

# THE ATHANASIAN

A publication of Traditional Catholics of America † Editor: Fr. Francis E. Fenton, STL  
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For us traditional Roman Catholics -

## These Are Times Which Test Our Faith

— Fr. Francis E. Fenton

Whenever I write of traditional Roman Catholics in the pages of this newsletter I am referring to those who accept, who believe in the entirety of the historic Roman Catholic Faith and who, by the grace of God, make an honest, persistent effort to live that Faith in their daily lives in accordance with their particular state in life. Since there are many self-styled traditional Catholics who, for one reason or another, are not such in fact, my use of the term encompasses only those who are traditional in every respect in matters of doctrine, morals, liturgy. One very good example to distinguish the hard core of traditional Catholicism from those who are not is this: no truly or fully traditional Roman Catholic will have anything whatsoever to do with the Conciliar Church for the very simple reason that it is not Catholic. By this norm alone then, *the* traditional Roman Catholic is distinct from countless others who call themselves such, including those typified by *The Remnant*, *The Angelus*, Michael Davies syndrome. Authentic traditional Catholicism is indeed the remnant of the remnant.

To live the Roman Catholic Faith has never been an easy task. Christ never said it would be. To keep the Commandments of God and the precepts of the Church; to avoid sin and its proximate occasions; to practice the virtues and to strive to grow in the life of divine grace; to live in the world without being contaminated by its allurements - all this has always involved and demanded sacrifice and courage and fortitude since Christianity first made its appearance upon the world scene. And so we can safely say that, of the literally billions of those who have been members of the Church down through the centuries, only the relatively few have been exemplary Catholics, only a very small minority reached a high level of sanctity in the course of their earthly lives. While, with the grace of God,

the *many* had the potential to become exemplary Catholics, only the *few* made it by their wholehearted and persevering cooperation with divine grace.

To live truly Christ-like lives, to be Christians in the most literal meaning of that term, to be apostles and soldiers of Christ - this is what the Roman Catholic Church calls upon her members to be. A formidable challenge, to be sure, and one which allows no room for mediocrity. So it has always been - and so it is today. Indeed, it is all but inconceivable to me that there has ever been a time throughout the history of Christianity when the Church has had a more urgent need for Catholics of surpassing quality than it does here and now - men and women who ardently love and live their Faith, who are thoroughly dedicated to the preservation and propagation of that Faith and who are willing, with the grace of God, to put their lives on the line in defense of that Faith against those who are hellbent on destroying it. And many of those enemies of the Faith are to be found in the Conciliar Church - some in the Vatican, others seemingly everywhere in the guise of bishops and priests, others masquerading as experts, lay theologians, etc. Assuredly, never before has the Church been in more dire straits than it is today and, because this is so, never before has there been a more crying need for truly heroic Catholics, for Catholics of the mold and character of which martyrs are made. But, of course, the ranks of traditional Catholicism comprise many men and women of this calibre. Or do they?

These are indeed days which test our faith and no doubt tempt some to waiver in it from time to time. While temptations in themselves are not sinful, those to which I refer here are especially dangerous and, upon their appearance, should be shunned instantly. For my part, while my faith,

please God, is stronger today than ever, yet there are, I readily admit, various matters which exceedingly and continually disturb me and which, but for the grace of God, could well cause my faith to falter. To make but brief mention of two of them: one is the Conciliar Church itself or, more specifically, the millions of people, clergy and laity, who still remain members of it and, consequently, are not Roman Catholics at all. Why do not or will not or can not more of them see how wrong they are, leave that false religion and return to the Faith they once possessed? There are various answers to this question but the fact that this situation exists has long been a source of considerable disturbance to me.

The other cause of deep concern to me which I will but mention here is the seemingly endless and insoluble dissension and division around the country within the traditional movement itself. I know of no better example of the devil at work than this. And how successful he has been and continues to be!

Yes, our faith (that is, our personal, individual faith in God and in His Church) is most certainly being put to the test today - and, perhaps, the stronger one's faith, the more severe and rigorous the test. Let us ever bear in mind though that, as Holy Scripture tells us, God never allows us to be tempted - and these tests of faith are temptations - beyond our power to resist. In other words, while God allows these tests of faith to come our way, He will provide the grace, the spiritual strength to cope with and overcome them if we but do our part through cooperation with that divine grace. And beyond this, each time that we effectively resist these temptations to our faith we are but manifesting and confirming our loyalty to our beloved Church, our will is strengthened and we are thereby better able to deal with such temptations when they come again. And come they will.

But, however deplorable, pathetic, pitiful be the current human state of the Church, no traditional Roman Catholic should for one moment allow himself to become despondent or unduly distressed over this. Most understandably, he is, and ought to be, gravely concerned and disturbed, to be sure. Concern, yes; despair, no. We have, in traditional Catholicism, the greatest thing in all the world: our Roman Catholic Faith. How exceedingly grateful, then, ought we to be to the good Lord for this surpassing treasure! How fervent and zealous we should be in living

that Faith in our daily lives! How ready and willing we should be even to die for that Faith if God so wills! And whenever we may be tempted to despondency and despair, we need but turn to Him, the God of all consolation, and sincerely and fervently beg the grace and the strength to remain ever loyal to Him and to persevere until death in His glorious friendship. "Come to Me," declares our divine Lord, "all you who labor and are heavily burdened and I will refresh you." And, a final thought, of all of the gifts and treasures which the Almighty has bestowed upon His Church, the greatest by far are the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. These are the heart and core of our divine religion and, consequently, should be and must be the heart and core and center of the life of every truly traditional Roman Catholic who would live his Faith according to the will of God and in harmony with the mind of the Church. ❀

*pray  
the rosary  
daily*

## *Infant Baptism*

— AN ADMONITION —

The priest is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Baptism, which is to say that, apart from danger of death, only a priest may baptize. This teaching of the Church is noted because we occasionally hear of a parent or some other lay person having baptized an infant even though the infant was not in danger of death. While this practice is certainly not common, yet it does occur from time to time. Because in many areas a traditional priest is not readily available, parents, fearful that their child may die without being baptized, presume to take this responsibility upon themselves. To do this - for any member of the laity to baptize an infant or anyone else apart from danger of death - is forbidden under pain of mortal sin. Such is the teaching of the Church. Again, except when danger of death is present, only a priest may lawfully administer the Sacrament of Baptism.

# A PRIEST

A priest is a man taken from among men and ordained for men in the things that appertain to God. Such is one of the definitions of a Catholic priest. Let us consider this definition for a few minutes. We write, of course, of the *traditional* Roman Catholic priest.

First of all, we say that a priest is a *man*, women being forbidden to receive the Catholic priesthood. Because he is a human being the priest shares with the rest of humanity the evil tendencies and inclinations consequent upon original sin and fallen human nature. Although he wears a religious garb which distinguishes him from his fellow men, just as clothes do not make the man, so the cassock and the collar do not make the priest. They are not a guarantee of salvation, a kind of one-way ticket to Heaven. Would that they were! When the priest dons the cassock and Roman collar, he does not automatically put off the world, the flesh and the devil. In other words, the priest, like every other mortal, must merit and work out his eternal destiny. Unless he belong to some contemplative religious congregation, he must accomplish this in the world while ever striving, within reason, to remain apart from the world. A big order, to be sure. The nature of his priestly activities demands that he live and work in the society of his fellow men, yet his exalted vocation likewise demands that he remain above and apart from those elements of society which would do harm to his priesthood. And so the priest stands in constant need of the prayers of the faithful lest, in the words of Saint Paul, "having preached to others, he himself should become a castaway."

Further, in our definition of the priest, we say that he is a man *taken from among men*. He was not, then, born into the priesthood. There was a time when he was something else. If a late vocation, he might have been in some business or profession for a number of years before deciding to study for the priesthood. In any case, the priest is one called by God to His service, as Christ Himself declared to His Apostles, "you have not chosen me but I have chosen you."

However, this notion of a vocation as a call from God has been known to occasion considerable misunderstanding on the part of some. Such people have wrongly supposed that here is meant some kind of miraculous intervention on

the part of God whereby He clearly and unmistakably expresses His will for this or that person to become a priest. The fact is that, in the literal sense of the word, miracle, there's nothing miraculous about a priestly vocation. A young man, or a not-so-young man for that matter, has a vocation to the priesthood if he sincerely desires to work as a priest for the honor and glory of God and for the salvation of souls, *and* if he manifests in his life and person the spiritual, mental and physical qualities which the Church requires. So, in a way, a vocation is as simple as that. Oh, there have undoubtedly been cases in the course of history where a particular man received some extraordinary sign from God of a religious vocation. But, here as in other matters, we should not expect miracles and a qualified boy or man who would await such extraordinary signs of a vocation before taking steps to prepare for the religious life would likely wait a lifetime and would rather surely wait in vain.

And, finally, our definition of a priest states that he is *ordained for men in the things that appertain to God*. By ordination a priest becomes a man set apart for the service of man with the things of God. Through his reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders he does not become less a man, he doesn't lose his humanity, but to that humanity there is given the power of divinity. Once a priest, he speaks in the name and acts with the authority of Christ on matters of faith and morals. He becomes the official intermediary between God and man, bringing God to man through the Mass, the Eucharist, the Sacraments; bringing man to God through his preaching, his counsel, his example. The ideal towards which he must always aim - and, because it is an ideal, it is not fully realized even in the best of priests - is that of trying to be all things to all men that God may be glorified, souls may be saved and Christ's Kingdom on earth may be advanced.

And yet, despite his exalted office and the grace of God which comes with Holy Orders, the priest remains very much of a human being and the effects of original sin remain very much with him. In other words, he, like the rest of humanity, has temptations, he may become angry, he may speak uncharitably, he may be ornery and unreasonable at times, he may be proud, he may be any number of things. And yet, however unworthy he is, as a member of the priesthood of Christ he

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# AMERICA IS DYING

— Fr. Francis E. Fenton

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Although still so young in comparison to the longevity of many nations of the world throughout history, and with such tremendous potential for the future, the stark fact of the matter is that America is dying. Oh, its death may not be imminent and its critical condition may not be readily recognizable by many, but there is no denying that this country is afflicted with a grave disease which, if allowed to continue its present course, will surely prove fatal. The disease is one which, in the course of history, eventually proved to be the main cause of the downfall of most of the world's civilizations. Rooted in godlessness, the malignancy to which I refer is, of course, immorality and it is today the paramount enemy of America, bar none. It is a cancer which is eating away the moral fiber of our nation, subtly but progressively and inexorably paralyzing it from within. It is a poison which, if not recognized as such and effectively counteracted, will wreak inestimable devastation upon this nation through the widespread moral contamination and corruption of the American people. In a word, there is no more certain sign that the USA is on the road to dissolution than the present moral disintegration of multitudes of its citizens.

Because Almighty God and His eternal truth and moral law have been widely abandoned and replaced by expediency and situation ethics and a spirit of unbridled permissiveness, a wave of immorality, unquestionably without precedent in this nation's history, is devastating America, and the devil is having a field day. Countless numbers of its citizens seem to have lost all sense of moral evil while mortal sin no longer appears to have any meaning for innumerable "new breed" Catholics, so well indoctrinated have they been in the "new morality" in recent years. Were they to look for inspiration and guidance to their so-called leaders in Church and state, for the most part they would look in vain. The woeful absence of moral standards on the part of so many officials in high places on all levels of civil government is a pathetic thing to behold. As one columnist put it, "the principal problem in Washington is a lack of principle." As for the Church, the

failure of the Conciliar Church bishops of America to speak out loud and clear against the rampant moral corruption of our day is nothing short of scandalous and unforgiveable.

It has often been said that the USA will never be conquered from without but from within. While we ardently hope and pray that such a conquest will never be accomplished from either source, yet the welfare and survival of this country as a free nation have never been more in jeopardy than they are today, and that danger is steadily on the increase. Surely no sincere, informed, observant American would seriously deny this. Nor is there any denying the fact that, of all the major problems besetting our nation at the present time, rampant immorality is, far and away, the principal one and is, indeed, the common ingredient of many of the others as well. All other national problems are secondary to this one and, in fact, cannot be truly resolved apart from the moral law of God.

The solution is the obvious one: a wholehearted return to God and His revealed teachings and His moral law on the part of the individual. America will come back to God as a nation only when its individual citizens do so. The salvation of our country is dependent, above all else, upon the sanctification of its citizens, upon their recognition that God is an inescapable fact and that without Him man works and hopes and strives in vain. The condition of almost unmitigated immorality in which America is engulfed today is the inevitable consequence of man's attempt to dethrone the Almighty and to usurp His place of supreme dominion over the affairs of men and of nations. Unless man is willing to acknowledge the utter folly of his feeble and pathetic attempts to run God's world and is willing humbly to submit to God's will and live according to His moral law, then the USA, despite all of its admittedly tremendous material progress and accomplishments, is doomed to disintegration and ultimate death from moral decay from within. Needless to say, such a situation is made to order for Communism and its allies to take over with a mini-

# The Athanasian

A Good Buy

num of opposition because this nation will have lost the power to resist and the will to fight. "Those people who are not governed by God will be ruled by tyrants." (William Penn)

Lack of morality, then, is the overriding problem of our day. But God is all-just as He is likewise all-merciful and He will not permit His moral law to be endlessly flouted without retribution. He will not be flagrantly and interminably mocked. There will certainly come a day of reckoning. The true greatness and glory of any nation are measured, first and foremost, by the caliber and character and moral fiber of the generality of its citizens and their leaders. Judged by this standard, the present moral condition of our nation is indeed cause for the gravest concern on the part of all Americans who truly love their God and their country.

Because the ranks of traditional Roman Catholics seem to have more than their quota of purveyors of doom and gloom, I would prefer never to have to write in such a pessimistic vein. Honesty, however, demands that we face up to reality, and especially so when that reality is an evil so widespread and so flagrant as is the immorality saturating and contaminating the American scene in this our day. As our Faith has always taught us, mortal sin is the greatest evil in the world and, to put it bluntly, the USA is presently wallowing in it. How imperative, then, that we face up to this stark reality and its horrendous consequences as we behold with sadness America's "retreat from greatness" and the alarming extent of moral decadence in which this land is presently immersed. Yes, the powers of hell - the devil and his cohorts - are bringing this nation to the brink of destruction. America is dying because multitudes of its people have abandoned God and His revealed truth and His moral law for a mess of pottage. And therein lies the heart of the problem. ❀

## "The Conspiracy of Freemasonry"

(a supplement to the  
September 1, 1982 issue of  
*The Athanasian*.)

### Price Scale for Quantity Orders

1-10	\$1.50 each
11-19	\$1.45 each
20-49	\$1.35 each
50-99	\$1.20 each
100+	\$1.10 each

We honestly believe - and we know that at least many of its subscribers agree - that our newsletter is "a good buy." Much work goes into the preparation of each issue and every effort is exerted to make it a publication which reflects well on the cause of traditional Catholicism. With but very rare exceptions, its articles are all original, that is, they are not reprints from other publications. It contains no advertising and no photos. In other words, each issue is practically all reading material. And it costs but \$8.00 a year for eight issues. Surely, the subscriber to *The Athanasian* gets his money's worth, does he not?

Occasionally the suggestion has been made that we increase the subscription price. We remain reluctant to do this even though the number of subscriptions we have falls somewhat short of paying the publication cost of each issue. We could and will advertise but the publications in which we can do so are, for various reasons, very limited. There is one way, though, in which the circulation of *The Athanasian* could be significantly increased, namely, if our subscribers would become, in effect, subscription agents for us in whatever appropriate manner they can. We will, incidentally, be pleased to send a sample copy of the newsletter to any potential subscribers whose names and addresses are sent to us. Anyway, we will be very appreciative to any and all of the readers of *The Athanasian* who will assist us in getting it more widely known and read around the country. (Checks for newsletter subscriptions should be made payable to *The Athanasian*.) ❀

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A number of our newsletter subscribers ordered extra copies of the previous issue (June 1, 1983). Due in part to this favorable response we have had an additional 1200 copies printed. Should anyone wish to obtain extra copies of that particular issue, the price list for bulk orders is found elsewhere in these pages.

# Devotion to the Mother of God

With a few exceptions such as the High Anglican Church of Protestantism and the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the traditional Roman Catholic devotion to Mary is not prevalent among non-Catholic Churches. Although we adore and worship God alone, we pay an honor and veneration to Mary far above that given to any of the saints. While many sincere non-Catholics do not seem to comprehend our devotion to Mary, to us it seems so perfectly right and reasonable. God Himself placed her above and apart from all other creatures by choosing her to be the Mother of His divine Son and by bestowing upon her gifts and privileges given to no other creature - her Immaculate Conception, her Virgin Birth, her freedom from all sin, her Assumption, her position as Mediatrix of all graces. And so, because she is "our tainted nature's solitary boast," because she is the crowning masterpiece in the creative handiwork of God, we pay honor to her in a special way. There would seem to be no mystery or contradiction in all this, yet many non-Catholics find our devotion to Mary a stumbling block and experience great difficulty in accepting the Roman Catholic position with respect to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Surely one sign, one mark of a genuine, authentic, full-fledged Catholic is a strong devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. The Catholic who devoutly recites the Rosary each day; the Catholic who makes a sincere effort to observe in a fitting manner the various feasts of our Lady throughout the year; the Catholic who reads, and prays upon, good spiritual books and pamphlets concerning Mary; the Catholic who endeavors to carry out Mary's requests at Fatima - this, I submit, is one *very* good sign of a truly traditional Roman Catholic.

Further, it is the common conviction of Roman Catholics that, if our nation and the world are to be saved from the evils that more and more threaten to engulf it, the Blessed Mother will play a significant, a vital role in that salvation. There are sound reasons for this belief: the position of power and influence that Mary has before the throne of God; the various statements she has made in her historical appearances, such as at LaSalette and Fatima; the position she occupies as Queen of the Universe, and as patroness of America under her title of the Immaculate Conception; and so forth.

And so it makes a great deal of sense to all Catholics who sincerely and perseveringly practice true devotion to Mary and who are likewise well-informed on current events and see clearly the ever increasing danger faced by what's left of the free world - the continuing encirclement of the United States from without by the Communist conspiracy; the insidious penetration of the "Red" poison within every major area of influence of our national life; the godlessness, the immorality, the secularism, the materialism which are steadily corroding this land of ours - in view of this it makes much sense to all authentic Catholics to draw more and more closely to Mary and to increase and intensify their devotion to her. While prayer and penance and moral living *alone* will not save the world, yet these are essential for the accomplishment of that salvation. Nor is there any question but that the Blessed Virgin Mary will play a predominant part in the determination of the future course of world events.

Let us, then, in faith and humility and confidence, go to Jesus through Mary each day of our lives, especially through her Rosary. If a person is a truly traditional Roman Catholic, then he or she is one who is faithful each day to the attentive and devout recitation of the Rosary. Indeed, fidelity to this devotion is one of the most distinctive marks of such a Catholic. "Among all the devotions approved by the Church none has been favored by so many miracles as the devotion of the Most Holy Rosary." (Pope Pius IX) And, in the words of the prayer so familiar over the years to traditional Catholics, "never was it known that anyone who fled to her protection, implored her assistance or sought her intercession was left unaided."

## *A Prayer to Mary*

*O Queen of the most holy Rosary, Refuge of the human race, Mediatrix of divine grace, we humbly turn to thee and with confidence implore thy merciful assistance. Thine we are and thine we wish to remain. Teach us how to submit to the reign of thy Son Jesus so that, with His invincible power, we may overcome every obstacle to our salvation. Intercede in particular for our Holy Church that it may, in complete freedom and tranquility, carry on the work assigned to it by thy Divine Son. Deign to bring thy power and influence to bear against the engulfing pagan-*



## TCA TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS SCHEDULE

### COLORADO

**AURORA** (Denver area)  
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHAPEL  
2566 Sable Boulevard  
(303) 364-8040  
Masses at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (every Sunday)  
Occasional weekday Masses

### COLORADO SPRINGS

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
Mass at 10:00 a.m. July 17, August 28  
(303) 636-1575 - Call between 9:00 a.m.  
and 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday for Mass location

### DURANGO

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
Centennial Savings and Loan  
1101 E. Second Ave.  
(303) 884-2526  
Mass at 10:00 a.m. August 21

### STRATTON

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CHAPEL  
(303) 348-5454  
No Mass scheduled in August

### LOUISIANA

**OPELOUSAS** (Lafayette area)  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL  
Route 1, Box 195  
(318) 942-9053  
Mass at 11:00 a.m.  
July 24, August 14

### MINNESOTA

**ROCHESTER**  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL  
5820 Viola Road, NE  
(507) 282-5163 or 289-8522  
Mass at 10:00 a.m.  
July 31, August 14

### MONTANA

**GREAT FALLS**  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHAPEL  
2020 Second Avenue North  
(406) 452-8826  
Mass at 10:00 a.m.  
July 24, August 7, August 28

### NEW YORK

**BUFFALO**  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHAPEL  
231 McKinley Parkway  
(716) 537-9533  
Mass at 10:00 a.m. on first and third Sundays

### PENNSYLVANIA

**ESSINGTON** (Philadelphia area)  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
Ramada Inn  
Airport South, Route 291  
(215) 876-8737  
Mass at 10:00 a.m.  
July 24, August 28

### UTAH

**SALT LAKE CITY**  
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
Hilton Inn  
154 West 600 South  
(801) 278-7501  
Mass at 11:00 a.m. July 31

## THE ATHANASIAN

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- Fr. Francis E. Fenton, Editor  
- Miss Marie Rust, Secretary

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