to say as a love

that is given to death. To really love is to die for the other. Like the young gendarme, Colonel Arnaud Beltrame!

Dear young people, you often, without doubt, suffer in your soul the struggle of darkness and light. You are sometimes seduced by the easy pleasures of the world. With all my heart of a priest, I say to you: do not hesitate! Jesus will give you everything! By following him to be Saints, you will not lose anything! You will win the only joy that never disappoints!

Dear young people, if today Christ calls you to follow him as a priest, as a religious, do not hesitate! Say to him: “fiat”, an enthusiastic and unconditional yes!

God wants you, to have need of you, what grace! What a joy! The West has been evangelized by the saints and the martyrs. You, young people of today, will be the saints and the martyrs that the nations are waiting for in a New Evangelization! Your homelands are thirsty for Christ! Do not disappoint them! The Church trusts you!

I pray that many of you will answer today, during this Mass, the call of God to follow him, to leave everything for him, for his light. Dear young people, do not be afraid. God is the only friend who will never disappoint you! When God calls, he is radical. It means He goes all the way to the root. Dear friends, we are not called to be mediocre Christians! No, God calls us all to the total gift, to the martyrdom of the body or the heart!

Dear people of France, it is the monasteries that made the civilization of your country! It is men and women who have accepted to follow Jesus to the end, radically, who have built Christian Europe. Because they have sought God alone, they have built a beautiful and peaceful civilization, like this cathedral.

People of France, peoples of the West, you will find peace and joy only by seeking God alone! Return to the Source! Return to the monasteries! Yes, all of you, dare to spend a few days in a monastery! In this world of tumult, ugliness and sadness, monasteries are oases of beauty and joy. You will experience that it is possible to put concretely God in the centre of his whole life. You will experience the only joy that will not pass.

Dear pilgrims, let us give up the darkness. Let's choose the light! Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to know how to say “fiat”, that is, “Yes!”, fully, like her, to know how to welcome the light of the Holy Spirit like she did. On this day when, thanks to the solicitude of the Holy Father Pope Francis, we celebrate Mary, Mother of the Church, let us ask this Most Holy Mother to have a heart like hers, a heart that refuses nothing to God, a heart burning with love for the glory of God, a heart ardent to announce to men the Good News, a generous heart, a heart as profuse as the heart of Mary, as abundant as that of the Church, and as rich as that of the Heart of Jesus - Amen!

I'M AFRAID OF MARTYRDOM

Written by Hilary White

I write this on the Feast of the English Carthusian Martyrs, St. John Houghton and companions.

I'm afraid of martyrdom. In fact, I'm afraid of experiencing anything bad - even things as silly as mean tweets - because of the things I believe. And I shy away from even the minor discomforts of fast and abstinence. I moan and complain at the normal aches and pains of being 52. I fear more cancer; I'm afraid of the increasing infirmity of age; I'm as worried as an old biddy about my health.



Martyrdom of the English Carthusian, St. John Houghton and companions

And at the same time, I'm not only afraid of martyrdom and the opprobrium of the world, and of the discomfort of even mild, modern penances, I'm afraid of the judgment of God. *Really* afraid. I know what I am. (I don't know it as well as He does, but even the little bit I do know is horrifying.) So I know what I deserve.

And this fear of judgment, just punishment and aversion to penance - perfectly natural and I bet more or less universally experienced - is exactly why we commemorate and venerate the martyrs.

What do they "witness" to us?

That the ideas of the world, the assumptions and priorities of this life, are false and our fears - of penance and what the Benedictines call conversion of life - are unfounded.

Today is the beginning of the period in which, from 1535 to 1537, the London Carthusians were murdered, martyred, by the Protestant English state. May 4th is the feast of the English Carthusian Martyrs, St. John Houghton and companions.

And here is a little story from a young man entering a Carthusian monastery now:

*God is mercy and love, he loves us to the point of arousing in our hearts the strong desire to follow Him in the radicality of a silent and collected life. It happened in San Bruno many centuries ago, but even today men and women follow this example, this ideal of life. And it happened to me. **God saw my condition as a sinner and wanted to give me the opportunity to follow this path** which aims to lead me to holiness and to*

union with Him, which is our whole truth and our salvation. **I am an aspirant to the difficult life**, not because of mine, but for the goodness and mercy of God. From a very early age I felt the call to consecrate my life to God, but I let time pass, because I thought that this style of life was not for me. But **when God calls, restlessness remains in us** and we only calm down when we respond, with love, to this call of love. I always thought of a radical life, and when I met the Charterhouse I fell in love with the lifestyle of these men and women.



St Perpetua guiding the sword of the nervous executioner to her throat

I found many difficulties along the way and I still find them, but with God's grace everything is going well and these difficulties only make me stronger. In November 2017, the Good God through a benefactor, gave me the gift of being able to make my experience in the Charterhouse of Our Lady Medianeira, here in Rio Grande do Sul. If I had to describe my experience, this would be the title: **I WAS 30 DAYS IN THE SKY!** The title could not be anything else, **I was really in heaven**, surrounded by good angels, charitable, loving, available, patient and full of faith and love for God and his Church.

I can say that I met several saints in the Charterhouse, but Father Prior emanated an angel's air, a kindness and humility that moved me. I sat near him only a few days, then I went to the choir next to the Father Master. At first I was lost in the pages of that big and heavy book, and the Prior, perceiving my difficulty, left his place in the choir and came to help me, or sometimes even from his place showed me what the page of the book was. When I looked at his eyes, I saw only goodness. What a holy man!!! God be blessed.

Days passed and experience left me more and more enchanted by those men who, leaving everything behind, lived for the greater Good with great joy. They are charitable and very kind men. I was able to deepen that charism, because I lived everything that a monk lives, I took walks, I participated in the recreations, I participated in two chapters and the grace of God involved me more and more. But I want to emphasise two things in the Charterhouse that have left me enchanted, passionate ... the Holy Mass and the Vigils ... everything is special there, but these two things left me speechless ...

Today I asked a friend, a good priest, the question, “Is it true that going to heaven has very little to do with you being, as the world's expression has it, ‘a good person’?” In other words, in the natural sense, being “nice” has pretty much nothing to do with sanctity. I suspect that real holiness looks quite different from the world’s ideas about it.

My friend helpfully responded that with the World going barreling along in the wrong direction... “as time goes on, less and less.”

“Of course as Paul VI observed, ‘The natural law, the observance of which is also necessary for salvation,’ is partially, very partially recognised (not by itself) as being good. But so much of what the world calls good, is actually wicked: ‘Woe to them who call evil, good, and good, evil.’ ie: ‘She was a good woman. She spent her vacations working for women's reproductive rights in Africa.’

“On the other hand, if a contemporary worldling met Francis de Sales, surely the worldling would say, ‘Wow, is that ever a kind and attentive person!’”

I would only add, “He would say that about St. Francis de Sales upon first impression. But the song would change abruptly as soon as he found out what the saint of gentleness thought about ‘women’s reproductive rights’.” The things we call good are quite different from what the World calls good. And they’re getting more and more different every day.

But even so, the world is certainly looking for heroism, no less Catholics than all the other people flocking to see “Avengers Infinity War” this week. In fact, perhaps Catholics more than anyone else. We are called, are we not, and despite what Cardinal Kasper would have us believe, to holiness, which is nothing less than heroism.

Recently in a conversation with Fr. Oblate Director we talked about the admonition of the Lord to “be perfect as my Father in heaven is perfect.” I said that when I first started towards my conversion (35 years ago!) I remember that I had found this passage a huge obstacle. It was impossible, you see. I knew full well even then that Christian Perfection - sanctity - was actually completely impossible for me to do. At the time I thought it was unjust, or at least unfair, of the Lord, the Son of God, to demand perfection as the price of entering heaven. And I was completely right. It was impossible.

Of course, since then I’ve learned the answer to that apparently insoluble conundrum. It’s impossible for us. It’s not impossible for Him. He is the one who makes you perfect. All you need to do is cooperate.

What did Felicity and Perpetua and those early Roman martyrs look like as they were being martyred in the arenas of Carthage and Rome? What did it look like from the stands? Not much, I would think. Two weak women, chased by animals across the bloody sand, the outcome a foregone conclusion. It was North Africa so it was probably a hot day. They might have been nothing more than the half-time show, a sort of mid-credits scene between the main event of the games. It might have been the moment to pop out and get another cold beer.

I guess that it was ugly and brutal. Not at all the stuff of late Victorian romantic paintings.

(And of course, we're in a time now when that most terrible of questions is coming back into the mind of Christians everywhere: "What would I do? Would I give in? Would I pinch a grain in fear?")

But what did it look like from the point of view of Heaven?

*To each one God granted the form of martyrdom he desired. Satorus had hoped to be exposed to several sorts of beasts, **that his sufferings might be intensified**. He and Revocatus were first attacked half-heartedly by a leopard. Satorus was next exposed to a wild boar which turned on his keeper instead. He was then tied up on the bridge in front of a bear, but the animal refused to stir out of his den, and Satorus was reserved for one more encounter. The delay gave him an opportunity to turn and speak to the converted jailer Pudens: "You see that what I desired and foretold has come to pass. Not a beast has touched me! So believe steadfastly in Christ. And see now, I go forth yonder and with one bite from a leopard all will be over." As he had foretold, a leopard was now let out, sprang upon him, and in a moment he was fatally wounded. Seeing the flow of blood, the cruel mob cried out, "He is well baptized now!" Dying, Satorus said to Pudens, "Farewell; remember my faith and me, and let these things not daunt but strengthen you." He then asked for a ring from Pudens' finger, and dipping it in his own blood, returned it to the jailer as a keepsake. Then he expired...*

*Perpetua and Felicitas were exposed to a mad heifer. Perpetua was tossed first and fell on her back, but raised herself and gathered her torn tunic modestly about her; then, after fastening up her hair, lest she look as if she were in mourning, she rose and went to help Felicitas, who had been badly hurt by the animal. Side by side they stood, expecting another assault, but the sated audience cried out that it was enough. They were therefore led to the gate Sanevivaria, where victims who had not been killed in the arena were dispatched by gladiators. **Here Perpetua seemed to arouse herself from an ecstasy and could not believe that she had already been exposed to a mad heifer until she saw the marks of her injuries**. She then called out to her brother and to the catechumen: "Stand fast in the faith, and love one another. Do not let our sufferings be a stumbling block to you." By this time the fickle populace was clamouring for the women to come back into the open. This they did willingly, and after giving each other the kiss of peace, they were killed by the gladiators. **Perpetua had to guide the sword of the nervous executioner to her throat**.*

Here's the point that always made me pause in the midst of my fears and weakness: they asked God for more suffering! And they hardly even noticed being martyred. They were in ecstasies. How does that even work?

That was the point that made me start to think it was possible to lose my fears, and eventually my silly resentment at the Lord's command faded, overwhelmed in awe at the idea that these were real people, and these things really happened. There was obviously something much greater going on here than mere suffering.

We're given opportunities every day. Not of martyrdom by wild beasts, at least not most of us in the 1st world, but by the thousand daily opportunities for little, hidden martyrdoms that come along with ordinary life. We're given this failure, this weakness, this mistake, this moment of decision right here and now, to turn to Christ, in our daily desperation. We beg Him for the grace of conversion right now, and we offer Him with sorrow, our regret and our frustrations at our moments of failure. The question for most of us is not, "Would I stand up to martyrdom?" But "How do I respond to this difficulty - however petty or huge it might be - right here and now? How do I endure the knowledge of my failure and weakness? Where do I turn for a cure?"

I have a friend who does more or less what I do. He writes and blogs and podcasts about the Church, the Francis papacy and all that. And he's prone to getting fed up, even discouraged. He knows his failings and shortcomings as a Catholic and is frustrated by them. And like all of us, he tends to forget that these are his crosses, these are the things God has given him specially, today, to suffer and offer up.

Whatever you've got going on right now, these are the opportunities we've been given. It doesn't look very heroic in the world's terms, but this is what we've got today, right now. My frustration with my physical weakness, my often tormenting memories of my past sins, my failures in life, my stupid selfishness, my cowardice, my mistakes; this is the raw material I've got. It's not pretty, but this is the stuff of our repentance, all we've got to offer up to Christ on the Cross.

How are we going to get to the "place," the spiritual maturity, the indifference to this life, of a St. Felicity? Or a St. John Houghton? Or a Moses the Black, a Mary of Egypt, or any of the greats whom we remember? By this little path, that looks like nothing to us, but in Reality – the point of view of heaven, which is the only one that matters - is the royal road. And as per the saints, we will look back on that road and see something miraculous. We'll see it is not paved with thorns and stones as we had thought, but strewn with roses.

This article appears in the Print/E-edition of The Remnant.

BERGOGLIO **The Dictator Pope**

One of the more revealing stories that underlines the malign nature of Bergoglio is that involving Bishop Livieres. Opus Dei Bishop Rogelio Livieres was a very good bishop: a brave orthodox staunch Catholic man. He headed up the diocese of Ciudad del Este. Ciudad del Este is in Paraguay, so why would this concern Bergoglio who was bishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, you may well ask.

Well, good Bishop Rogelio Livieres is an ethnic Argentinean and Ciudad del Este is close to the Argentinean border. But the real running sore was that Bishop Livieres' seminary was bursting at the seams. At one time the seminary housed 240 students, which was more than the rest of the entire Paraguayan hierarchy combined. To make matters even worse for Bergoglio it was attracting refugees from his own seminary, men were crossing the border in search of a more orthodox and traditional priestly formation.



We must introduce at this point in this pantomime one of the ugly sisters, bishop Fernando Logo, Bishop of San Pedro. Bishop Logo was one of those post-Conciliar Judases of which the UK has had more than its fair share. Men who combined their Episcopal duties with a string of affairs and dotted their diocese and beyond with an hotchpotch of illegitimate children.

Bishop Livieres was a lone voice in the Paraguayan hierarchy in calling this man to account. The rest, as in the UK, conspired to cover it up. Logo eventually resigned his priesthood and successfully ran for the office of President of Paraguay in 2008. However, four years later, the Chamber of Deputies voted 76 to 1 to impeach Lugo and he was removed from office.

In 2008, good Bishop Livieres travelled to Rome and handed Pope Benedict XVI a sealed letter containing suggestions for tightening up the selection process for bishops to avoid similar scandals in the future.

One of Bergoglio's planted moles in the Vatican, a Fr Pedacchio, sent a copy of this letter illegally to Bergoglio who lost no time in leaking it to the press with the clear intention of harming good Bishop Livieres both with the Paraguayan government and the rest of the hierarchy.

Not content with this mischief, as soon as Bergoglio was elected pope, he had Bishop Livieres removed from office within the year and then closed down his successful seminary.

Do not allow this story to depress you. This is how all revolutions end. The more aging revolutionaries see their glorious revolution failing, the more cruel and intolerant they become. But it is all for nothing. The 240 men unceremoniously and cruelly

turfed out that seminary won't just disappear; they will find other good seminaries elsewhere. Some will finish up in liberal seminaries and will just keep their heads down until they are ordained. Some will of course give up, marry and produce strong traditional Catholic families of seven, eight, ten children. Everything works to the good for those who love the Lord. So the effect of Bergoglio's cruelty will be akin to a hunter culling the herd; the end result being that the herd is both healthier and stronger. So rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for this cleansing persecution.

To purchase a copy of The Dictator Pope use this link: <https://amzn.to/2Nrjb3V>

**WHEN FREEDOM FAILS THE BEST MEN ROT IN FILTHY JAILS,
AND THOSE WHO CRY “APPEASE! APPEASE!” ARE HUNG BY THOSE
THEY TRY TO PLEASE ...**

By Graham Moorhouse (based on an article by Bruce Bawer)



Pictured: Police officers pull Tommy Robinson (center) off a street in Leeds, England, where, in his role as a citizen journalist, he was livestreaming a Facebook video from outside a courthouse. (Image source: TommyRobinson.online video screenshot)

Britain was the place where the values of the Anglosphere, above all a dedication to freedom, had fully flourished. Without Britain, there would have been no U.S. Declaration of Independence, Constitution, or Bill of Rights.

Sadly, today, the days of individual liberty and the rule of law are becoming a distant memory; remembered only by men old enough to have known the generations who fought and died for them. Foreign critics of Islam, such as the American scholar Robert Spencer, and even the Dutch Parliamentarian Geert Wilders⁴, leader of the second largest party in the Dutch parliament, have been barred from the country.

4 This was overturned by the courts, not by a change of heart from our political masters.

Now, at least one prominent home-grown critic of Islam, Tommy Robinson, has been repeatedly harassed by the police, railroaded by the courts, and left unprotected by prison officials who have allowed Muslim inmates to beat him senseless. Clearly, the British state views Robinson as a thorn in their side and would like nothing more than to see him give up his fight, leave the country (as Ayaan Hirsi Ali left the Netherlands), or be killed by a jihadist (as happened to the Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh, and the twelve French Charlie Hebdo cartoonists).

On Friday 25th May 2018 the saga of Tommy Robinson entered a new chapter. British police officers pulled him off a street in Leeds, where, in his role as a citizen journalist, he was livestreaming a Facebook video from outside a courthouse. Inside that building, several defendants were on trial for being part of a so-called "grooming gang"⁵ - a group of Muslim men who systematically rape and pimp non-Muslim children, in some cases hundreds of them, over periods of years or decades, an unspeakably wicked crime to which the authorities have until recently turned a blind-eye.

The police promptly dragged Robinson in front of a judge, where, without having access to his own lawyer, he was summarily tried and sentenced to 13 months behind bars. He was then transported to Hull Prison. Meanwhile, the judge who sentenced him also ordered the British media not to report on his case. Newspapers that had already posted reports of his arrest quickly took them down. The restrictions seemed pretty pointless as it was all over social media and was lifted a few days later.

Many of Tommy's supporters are suggesting that the swiftness of Tommy's arrest, trial and sentencing, the swiftness with which "justice" was meted out to Robinson is stunning. No, more than that: it is terrifying. However, I'm not convinced that they are on solid ground here: I suspect that contempt of court cases are often dealt with swiftly. And my understanding at this moment is that Tommy pleaded guilty, which would have left the judge with little option but to sentence him. Oddly, however, the judge admitted to not having time to review the evidence which does seem very strange indeed.

In any case, Robinson's lightning-fast arrest, trial, and imprisonment should come as no surprise, because there has been a campaign by the state to get Tommy for a decade or more. The justification for Robinson's arrest is that he was on a suspended sentence. In May of last year, he was taken into custody for reporting from the bottom step of a courthouse in Kent, where yet another group of Muslim child rapists were on trial. It is a crime to broadcast from court premises. I would be interested to learn whether any other individual has been prosecuted for broadcasting from the bottom step outside a courthouse. Indeed, one regularly see media scrums outside courthouses when celebrities are on trial, and no mainstream journalist is even admonished, let alone arrested. For this minor and technical offence Tommy was dragged

5 "Grooming gangs" is an euphemism for groups of Muslims who use the gang rape and torture of underage girls (some as young as nine) as a form of jihad, and are both encouraged and protected by their mosques and community.

from his bed at 4am in the morning! Clearly, such over-the-top reaction would have been ordered by a faceless high-ranking Muslim or a hard-left chief constable, or a similar civilizational traitor, imbedded in the deep state - no ordinary decent copper would have deemed that appropriate.

Tommy has clearly been singled out for state persecution. On this latest occasion Tommy did not step on court property; in fact he actually asked the police present whether it was legal to broadcast from where he was standing and was assured that it was. The main issue, I believe, is that there is not a level playing field, because I have watched videos of both citizen and mainstream journalists broadcasting from outside the same trial and they were not arrested. In fact one Sikh was far less careful and circumspect than Tommy and the police just watched and did nothing. A few years ago, when the police refused to help the Sikhs to protect their daughters from these Muslim jihad child rape gangs, the Sikhs tooled up and demolished the restaurant of one of the ring leaders. The Sikhs are a godsend because they pull no punches yet don't receive the intimidation that people like Tommy receive. The Sikh Awareness Society is left alone. It appears that the police are very reluctant to arrest bearded men in turbans; a reluctance which paradoxically suggests that the police are racist.

The official hypocrisy here is stunning. Often, when one of these "grooming gang" trials is being held, the extended families and friends of the defendants stand outside the courthouse and "heckle and intimidate" the rape victims as well as their families and supporters. There have been reports of children as young as five throwing stones at victims' families. This intimidation by extended community groups also involves going around to houses and harassing people. One witness for the prosecution even needed a police escort to use the toilet inside a courthouse. This heckling and harassment is never reported and never punished.

Tommy has also served a prison sentence for mortgage fraud. The fraud consisted in loaning his brother-in-law £30,000 to buy a house. The problem was that his brother-in-law had overstated his income to obtain the mortgage. It was a completely victimless crime: Tommy was repaid and the mortgage was repaid. In fact, the mortgage company had not complained: but the agents of the deep-state had been crawling all over Tommy's affairs for months, and ultimately turned up this matter. Be afraid, be very afraid, if the state can do this to high profile figures like Tommy, they can do it to you or to me.

Left-wing group-think reporters from the usual suspects like Channel 4 are posting videos basically saying Tommy got what was coming to him. They crassly reveal their bias by calling anyone who doesn't agree with them right-wing. Today being ordinary blokes concerned about Muslim gangs raping their daughters is enough to get you accused of being "right-wing", whatever that means. This label, like "racist", is the left's way of avoiding debate, because once you have this smeared on you, you don't have to be contended with. The reason that this slur works for them is that the mindless mob will subliminally imbibe a whiff of the Nazis and the holocaust from hearing the term. This involves yet more ignorance and dishonesty because Hitler

and the Nazis were clearly from the hard-left, not the right. The reason Hitler hated the Jews is the same reason that the Labour Party today is riddled with anti-Semites. The left hates Jews because it sees them as quintessentially capitalists, and thus the oppressors of the proletariat, who, until recently at least, provided the left with its base.

I spent about three-hours recently at a free Tommy demo. There were about 20,000 ordinary mostly working class blokes, the salt of the earth as far as I'm concerned. At one point a young Muslim woman walked through the crowd. The men parted politely to facilitate her progress and she was not, as far as I could tell, accosted once - all I can say is if they were far-right racists, they are pretty rubbish at it.

The other line pumped out by the left is to remind us that Tommy is a "convicted criminal". Well, so of course was Nelson Mandela (and unlike Nelson, Tommy doesn't have sadistic murderess for a wife) and so, of course, was Emily Davison (the suffragette who threw herself under a galloping horse to prove that women are equal to men) - but these are both regarded as heroes by the left and indeed many others.

One potentially positive aspect of this ugly turn of events is that it has turned heads that should have turned a long time ago. One professionally made video from the left supporting the arrest of Tommy had over 6,000 dislikes to 2,000 likes! And I have seen tweets to the effect that they didn't necessarily support Tommy but were appalled by his arrest. On Saturday 9th June, 20,000 of Robinson's supporters rallied in Westminster. One British ex-policeman reacted to Robinson's incarceration with a video urging his fellow countrymen not just to march or rally but to join Ann Marie Waters' party For Britain and do for freedom of speech in Britain what UKIP did to get Britain out of the EU.

To understand how skewed the playing field has become - an imam was arrested recently for throwing a brick at a policeman, only to be released after "*a large group of Muslims demanded his release.*" A police officer acknowledged that the imam had been freed because otherwise "*they would have been facing riots all around the country.*"

One assumes that the officials believe that perpetrating this kind of injustice will somehow keep the peace. I would not be quite so sure. The people at that Westminster rally on Saturday 9th June were angry, very angry. And for every person at that rally there will be at least a hundred others who feel the same but could not be there - that's a conservative estimate of nearly two million people.

I cannot for the life of me fathom why not a single prominent or powerful individual in all of the United Kingdom has come forward to challenge the mistreatment of Tommy Robinson. and stand up for freedom and the rule of law. Is the entire British establishment a bunch of spineless cowards? I suppose we will know the answer to that question soon enough ... if we do not know it already.

TALES FROM THE CCRS (REVISITED)

By Patrick Lawler

If you've been reading *The Flock* for a few years now you may be aware that I was kicked-off the Westminster Archdiocese CCRS program for the crime of "Being Catholic Aforethought", which is an order of offence similar to that of "Standing Outside a Courtroom While Being Tommy Robinson". I wrote a series of articles for *The Flock*, called "Tales from the CCRS". Unfortunately, we've had to revisit the subject.

The introduction to the course, found at the website <http://www.brs-ccrs.org.uk/> says:

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It was introduced in 1991 to replace its predecessors, The Catholic Teachers' Certificate and the Certificate in Religious Education. Any person who is or wishes to be involved in Catholic education and formation may apply for this course. This includes those involved in Religious Education in schools, Parish Catechesis and other ministries in the Church and anyone who wishes to follow the course for faith development or personal interest. The course seeks to ensure that participants have at least a basic knowledge and understanding of the beliefs of the Catholic Faith. It also provides a basis for further study.

The course was revised in 1992. It is designed for teachers in Catholic schools; that they may have a basic understanding of the Church, its teaching and way of life to enable them to contribute to the maintenance of the ethos of the Catholic school. It is also for catechists in order to give them a basic understanding of the faith of the Catholic Church as a foundation for their catechetical ministry, and for adult members of the Church to enable them to continue to grow in understanding as they live their Catholic faith.

I was still at the very beginning of my conversion to the Faith and, naively, thought it would be a good way for me to get a grounding in the history and doctrines of Catholicism. It was obvious from the very start that something was wrong; the course tutors and the other participants all seemed to 'understand' the Faith in a way that directly contradicted the basics I had already managed to pick up from reading **Traditional** Catholic sources. There is nothing accidental about this, in fact it explains everything.

Historical Note

What is known as "Catholic Emancipation" or "Catholic Relief" was the process of the slow dismantling of the legal, social, economic and political structures which enforced and maintained the persecution of and systematic discrimination against Catholics in Great Britain and Ireland. This took place from the latter half of the eighteenth century and through most of the nineteenth; some of the highlights were:

- 1829: The Catholic Emancipation Act

- 1847: Creation of the Catholic Poor School Committee
- 1850: Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy

Take note of that sequence; the Catholic community of this country established an organisation for the education of their children **before** the hierarchy was even formalised. There are a number of instances in this period when a Catholic community in a town or city would build their school before their church (remember, the Protestants stole all ours!) using the school hall for Holy Mass until the church was built. But it went even further than that:

"After 1870, the break-up of Victorian Christianity and the advance of scepticism and materialism powerfully promoted the spread of a type of educational opinion which favoured the abolition of Church schools and urged their replacement by a uniform and unidenominational, if not purely secular, State system. This school of thought is still powerfully vocal today, attacking the Dual system, established in 1902, now on grounds of principle, now on grounds of administrative convenience.

Determined not to allow its working-class children to be drawn forcibly into the Board schools with their passively if not actively anti-Catholic atmosphere the Catholic community at very great cost increased its own provision, from 350 in 1870 to 1066 in 1902.

The staffing of these schools was made possible by the services of teaching nuns and also by the sacrifices, heavy and irremediable, made by many lay teachers who devoted their lives to maintaining the Catholic schools despite the impossibility of their receiving anything like adequate salaries."

H O Evennett The Catholic schools of England and Wales Cambridge University Press 1944 p 20

They knew it was vital their children received a Catholic education for the sake of their eternal salvation.

(Private Note: I have to confess, the above quote, literally, moved me to tears.)

However, the Catholics weren't the only ones who knew how vital education was to achieving a goal; a number of communist thinkers, most notably Antonio Gramsci, John Dewey and the members of the Frankfurt School, saw education as the preeminent method for destroying Christianity and, with it, Western Civilization. Now, at this point, to forestall any objections to me lumping Dewey in with Gramsci and the Frankfurt School, e.g. "*He made any number of anti-communist statements!*", "*He was a Georgist!*", "*He was a Christian himself!*", etc. I will simply say that there are some scholars who say he was but, far more importantly, as a teacher who has had all too much experience of Dewey's child-centred, progressive education and the social, moral, cultural and intellectual chaos and degeneracy it inevitably creates, well, if he wasn't a commie, I have no idea what would qualify you to be one. Oh, yes, I almost forgot; I was a card-carrying member of the Socialist Workers Party (ahem, note the lack of the plural possessive apostrophe) and **we** always knew he was "One of us!"

A particularly clear and concise summary of Gramsci's ideas can be found in a paper by Michael Welton, the introductory abstract of which states (with glowing approval):

"It is generally agreed that the work of Antonio Gramsci reveals an imaginative and intellectual power seldom achieved in Western Marxism. For those interested in the role of education in building an alternative, anti-capitalist cultural formation, Gramsci's ideas are of considerable value. Of particular interest is that Gramsci, as part of his revolutionary strategy, argued that the education of children of subordinate classes must be considered an essential element in any strategy aimed at building an oppositional culture."

The paper was published in *The Journal of Educational Thought*. Vol. 16. No. 3. December 1982, a publication I was familiar with from my own Teacher Training days.

Back to the CCRS

In one of the earlier outings of Tales from the CCRS I wrote about a training day I attended just for teachers:

While there are so many things I could say about the teachers I met that day, it is important to bear in mind that they are an absolutely representative sample of the people running our diocesan schools and the three most basic and crucial things I can point out that should utterly convince you to Home-School at all costs are:

- 1. These people have no knowledge, understanding or commitment to the Faith and, correspondingly, DO NOT BELIEVE.*
- 2. They are, quite literally, incapable of grasping objective truth and, actually, reject it out of hand.*
- 3. As if 1 and 2 above were not enough, they are actively and hysterically aggressive, antagonistic and insulting to anyone who points out the truths of the Faith and their logical ramifications. (Then again, a guilty conscience can do that to you!)*

I will not give chapter and verse of the many exchanges I had throughout the day, it would be tiresome and long-winded in the extreme. The notable thing was that, as soon as it became clear by my comments and suggestions that I am an orthodox, traditional Catholic, it was obvious I made most (if not all) of the other course participants and the course leader uncomfortable and many of them made their dislike of me and my Catholic attitudes clear.

The state of 'Catholic' schools (Primary and Secondary) can be illustrated by the following points, all of which are real responses, views and official policies I read and heard on the day. I am not making any of this up:

- It may not be said or taught at any time and in any context that the Roman Catholic Church is the One True Faith.*
- All religions and faiths are equally valid and worthy of respect.*

- *Sodomite ‘marriage’ is to be celebrated and approved of (No one used the term “sodomite”, obviously!).*
- *Children are “sexual beings” from an early age and sexual experimentation and questioning are to be encouraged and accepted.*
- *There is no such thing as “normal” in terms of sexuality, marriage or family structure; these things are fluid, changeable and not subject to any fixed morality.*
- *There is no such thing as absolute Truth; truth is relative.*
- *There is no such thing as objective morality; morals are relative.*
- *One’s own conscience is the ultimate guide, not a fixed system of rules “imposed upon us by a patriarchal Church”.*
- *As long as one has love and good intention, one need not attend Mass.*
- *The Eucharist is symbolic.*
- *The Koran is a holy book.*
- *Islam is a religion of peace.*
- *Hell does not exist.*
- *Satan does not exist.*
- *All people are saved.*
- *There is no such thing as sin (apart from being “judgemental”, obviously!).*
- *The Labour Party is the champion of the “Poor and Oppressed”.*
- *The European Union is an unalloyed good.*
- *The United Nations is an even bigger unalloyed good.*
- *Abortion is a woman’s choice; no patriarchal “Church run by celibate old men” has anything of value to say on the matter.*
- *Contraception is a really, really good thing (no patriarchal “Church run by celibate old men” has anything of value to say on the matter).*

[Brief present-day interjection: This was written before Benedict the Abdicator had left the Papal Apartments and the man who calls himself “Pope Francis” occupied his love-nest in the Casa Santa Marta. Looking at this list, is there anyone, ANYONE who honestly can’t see that Bergoglio has either flat-out said, strongly implied or, at the very least, hinted EVERY SINGLE THING ON IT?]

I will mention just one specific interaction I had with two of the course participants, because it goes to the very root of the rot and corruption we see in ‘Catholic’ schools; the inability/refusal to grasp the meaning of objective truth.

I was in a discussion with two of the Primary school teachers and I was trying to explain to them that their just expressed belief that “There is no such thing as Absolute Truth, truth is relative” was:

- a) Inherently self-contradictory and nonsensical because the statement, “There is no such thing as Absolute Truth...” is an absolute truth statement.*
- b) Inherently pointless and self-defeating because, even if one ignores the above, and accepts the statement at face-value, the statement has no meaning or purchase on reality because, **by the statement’s own terms**, it has no right to be accepted as truth.*
- c) By definition, an abandonment of morality, an open door to every vice and perversion Fallen human nature can conjure and an acceptance of “Might makes Right”.*
- d) A denial of God; since God is the Absolute Truth and all Truth descends from him.*

I spent a significant amount of time clearly and logically expressing these points and giving examples and similes to illustrate them beyond any ambiguity. It was perfectly plain that neither of them had any counter to any of the points I made (because they are logically and irrefutably true) so the way they chose to end the interaction was to say (in their best talking-to-child-with-learning-difficulties-voice), “Well, that’s your opinion.”

I was, quite literally, speechless.

Which brings us to the reason we had to revisit this heart-breaking and enraging situation yet again. When I was booted from the course, I had completed the first year of two; I was told I could finish the second year via Distance Learning using the “Life Light Home Study Course”, recommended by the Board of Religious Studies (Life Light feature on the BRS website). I had no intention of continuing the course after the way I been treated and seeing at first hand the nature of the people who taught the course, the people who took the course and the ‘quality’ of the materials studied. So, I never experienced the joys of the Life Light Home Study Course

Recently, a concerned Priest sent us one of their study packs for the module, “Christian Morals: Unit 3 – Natural Revelation and Moral Norms”, the section headings were:

1. The Meaning of Natural Law
2. The Formulation of Natural Law
3. The Setting of the Moral Dialogue
4. Conclusion

Helpfully, there were short “Main Point” notes in the margins which, if read alone and sequentially gave the narrative arc of the whole document:

Natural Law=the moral principles which flow from our being a created rational animal

Natural Law morality was imported from Stoic philosophy

Natural Law ethics *did* have its problems....

....but there is a possible way forward

the Old Testament model of dialogue is still relevant today

we dialogue with our Father about all our futures....

....including about taking on *new* responsibilities

Rather than going through an exhaustive, point-by-point deconstruction (which would take up the entirety of this issue of The Flock), I will simply summarise what the whole thing is designed to do and how it goes about it. The summary is in blue:

The starting point of the writer(s) of this module is that there is no such thing as absolute, unchanging Truth (*sound familiar?*), so the purpose of the module is to lead the student to arrive at that conclusion by the end. Therefore, the whole thing is one long-winded *denial of reality*.

The module begins with a false base premise, that Natural Law is a *creation* of the ancient Greek Stoic philosophers which was grafted onto Christianity, therefore, it has always been and is now an extrinsic element Christianity has made use of but which it is possible to discard, rather than an aspect of God's created reality. When one starts with a false base premise, all conclusions reached are, equally, false. However, they don't stop there; no mention whatsoever is made of St Thomas Aquinas or any aspect of Scholastic philosophy; no mention is made of the fact that all civilizations have subscribed to Natural Law: relativistic anthropology is claimed as a refutation of theology; multiple false statements are made as to the nature of natural law morality.

The picture is presented of the entire history of the Church being one of moving away from a living relationship with God to an authoritarian slavery to a thing, the Code of Canon Law. Here it is that Teilhard de Chardin is glowingly presented along with his satanic pantheistic heresy of the cosmic evolution of the universe. A passage from an anthology of his writings, "Activation of Energy" is presented to the student:

"Up to now human beings have been living at once dispersed and closed in on themselves, like passengers who have met by accident in the hold of a ship whose movement they did not even suspect. Living on the earth that brought them together in groups, they could find nothing better to do than to argue with each other or amuse themselves. Now, by chance, or better by the normal effect of organisation, our eyes have just opened. The most daring of us have mounted the bridge and seen the ship that has been carrying us all. They have glimpsed the foam produced by the prow as it cuts through the water. They have caught on to the fact that there is a boiler to be fed and a helm to be directed. Above all, they have seen the clouds floating by and smelled the fragrance of the islands beyond the circle of the horizon. The agitation of the hold

is no longer possible. Mere drifting is no longer possible. The time has come to pilot the ship. It is inevitable that a different humanity must emerge from this vision." (My added emphasis)

Just in case the student doesn't already grasp the desired message, the module writer(s) immediately follow this with their own additional comment:

*"We no longer see ourselves merely as **objects** (emphasis as in original) of the evolutionary process, like the passengers on Teilhard's boat who hold discussions in the hold and are unaware even of the existence of the boat. Rather we are conscious of taking ever greater control of the process – as when those same passengers climb to the bridge and start piloting the boat"* (My added emphasis)

"Non serviam!" anybody?

This is a blasphemous denial and rejection of revelation, of special (fiat) creation, of dogmatically defined magisterial teaching; it is the declaration of Lucifer in his cosmic pride, the rejection of humility and docility to the will of God. And it is being taught to parish catechists and teachers in 'Catholic' schools and they are teaching it, unquestioningly, to children.

"And whosoever shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me; it were better for him that a millstone were hanged around his neck, and he were cast into the sea." (Mark 9:41)

There follows copious quoting of Vatican II; misrepresentation of Church history such as the Inquisition and the Crusades (*the products of rigid, legalistic thinking, you see?*); dire warnings about Global Warming and the need for Sustainable Development, Social Justice, Ecology, blah, blah, Hippie blah.

The Conclusion of the module is that the Church has to serve the Collective Humanity by abandoning its harmful past of thinking in absolutes and embrace the reality that moral norms are flexible, relative and should be changed as Humanity ascends ever closer to the Omega Point of Cosmic Consciousness!

Remember, this is meant to inform and shape the thinking and teaching of parish catechists and teachers in 'Catholic' schools.

I am certain that the main reason why it is so difficult to convince Catholics, including self-identified Traditional Catholics, of the full extent of the satanic evil that has infected and taken over the vast majority of the human element of Holy Mother Church (especially the Episcopacy), is precisely that extent itself. In other words, the mind recoils in shock, horror and, of course, denial at the enormous scope of the treachery and betrayal. There are only four options open to us when presented with this reality:

1. Outright denial, the equivalent of putting our fingers in our ears and repeating over and over, "*La, la, la I'm not listening!*".

2. Attempt to reduce, minimise and downplay the situation: *“Oh, come on, now, there are plenty of good people/good bishops”, “It’s not EVERYBODY”, “What about Cardinal Sarah giving that Mass at the end of the Chartes Pilgrimage this Year, then?”.*
3. Dismiss, mock, ridicule or attack the messenger: *“Wow, so YOU’RE the only real Catholic left, then?”, “Are you seriously saying that every single bishop is a cowardly traitor?”, “You are uncharitable and unchristian”.*
4. Accept it, with a broken but courageous heart, knowing that our Blessed Lord has already won the victory, that His Holy Mother will crush the serpent’s head but that His mystical body, Holy Mother Church, must go through Her Passion, just as He did, before we see that victory.

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.

St Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle!

“WHEN MEN STOP BELIEVING IN GOD, THEY DON’T BELIEVE IN NOTHING, THEY BELIEVE IN ANYTHING.” - GK Chesterton

Vegetarianism



Killing him humanely
to feed your family
is a sin

Killing him by shoving a pair of
scissors through his neck so that
you can have sex with a man you
don't like enough to bear his
children, is a woman's right

GK Chesterton is a man who wrote an extraordinary number of insightful things, but one of the most insightful and enduring truths is his statement that *“When men stop believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing, they believe in anything.”*

One sees this truth writ large in the plethora of “isms” and mass virtue signalling that surrounds us these days. Things have reached such a pass that if you dare to suggest that you don’t actually approve of one of the myriad of “isms” on sale you will be denounced as a bigot by the worshippers of multiculturalism and its ugly sister, non-judgmentalism, even if their own knowledge of the “ism” in question could be written on the back of a postage stamp in a large font.

One of the currently popular false religions is vegetarianism. One of the reasons for its popularity is that it provides endless opportunities for virtue signalling.

I need to be very careful here for there are many who are vegetarians for perfectly respectable reasons. For some it is cultural, Hindus are often vegetarians, but then, Hinduism is a false religion. Some have legitimate concerns around the issue of factory farming, as do I. I will not purchase duck, for example, that is not free range. Factory farmed ducks are raised in sheds, packed like sardines, with little light and no water. That, as far as I’m concerned, is an insult to their Creator. Some monks don’t eat meat, but that is not because they believe it is bad thing to do, on the contrary, they believe it is good, but give up this good as a penance. Indeed, all English Catholics are called to be vegetarians on Friday for similar reasons. Let’s be clear that I am talking here of those who embrace vegetarianism because they believe and preach that meat eating is intrinsically evil.

There are, according to scientists, approximately 8.7 million different species of animals on planet earth. There are about 6.5 million species on land and another 2.2 million in the oceans. Humans are therefore just (putting aside the crucial matter of the soul) one of 8.7 million species. And we are not the most numerous, not even close.

Over 90% of those 8.7 million species are carnivorous. Indeed, even some plants are carnivorous! Venus flytraps even catch, kill and consume frogs. That means that over 7.8 million species of animals eat meat. And even those few species who don’t regularly eat meat will often do so if they have the chance. Chimps will even practise cannibalism: they have been seen to kill and eat their own kind if a chimp from a different pack wanders onto their territory.

There are two things to note here. Firstly, those animals that have been designed to eat meat by God or nature (including humans) have different teeth to animals that don’t, such as caterpillars and cows. A scientist can examine the fossilised jaw of an extinct animal and tell from its teeth if it was a meat eater or not - humans have teeth designed for meat-eating. Secondly, herbivores are usually much slower moving than carnivores: compare a panda to a cheetah for example.

But the really important thing to note is that the wonderful and beautiful machine we call nature wouldn’t work if it was not red in tooth and claw. If barn owls didn’t kill half-a-dozen field mice every night, for example, we would be knee deep in field

mice. If by some magic we could remove predation from nature, millions of species would become extinct very quickly.

Vegetarians imagine that if humans stopped killing animals we would make some meaningful contribution to reducing animal suffering, but this is demonstrable baloney. Animals don't die in their beds, pumped full of painkillers with a pretty nurse in attendance. Animals die from starvation (a fox with a thorn in its paw that can't hunt for example), they freeze to death (a hedgehog that has not put on enough fat to get through the winter, for example) or, mostly, they are killed by other animals. Male lions even kill their pride's cubs to force the females to stop lactating, so that they can breed with them. Animals humanely killed by humans are the lucky ones. Domestic animals live considerably longer and die more humanely than their wild cousins.

Vegetarians will often claim that predators kill their prey quickly, but this is not true: an arctic wolf pack will chase a bison for several days until the poor beast collapses from nervous exhaustion. Sharks bite their prey and then retire while it slowly bleeds to death. I've personally watched a cheetah kill a deer, it took twenty minutes to strangle it to death. If I'd shot the same deer for food, it would have died much quicker and suffered far less stress and pain.

In short, becoming a vegetarian makes as much difference to the sum total of animal suffering as not spitting does to reducing flooding.

The final acid test, however, is that most vegetarians are pro-aborts. I once watched a reporter challenging an anti-meat eating demo on this very point. The vegetarians simply refused to answer him. The above "cartoon" exposes this rank hypocrisy and demonstrates clearly that much vegetarianism is just shallow virtue signalling.

FROM THE MAIL BOX

NB Because of the toxic atmosphere in which orthodox priests have to work in the modern Church, we never publish their real names. All priests are called Fr Ignobilis and reside in Stat Veritas for the purposes of this mailbox

"Please keep Ireland in your prayers ..."

Dear Mr Moorhouse - Here is my belated sub' for the Flock. Thank you so much for your spirited response to the hideous state of the Church and the world. You remind me of that other warrior for the faith, Rod Pead of Christian Order (which I have also been receiving for some years). Please keep Ireland in your prayers as our unborn children are under severe threat from the government and the pro-abortion movement. The upcoming referendum to remove their only protection in the Constitution (the 8th Amendment) is in real danger and needs God's intervention to defeat the forces of evil. In His love and mercy:

Marlyn (Co. Cork)

"I could hardly bare to re-read it"

Dear Editor - I knew that things in Church and State were bad, but your last edition showed me just how bad they really are. I could hardly bear to re-read it. That being so, some words of encouragement to your readers are in order.

We are lucky to be born in these times, in that to live out our faith fully and truly is more difficult and necessary, and will thus earn greater reward in heaven than in easier times, e.g. before the Council. Remember, all the hosts of heaven are looking down at us to see how we behave under stress.

Our Lord and His Mother are suffering more than us and just a few faithful orthodox here below helps to console them.

"He that taketh not up his cross to follow me is not worthy of Me". "A day without suffering is a day wasted," said one of the saints.

To hold on to our faith in these days is hard, and I fear that some "bums on pews" aren't pulling their weight. Keep up your excellent work!

Jim Allen (Torquay)

The Flock is published by:

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice

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0774-614-9815 *Note: The Flock can be viewed, downloaded and printed out at*

<http://www.proecc.com/the-flock>

PLEASE REMEMBER PEEP IN YOUR WILL

*Help us to carry on the fight against the enemy within the gates and
for the faith of our children*