

HOLY SEE OR NEST OF CORRUPTION?

Dr. Alberto R. Treiyer
August 2018

The pope of Rome pretends to be the Vicar of God and of His Son on earth. For this reason He requires that he be called “Holy Father,” and His chair is known as the “Holy See.” But Rome was never a holy city. The only holy one in the Bible is God (Rev 15:4), and the only holy city in the New Testament is the heavenly New Jerusalem (Rev 21:2,10). Rome is portrayed in the Bible as “a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” (Rev 18:2).

The history of the Roman papacy matches perfectly the apocalyptic description of the symbolic Babylon. She is a harlot, a symbol used in the Bible for a corrupt church because she joins herself illicitly with the princes and kings of the earth instead of God (see Eph 5:22-32). In this manner the book of Revelation reveals her political agenda as she successfully did for more than a millennium by meddling in the affairs of world government. Her bloody history fulfills perfectly the words of Bible prophecy, as seen in the Medieval genocides of Waldensians and Albigenses, and in the torture and murder (usually burned at stake) of millions of people throughout the centuries under the guidance of the so called Holy Office of the Inquisition (Rev 17:1-5).¹

The book of Revelation depicts the pure woman from the beginning of Christianity, when she gives birth to the Son of God (Rev 12). The bloody and corrupt woman, however, is depicted in her later and final state (Rev 17-18). This is because (contrary to what the Roman Catholic Church asserts) she does not come from Christ, but from an apostasy of Christianity (2 Thess 2:3). Even the golden cup in her hand with the wine of the abominations and immorality through which she intoxicates the nations, as well as the purple and scarlet colors of her dress, have an exact counterpart in the dress and ceremonies of the Vatican leadership (Rev 17:4; 18:3,9).

In Revelation, the pure church is persecuted from beginning to end (Rev 12); the immoral church is the persecutor (Rev 17:5). One gives birth to sons who “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus” (Rev 12:17); the other gives birth to daughters who fall into prostitution by following her example (Rev 17:2-4). One is connected to the city of heaven (Rev 21-22: the New Jerusalem); the other with an earthly city which sits upon seven mountains (Rev 17:8: Rome), and embodies in those seven mountains, the spirit of all the kingdoms of the world that sought to defy God (Rev 17:9-10).

Four basic characteristics of Rome

The Bible predicts that four principal characteristics of the Roman Catholic Church will be accentuated in the final scenes of this world’s history. They are:

1. Her bloodthirsty character (Rev 17:5-6).
2. Her deceitful spirit (2 Thess 2:9-12).
3. Her demonic spirit (Rev 18:3).
4. Her corrupting spirit (Rev 18:2).

Why is it necessary to mention these deplorable medieval characteristics? Because they still exist, if

¹ About fifty million people were martyred by the papacy during the entire Middle Ages. See documentation in David A. Plaisted, *University Study: Estimates of the Number Killed by the Papacy in the Middle Ages and later* [<http://fliphtml5.com/bsxh/ofmu/basic>] or [https://educacionlibreysoberana.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/plaisted-estimates_number_killed_by_the_papacy-2006.pdf]

not openly, in a concealed or latent manner. If we don't pay attention to these characteristics, we will fall into the final trap of the devil who will lead the world to "worship" or honor again the papacy (Rev 13:3-4). The political influence of the Roman papacy at this very time is attaining levels it has never reached before. The papacy is uniting churches, religions and nations. Could such apparent do-gooder activity bring real blessing and peace on the earth, and obtain the divine consent and blessing?

Many are excited with the idea of uniting the world both religiously and politically. We don't question the sincerity of their motivation, or of their good will. But they don't have the spiritual discernment provided by the Bible to recognize the hidden undercurrent. There are spiritual forces at work in individual human lives and among the nations which we dare not underestimate. For this reason we must weigh with a sober mind the real background of the crisis which is overtaking the world.

1. Bloody spirit

The bloody history of the Roman Church has been proven again and again throughout the centuries. Her missionary expansion beginning in the 6th Century was accomplished through political alliances with princes and kings, and with the sword of armies which coerced the masses to convert to the Roman faith.² The crusades of extermination against Waldensians and Albigenses in the 12th and 13th Centuries are also well documented.³ The courts of the Holy Office of the Inquisition founded by the popes to extirpate what they considered heresy; the individual and mass burnings at the stake conducted by them in their witch hunt, caused millions to suffer martyrdom during the second Christian millennium.⁴

But many believe today that we need to forgive the past, especially after pope John Paul II tried to "cleanse history" by apologizing for what in his view was an excess of devotion to their church shown by those murderers of the Middle Ages.⁵ In this way, John Paul II refused to condemn either them⁶ or pope Innocent III who initiated and fostered both the crusades of extermination against the presumable heretics

² See A. R. Treiyer, "Evangelistic Methods of the Roman Catholic Church," in *The Seals and the Trumpets* (2005), 81-90.

³ See A. R. Treiyer, *The Seals and the Trumpets...*, 120-147; *The Apocalyptic Times of the Sanctuary* (2015), chaps 7 and 8.

⁴ See n. 1. In the Museum of Inquisition at Carcassonne, a video explains that millions were tortured and put to death over centuries by the Inquisition's courts. In the 13th Century there were more than one million Cathars in Europe, H. Hamilton, *The Medieval Inquisition* (New York, 1981), 78. "Between two hundred thousand and one million people... died during the witchcraft mania that took possession of Europe from the sixteenth to the seventeenth centuries," E. Burman, *Los secretos de la Inquisición. Historia y legado del Santo Oficio, desde Inocencio III a Juan Pablo II* (Barcelona, 1988), 174. But the Roman Catholic oppression didn't take place in just two or three isolated centuries. It covered most of the second Christian millennium.

"'Babylon the great' was 'drunken with the blood of the saints.' The mangled forms of millions of martyrs cried to God for vengeance upon that apostate power" [see Rev 6:9-10] (*GC 60*). "Millions have gone down to the grave loaded with infamy because they refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan. By human tribunals the children of God have been adjudged the vilest criminals. But the day is near when 'God is judge himself' (Ps 50:6). Then the decisions of earth shall be reversed. 'The rebuke of his people shall he take away' (Isa 25:8). *White robes will be given to every one of them* (Rev 6:11). And 'they shall call them the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord' (Isa 62:12)," *Christ Object Lessons*, 179-180. "In the days of Rome's supremacy... there were massacres on a scale that will never be known until revealed in the judgment" (*GC 569*).

⁵ "It is individuals, not the church itself, who are blamed for the misdeeds," which shows a dichotomy between the Church which is Holy, and some members of the Church, B. A. Robinson, *A Roman Catholic apology for the past sins of its members* (2000-2007 by Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance), in <http://www.religioustolerance.org/popeapo2.htm> See also <http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/catholic/2000/03/is-the-pope-overdoing-the-apologies.aspx> Hans Küng, a Catholic theologian and critic, wrote that "the apology was 'vague, non-specific and ambiguous.' Blame was placed on individual Catholics; the popes and the Church itself are regarded as innocent. 'The half-hearted papal confession remained without consequences, producing neither reversals nor action, only words' (*A Discussion of Hans Küng's Analysis of the Life of Pope John Paul II* (Religious Tolerance, 2005), in <http://www.religioustolerance.org/rccjpiikung.htm> That ambiguity conceals the purpose of leaving open the interpretation of the document to the taste of the consumer, and to allow the very Catholic Magisterium to keep its presumptuous infallibility, because the document of apology, according to what is specified, deals with ethic problems, not doctrinal ones.

⁶ "Because numerous medieval and Renaissance popes were directly involved in both Inquisitions and Crusades, he refers to these events only indirectly in his document. To do otherwise would involve 'the unseemliness of a pope criticizing his predecessor,'" according to a *Catholic News Service* article that quoted the pope's personal theologian, the Rev. Georges Cottier, O.P. [<http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/catholic/2000/03/is-the-pope-overdoing-the-apologies.aspx#xwJS4RekLk9qFEA2.99>]

of the 13th Century and the courts of Inquisition.⁷ Neither did he condemn pope Pius V who was one of the most ruthless of inquisitors but was himself beatified and canonized by later popes.⁸ In addition, John Paul II argued that the final judgment belongs to God. This would imply that he himself cannot judge them.⁹ Then how could he beatify and canonize 482 people and send them on to heaven?¹⁰ If the pope was appealing only to God's forgiveness (not his own) for the Medieval oppressors, why then did he feel authorized himself to absolve the sins of so many other people in the confessional?¹¹ Pope Francis likewise said that he is unable to judge homosexuals.¹² However, he had no reservation about sending nearly one thousand beatified and canonized saints to heaven so that faithful Catholics could ask them favors and miracles or intercede for them before the Father.¹³

Has the Roman Church changed in modern times? Regarding her bloody history and propensity to persecute, the answer is yes and no. Following the French Revolution, the secular authorities appeared to put a stop to her criminal performance, once they were finally able to break away from the Roman ecclesiastical bondage. For this reason, there are no more *Tribunals to Extirpate Idolatries*¹⁴ as the *Conquistadores* created to impose the Catholic religion on the South American Indians through various methods of torture.¹⁵ Neither do *Courts of Inquisition* exist today with their system of torture and execution, including burning at the stake. But the papacy boasts itself to be infallible and, who can guarantee that the papacy will not begin again its appalling work of the past if the civil restrictions can no longer restrain it? It is still undergirded by the same source of inspiration and Medieval tradition.¹⁶ And it is that very source of crime and deception which reappeared in the 20th Century when the papacy thought that the time had come to recover its lost political authority.

The popes and the fascism of the 20th Century. What was the role performed by popes Pius XI and Pius XII in the twentieth century? Today, historians accuse them of fostering fascism in Europe, resulting in millions of innocent victims who were exterminated during the Second World War. Thus when the civil authorities release their restraining hand, the bloody character of the papacy quickly reappears.

Actually, the link between Pius XI and Mussolini in Italy,¹⁷ and between Pius XII and Hitler in Germany¹⁸ is undeniable, even if toward the end of the Second World War Pius XII seemed to fear the

⁷ *Christian-Jewish Relations: The Inquisition*, in: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-inquisition>

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Pius_V

⁹ "Without encroaching on the judgement of God who alone knows every heart, bear the burden of the errors and faults of those who have gone before us," John Paul II, *Public Apology Central* (March 2000), in <http://publicapologycentral.com/apologia-archiv/religion/pope-john-paul-ii/>

¹⁰ "Recent popes are known for canonizing in large numbers: John Paul II canonized 482 saints – more than the 300 or so canonizations in the previous 600 years. And Francis' first canonization included 813 people – the "Martyrs of Otranto", M. Lipka & T. Townsend, *Papal saints: Once a given, now extremely rare* (April 24, 2014), in <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/24/papal-saints-once-a-given-now-extremely-rare/> See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_saints_canonized_by_Pope_John_Paul_II

¹¹ "The Pope stressed he was seeking forgiveness not from those who had been wronged, but from God. 'Only he can do that,' see <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2000/mar/13/catholicism.religion>

¹² <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/30/universal/es/Papa-Francisco-muestra-actitud-mas-abierta-a-los-homosexuales.html>

¹³ See references in. 10. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_saints_canonized_by_Pope_Francis]

¹⁴ In those campaigns of extirpation "thousands of persons were condemned." "The institutionalized Extirpation was similar to the Inquisition," Iris Gareis, *Extirpación de idolatrias e identidad cultural en las sociedades andinas del Perú virreinal (siglo XVII)* (25 de Enero, 2007). [<https://journals.openedition.org/nuevomundo/3346>].

¹⁵ "Las Peores Torturas de la Conquista Española" [<https://www.taringa.net/posts/paranormal/19158595/Especial-Las-Peores-Torturas-de-la-Conquista-Espanola.html>].

¹⁶ Historians find a dilemma which the Roman curia cannot satisfactorily solve. On the one hand there is the papal infallibility and that of its Magisterium in morals and faith (the discussion here is if the papal crimes of the past cannot be related to these two points, because in order to perpetrate them, they resorted to the Catholic dogmas). On the other hand, the apology implies a mistake. Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the *Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews*, who signed "We Remember" on the Vatican's behalf, acknowledged later in reference to John Paul's apology, that "the greatest difficulty was the fear that if you say the Church has been wrong in the past, then it can be wrong today and tomorrow." Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/catholic/2000/03/is-the-pope-overdoing-the-apologies.aspx#ZEZlJqgdjyzkDjaY.99>

¹⁷ David I. Kertzer, *The Pope and Mussolini. The Secret History of Pius XI and the Rise of Fascism in Europe* (2015).

¹⁸ J. Cornwel, *Hitler's Pope* (1999). Pius XI was the first head of state that recognized the government of Hitler in 1933, and

imponent authority of the *Führer*. These popes saw in the fascist regimes of the 20th Century (characterized by dictatorships) a timely compensation for the monarchy which had practically disappeared since the French Revolution a century earlier. Through powerful Catholic men like the kings, the popes had ruled the world during the entire Middle Ages. Now, through Catholic dictators they thought it would be easier to recover that position of world domination.¹⁹

The problem for the popes since the 19th Century has been that during the Middle Ages they prevailed over nations and peoples through monarchical regimes. Thomas Aquinas had affirmed in the 13th Century that the best system of government was the government of one person, because it avoided division, and unity is required to have peace. But there were two crowns in Thomas' days, the papal crown and the royal crown. In order to solve this dilemma, he resorted to the pagan dualist Greek philosophy of soul and body. For him, the church was the soul and the state was the body. In this way he affirmed the superiority of the spiritual power (the Sovereign Pontiff) over the secular power (the king), because under this concept, the body doesn't command the soul, rather the soul governs the body.²⁰

But since the early 19th Century, new democratic regimes have arisen, which destroyed monarchies, and in the cases where the monarchy managed to survive, it lost its despotic power. It is for this reason that during the 19th Century, the popes withdrew into their cloisters and condemned democracy.²¹ Prominent among them are Pius IX²² and his successor Leo XIII.²³ Ancient emperors already boasted a certain type of infallibility, which meant that no one had the right to oppose what they say. The popes inherited that infallibility, but it was not dogmatically defined as a doctrine until the First Ecumenical Council of the Vatican overseen by Pope Pius IX, in 1870.

The last openly antidemocratic pope was Pius XII, who thought that through fascist and clero-fascist dictators, he could again impose papal dominance over the world.²⁴ But his imperialist dreams disappeared when two Protestant countries intervened, namely, the USA and England, casting down those dreams of supremacy, and reestablishing democracy.

praised Hitler in public, even before officially acknowledging his regime, J. W. Robbins, *Ecclesiastical Megalomania: The Economic and Political Thought of the Roman Catholic Church* (1999), 164.

¹⁹ Benito Mussolini (Italy), 1922-1943; Engelbert Dollfuss and Kurt von Schuschnigg (Austria), 1932-1934; Adolf Hitler (Germany), 1933-1945; Antonio Salazar (Portugal), 1932-1968; Francisco Franco (Spain), 1936-1975; Ante Pavelic (Croatia), 1941-1945; Juan Perón (Argentina), 1946-1955; Videla (with the Military Junta which ruled Argentina during the "dirty war" in the 70s), Pinochet in Chile, etc. The greatest criminals among them were Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, and Pavelic

²⁰ In order to rightly rule society, it requires the government of a single person, the monarchy, because it is easier "to reach unity by one person than by many," Thomas Aquinas, *The Monarchy*, 14. The entire treatise of *De Regno* is a permanent advice to the king on how better to obtain peace. The stronger the government, the better the peace obtained. Strength comes from unity, which makes a unipersonal government more convenient, *The Monarchy*, 19. See A. M. Rosales, *El Poder Político en "La Monarquía" de Santo Tomás de Aquino* (2011). [<http://teologicamente.com/2011/04/el-poder-politico-en-la-monarquia-de-santo-tomas-de-aquino/>]

²¹ D. Kertzer, *The Pope Who Would Be King: The Exile of Pius IX And The Emergence Of Modern Europe* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2018). In 1864, pope Pius IX issued his encyclical *Quanta Cura*, "and probably most importantly and best known for its accompanying encyclical known as the 'Syllabus Of Errors.' It stated that it would be an error for any good Catholic to believe that the pope could exist without being also a king over his own lands, therefore king over the Papal States. It stated that no Christian could believe in freedom of religion, in freedom of speech, in freedom of association, or freedom of the press, as these were all condemned by the Christian religion."

Pius IX considered himself a prisoner in the Vatican for his refusal to recognize the Italian government. All succeeding popes for several decades followed this tradition until the dictator Mussolini signed the Concordat of Letran in 1929. See also Andrzej Flis, *The Catholic Church's War with Democracy* [http://dSPACE.upce.cz/bitstream/handle/10195/35321/FlisA_The?sequence=1]

²² R. L. Conte, *Papal Infallibility in Providentissimus Deus* [<http://catholicplanet.com/TSM/papal-infallibility.htm>]

²³ "Freedom of worship is the worst of freedoms. It cannot be sufficiently accursed or abhorred," *Liberty of the Press* [MC151]. [<http://www.angelfire.com/extreme/genio/heroes/leon13hero.html>]

²⁴ John Cornwell, *Hitler's Pope* (1999). *Ecclesia*, the official organ of the Spanish Catholic Action, proudly extolled Pius XII in 1950 for his support of fascist regimes, and referred to "His Holiness," as "the best antidemocrat of the world." The new Roman Catechism denies freedom of conscience when it says that "the right to religious liberty is neither a moral license to adhere to error, nor a supposed right to error" (point 2108). These statements are taken from both popes Leo XIII (*Libertas praestantissimum* 18) and Pius XII (*AAS* 1953, 799). These two popes never assimilated the modern concepts of democracy and freedom of conscience.

The popes and democracy since the Second half of the 20th Century

Did the hegemonic dreams of the popes disappear in the second half of the 20th Century and beginning of the 21st Century? Of course not! Pope Pius XII was the last to take the name Pius. Subsequent popes realized that to recover world political power they had to live with Protestantism and democracy, and learn to use them for advancing their own political agenda. Following Pius XII was pope John XXIII. He ceased calling Protestants “heretics” and began to call them “separated brothers.” Then, Paul VI likewise began to acknowledge communist regimes, and tried to covenant with them, following a *politic of détente* [calm] known also as *ostpolitik*.²⁵

John Paul II tried to revive Thomas’ philosophy, warning the European Union that they could not be only a body, but also needed the soul. For him, Europe cannot disregard its historical past which was characterized by the union of Church and State. Though he tempered the papal speech by recognizing the convenience in separation of Church and State, he kept essentially the same principle of the Middle Ages. For him, the separation had to do only with a rejection of the State (body) *over* the Church (soul). The authority of the Church *over* the State, however, remained intact.²⁶

It is amazing that while presiding over a monarchical system inherited from ancient times and the Middle Ages, the most recent popes have dared to teach about democracy.²⁷ They have also been seen promoting solidarity movements to press rulers to cancel the debts of poor countries (like Judas according to John 12:5-6). Yes, it is the same institution of the papacy which in former times identified himself more with rich people than with poor people!²⁸ Recent popes seem to have grasped the fragile nature of modern democratic systems which depend on the majority for election. They have begun seeking to popularize themselves with the masses, thus pressuring politicians to give them political recognition.

Today pope Francis is calling the principal religious dignitaries, politicians, magistrates, and rulers of the world to the Vatican to promote his political agenda.²⁹ Therefore, no one can deny that his dreams go

²⁵ See Paul VI’s *ostpolitik* (or political of détente) with communist regimes. P. Higginson, *The Vatican and Communism from ‘Divinis Redemptoris’ to Paul VI: Part 2* (1980), 234-244 [https://www.jstor.org/stable/43247150?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents]. D. Dunn, *The Kremlin and the Vatican: Ostpolitik* [https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/rc/04-4_16.pdf]

²⁶ In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, in point 2188, it is stated that “in respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church’s holy days as legal holidays.” Are other Christians and non Christians also forced to keep Sunday, against their conscience? Here we can see the religious interference in political matters.

²⁷ After the Second World War the fascist regimes failed and the post-war papacy had to learn to tolerate democracy in the civil order. However, John Paul II “has reinstated the ideology of papal power. Pluralism, he believes, can only lead to centrifugal fragmentation; only a strong Pope, ruling from the apex, can save the Church” (*Pope’s Hitler*, 367).

²⁸ See several articles in *Zenit*, Nov. 3, 1999; J. L. Martínez, *El Personalismo Solidario de Juan Pablo II: Convertir la Interdependencia en Solidaridad* (Unisci Discussion Papers, 2006) [<https://www.ucm.es/data/cont/media/www/pag-72531/MARTINEZ-%20PERSONALISMO%20SOLIDARIO.pdf>]. More details and references in A. Treiyer, *Jubilee and Globalization. The hidden intention* (1999), 208,215,217.

²⁹ In December 2014, pope Francis called the leaders of the principal religions of the world to meet in the Vatican, targeting the religious powers of the world. He purposed to unite religions in a crusade against slavery in all forms. In his view, as in the former popes, a Sunday law would free the masses from industrial slavery. [<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pope-slavery/pope-world-religious-leaders-pledge-to-fight-modern-slavery-idUSKCN0JG1KM20141202>]

In July 2015, pope Francis targeted the political powers of the world, calling to the Vatican several mayors of many principal cities of the world to fight against climate change, to protect the earth. It was just after issuing his encyclical *Laudato Si*. His attempt was to put pressure on the United Nations to take measures on climate change. With the same purpose he went in September of that same year to the USA, where he spoke before the US Congress. [<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/22/world/europe/mayors-at-vatican-pledge-efforts-against-climate-change.html>] ; [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/july/documents/papa-francesco_20150721_sindaci-grandi-citta.html]

On June 3 and 4, 2016, pope Francis called many judges of the world for a summit in the Vatican, targeting international judicial authorities. The purpose was to “posit new international laws.” [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2016/june/documents/papa-francesco_20160603_summit-giudici.html] ; [<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/06/06/resist-pressure-to-ignore-human-trafficking-pope-tells-judges/>]

In June 8, 2008, he gathered in the Vatican the leaders of the principal oil companies of the world to study how to protect the environment of the planet, targeting the economy and industry of the world, etc. [<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-44419229>]

beyond the religious realm. But few seem to grasp that his current policy of *inclusion*, founded on what presumes to be the “common good” of all, will eventually sacrifice minorities in behalf of majorities.

Let us take into account that modern democracies have been characterized by being “multiparty,” which implies respect for minority parties which are allowed representation in the government. But the last papal encyclicals point to a world government which requires an emperor, as in antiquity.³⁰ They believe that the current world chaos requires a supreme authority to impose the “common good” determined by the majority.³¹ Our world seems to be moving toward that perspective, called “a planetary ethic.”³² According to this theory, no minority can be saved without involving the majority, which, if necessary, needs to exclude dissident minorities to be saved.³³

Let us conclude this point by warning that the most recent popes have once again been trying to meddle in the politics of nations and religions, in an attempt to unite the entire world in the final apostasy foretold in Revelation. Their ecumenism aims to obtain the acknowledgment of the religious authority over the state. Their underlying motive is to lead the nations to impose his *inclusivist* politico-religious agenda for the presumable common good of the majorities. Within this context, we do well not to underestimate the book of Revelation which warns us that the *exclusivist* and murderous character of the popes will appear again near the end of time, in open opposition to the law of God, and on a global scale (Rev 12:17; 13:15-18).

2. Lying and blasphemous spirit

Jesus said that the office of the devil is murderer and liar (John 8:44). We can see this double characteristic admirably represented in the history of the Roman papacy even to the present day. We have already seen an overview of the first one: its bloody spirit. Let us deal now with its characteristic of lying. The apostle Paul foretold that the politico-religious authority of the antichrist who would come after the fall of the Caesars, would display himself as being God (2 Thess 2:4). He would be a blasphemous manifestation because blasphemy is to falsely present oneself as being God. No wonder the papacy carries blasphemous titles such as *Pope* [Father] (Matt 23:9), *Vicar of the Son of God*, and *Vicar of God Himself* (Latin: *Vicarius*, “instead of”)

In the book of Daniel the papacy is represented as “insolent and master of intrigues,” as someone who

In June 2018, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, took part in the Bilderberg Conference of Turin, Italy, an annual private gathering of about 130 global politicians, business, and media leaders. It was the first time high-ranking Vatican official has taken part in the Bilderberg Conferences, a secret society which procures to strengthen relationships between the USA and Europe [https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2018/06/07/vatican-secretary-of-state-attending-elite-bilderberg-meeting/]

³⁰ Pope Benedict XVI wrote the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), requiring a new world order and political authority to control the economy of the world. [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/07/pope-new-political-financial-order] ; [https://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/internacionales/52019-papa-benedicto-pide-autoridad-politica-mundial/]; [https://rcg.org/realtruth/news/090710-009-religion.html]

³¹ See also https://www.thetrumpet.com/12819-pope-calls-for-new-world-government ; http://www.hangthebankers.com/vatican-calls-for-world-government-and-a-new-world-order/ ; http://www.chick.com/articles/worldgovernment.asp ; https://yournewswire.com/pope-francis-world-government-rule/

³² Gordon Brown, English prime minister, said after the failure of the Copenhagen summit in December 2009, that a new international order is needed to deal with the stewardship of the environment to make sure that the will of the majority will prevail. “Never again should we let a global deal to move towards a greener future be held to ransom by only a handful of countries,” D. Adam, “Copenhagen treaty was ‘held to ransom,’” in *The Guardian*, Dec 21, 2009. “Economics is now based on a world market, and if the planet really is facing some sort of man-made climate crisis, then that too is a problem that transcends national boundaries. Surely, if our problems are universal the solutions must be as well,” J. Daley, “There’ll be nowhere to run from the new world government,” in *The Telegraph*, Dec 19, 2009. See also http://www.europapress.es/sociedad/medio-ambiente-00647/noticia-gordon-brown-propondra-creacion-organismo-internacional-encargue-asuntos-medioambientales-20091221174505.html V. Klaus said: “We’ll be the victims of irrational ideology. They will try to dictate to us how to live, what to do, how to behave,” G. J. Koprowski, *Fox News*, Dec 18, 2009.

³³ M. Lacroix, *El humanicidio. Ensayo de una moral planetaria* (Santander, 1995), 9, 15,40-69: “from the moral planetary view, no human group, no specific social class, can consider themselves as depositary of the historical truth; there is no philosophy of history behind it that grants a forefront mission, that assign a privileged function to a concrete minority. There is no more than a unique criterium: the concern for the planet.” “Or we save ourselves together, or we will perish together.”

“will cause deceit to prosper” (Dan 8:23,25), and “exalt himself above any god” (Dan 11:37-38). This was notably seen in his attempt to change the day of worship that God Himself wrote into His law (Dan 7:25). The New Testament again brings out his blasphemous and deceitful character. In 2 Thess 2:4,9-12, the apostle Paul represents the papacy as usurper of the church of Christ, and deceitful. In Rev 13:5-8; 17:3, it is labeled as blasphemous, which means attempting to occupy the place of God.

Because a significant number of Catholic dogmas were strongly criticized by Protestants, pope John Paul II required the preparation of a new Catechism for Catholics. We are pleasantly surprised when finding that this new Catechism asserts that the Ten Commandments “are fundamentally immutable, and they oblige always and everywhere. No one can dispense from them” (2072). “The Law of the Gospel... does not add new external precepts” (1968). “By his life and by his preaching Jesus attested to the permanent validity of the Decalogue” (2076). However, we are disappointed when a little later the Catechism changes two commandments.

Honoring images. In its commentary on the second commandment which forbids the veneration, worship, or honoring of images of anything that there is in heaven and on earth (Exod 20:4-5), the Catholic Catechism affirms, openly, that “the seventh ecumenical council at Nicaea (787) justified against the iconoclasts the veneration of icons—of Christ, but also of the Mother of God, the angels, and all the saints” (2131). No effort is found to explain the contradiction.

Change of the day of worship. The same contradiction is seen in the Catholic comment on the fourth commandment (which the Catholic Church identifies as being the third commandment), about the day of worship. God stated in the Decalogue that the Sabbath is the seventh day which commemorates His creation, with no mention of the first day. However, the Catechism affirms Sunday. “Because it is the ‘first day,’ the day of Christ’s Resurrection recalls the first creation.” “Sunday is expressly distinguished from the sabbath which it follows chronologically every week; for Christians its ceremonial observance replaces that of the sabbath” (2174, 2175). Then it refers to that change as “the precept of the Church” (2180). Wow! Nothing is found in the Word of God to justify the change. On the contrary, the prophet Daniel foretold that such an attempt at changing the Law of God would be fulfilled by the Roman antichrist (Dan 7:25).

Fake miracles through the saints. The Bible also refers to false miracles which the antichrist would pretend to perform as proof of his presumed divine authority, through which he would deceive the world (2 Thess 2:9-12). Even today, the papacy elevates to the podium of sainthood those who pretend to perform miracles, so that the people can invoke them as if they were gods. This point is inserted in the demonic character of Roman Catholicism which we will now consider.

3. Demonic spirit

Speaking to the dead. In Rev 18 we are told that Babylon, symbol of Rome, becomes “a lair for demons” (v. 2). This is a reference to the moment when her daughters (the Protestant churches which prostitute themselves with her at the end, forming “the Great Babylon”), fall into the same devil’s trap.³⁴ According to the Bible the dead stop living and their state is of total unconsciousness until the final judgment and the coming of the Lord (Eccl 2:16; 9:5,10; Isa 26:14; Mal 4:1; Zeph 1:18; 3:19; Obad 16; 2 Pe 3:10-11). Who then are the presumed saints and virgins who appear before multitudes today? In the history of the medium of Endor we see that the devil could fake that he was Samuel (1 Sam 28:5-25; 1 Chr 10:13-14). For this reason God forbade speaking with the dead (Deut 18:11; Lev 19:31; 20:27). Jesus

³⁴ “Babylon is said to be ‘the mother of harlots.’ By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries” (GC 382-3).

as well as the apostles warn us that eventually the devil would deceive the whole world through deceitful miracles (Matt 24:24; 2 Thess 2:9-12; Rev 13:13-14).

Demonology was impressively developed in the Middle Ages.³⁵ But rather than return to the history of the Middle Ages, we are now concerned with how spiritualism is being developed today in the Roman Catholic Church. On May 21, 2000, *Zenit*, the internet news of the Vatican, announced that spiritualism was increasing more and more in Italy, stating, “in Italy it is becoming usual to speak with the dead. Spiritualism is returning with a new face.” “The bishops state that the meetings, seminars and conferences centered in the spirituality of the beyond have been multiplied. Many persons who are mourning attend the meetings during the weekends to hear about the hope of life after death.” “Even very well known priests... work in these groups... In some of the meetings, a mass is celebrated.”³⁶

The Roman Catholic Church became vulnerable to spiritualism the moment she adopted the pagan Greek philosophy on the natural immortality of the soul. If those who died do not really die, what can hinder us from communicating with them? This is the basic argument of modern spiritualism, which the serpent first introduced in Eden (Gen 3:4). Since the Roman Catholic Church does not want to recognize the biblical teaching on the unconscious state of the dead, many of the Roman curia have been trying to face this spiritualist development from a psychic perspective. According to this view, the communication would not take place with the deceased persons, nor with the demons who pretend to be the dead, but “with the image of the dead who is in the unconscious.” Anyway, if it is true that it has to do with deceased people—they say—it is not convenient to accept as valid what those disincarnated human beings say, unless of course, they are saints recognized by the church. In fact, in their exorcist practice, the Catholic priests invoke the saints, as do the secret “spiritual exercises” of Jesuits which many link to spiritualism and occult philosophies that are typical of the New Age.³⁷

Exorcism. Spiritualism is also linked to demonic possession which has spread not only within the Roman Catholic Church, but also in the Protestant and Evangelical churches through the influence of Pentecostals and Charismatics, with their supernatural emphasis. In 1996 we were informed that of 40 exorcisms practiced in Rome each week, about 80% were middle class, middle aged women. We are told that women are “more vulnerable because they are the ones who mostly go to see clairvoyants, mediums, card readers, attend seances and belong to satanic sects”.³⁸

The greatest and most popular exorcist of the Vatican was father Amorth, who was also honorary president for life of the *International Association of Exorcists*, and cofounder of it. Resisted by many, his foundation was finally recognized by the Catholic Church in the year 2014. In 2010, Amorth presumed to have performed 70,000 exorcisms in 25 years, an equivalent of 20 exorcisms per day.³⁹ He died in September 16, 2016, estimated to have exorcized probably 160,000 demon possessed people.⁴⁰ No wonder that he concluded that “the devil dwells in the Vatican,” and that many cardinals and bishops do not believe in Jesus and are tied to the demonic. He also spoke about the immorality of the clergy,

³⁵ Dr. Carlos Puyol shared with me this bibliographical note. “In my doctoral dissertation of 1992, *Inquisición y Política en el Reinado de Felipe IV. Los procesos de Jerónimo de Villanueva y las monjas de San Plácido 1628-1660*, published by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in 1993, In chapter III, “Los diablos de San Plácido,” I address the subject of the demonic possession of the majority of Benedictine nuns at the convent of Madrid. Together with the Prior they were accused by the Inquisition making a ‘covenant with the demon’. This allowed me to investigate the parallel and coetaneous case of the Ursuline nuns of Loudun in Southern France (1632-1640), judged there by a royal court, where the Satanic manifestations of the nuns and of their spiritual leader in the forefront, coincide significantly (see pp. 141-180). See also Jean Starobinski, *La posesión demoníaca. Tres estudios* (Taurus Ediciones, Madrid, 1975); Corrado Balducci, *La posesión diabólica* (Ediciones Martínez Roca, Barcelona, 1976).

³⁶ <https://es.zenit.org/articulos/obispos-advierten-contra-las-nuevas-practicas-espi/>

³⁷ <https://www.caminoalregreso.org/2017/12/01/ignacio-de-loyola-ejercicios-espirituales-o-espiritistas/> These spiritual exercises are spreading in the Protestant and Evangelical world, causing the lost of religious identity through what is known as the Emerging Church. See J. Finneman, *The Emergent Church Movement* [http://www.gospel-herald.com/finneman/Emerging_%20Movement.htm].

³⁸ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2016/09/20/father-gabriele-amorth-exorcist--obituary/>

³⁹ *The Telegraph*, March 11, 2010.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

homosexuality, etc.

The requests for exorcism experienced in 1998 became a world boom that led the Vatican to publish a new guide to expel demons, and increase the number of priests to face the phenomenon.⁴¹ Since much of that manual considered the problem as psychological or something equivalent, Amorth considered it useless.

On April 17, 2018, the *BBC of London* reported an impressive increase of demon possession in many countries, especially in Italy. Half a million request exorcism every year of the Catholic Church in Italy, and the requests are also growing in the United Kingdom. The report also recognizes many cases where the priests abuse children who die in those rituals. This is confirmed by a publication of the government of England in 2012, about a plan of national action with the purpose of preventing the abuse of children in such esoteric practices.⁴²

Who and what are accused of increasing demon possession in recent times?

Pentecostals, witchcraft, and several superstitious practices like the play of Tarot Cards, Ouija, etc.⁴³ The fact that Italy, whose capital is Rome and where the Roman Papal See is found, is at the head of exorcism requests, is very significant. As already seen, the book of Revelation warns us that it would become “a lair of demons and a haunt for every unclean spirit” (Rev 18:2-3).

What religions have always been characterized by invoking the dead, and practicing any kind of occultism? Those of pagan origin. We see it already clearly in the Bible (Deut 18:11-12). These and many other heathen beliefs and practices are being revived again today in what is known as New Age. On September 23 of the year 2000, Zenit announced the convocation in the Vatican of about 20 religions, several of them pagan. Pope John Paul II exhorted them to bring “the best they have to improve the world,” and considered such a call “a decisive pass in the moral reconstruction of the world.” Since then, the Vatican has been in permanent dialogue with pagan religions and, in general, with any other religion.

Where do we find in the Bible that God calls pagans to come to Jerusalem to mend the world’s morality? Nowhere! God commissioned ancient Israel to condemn polytheist paganism (book of Jonah), and proclaim His law before the world as the only foundation for people’s morality (Isa 2:3). This is also the mission God gives His church today (Rev 12:17; 14:12; see Matt 19:17; John 14:15).

The Millenary. In 1999 the world was shaken when a book was published, written by priests who work in the Holy See, entitled *The Vatican Against God. Via col vento in Vaticano*. It was published anonymously, under the pseudonym *The Millenary*. The authors sought to expose before the world the tremendous amount of corruption that is concealed behind what pretends to be a Holy See. In this way they expected to force the Vatican to reform the Church. But they don’t realize that moral and spiritual corruption of the clergy is not healed simply by exposing and denouncing it. We agree that it is necessary to denounce sin. But only true inner conversion produced by the Holy Spirit, in harmony with the law of God, can produce that kind of transformation. Only the blood of Christ who converts the souls brings spiritual health.

What allegations did the Millenary bring forth about the Vatican? They cited drug abuse, illicit sex, and homosexuality along with abuse of power, power struggles, and spiritualism. They refer to “black masses” being performed there. They deplore the open existence of Satanism within the Holy See and practice of demonic rituals, something corroborated by several outside sources. A second book was published by the Millenary few years later entitled *Fumo di Satana in Vaticano. Via col vento in Vaticano n. 2*, where they insist on the presence of the devil in the so called Holy See.

Fake exorcists. We can see in those two books the noticeable connection of demonology with moral

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² BBC News, *Exorcism: Vatican course opens doors to 250 priests*, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43697573>

⁴³ *Ibid.*

corruption. But before introducing the fourth characteristic of Rome, let us ask if Jesus intervenes through modern exorcists. In other words, how can we know if an exorcist is false or genuine? The Bible is clear on this point. God spoke through Isaiah to people confused by any type of deceitful spiritual events:

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa 8:20). Jesus and the apostles also warned us that at the end of the world, the devil would deceive the nations with great miracles, with the purpose to deceive, if possible, “even the elect” (Matt 24:24; 2 Thess 2:9-12; Rev 13:13-14).

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven,” said Jesus, “but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt 7:21). He also gave the key to unmasking swindlers: “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matt 7:15-10). In reference to the end of the world, Jesus also warned that many false exorcists would come, who the Lord will tell that He had nothing to do with, ever. “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out devils, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I *never* knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt 7:22-23).

4. Corrupt spirit

What about the moral and spiritual corruption of the Roman Catholic Church today? Is she cleaner now than formerly? For much of the 20th Century the Holy See has been known as a den of rats. This perception increased at the end of that century when the archives of the Second World War were opened. Thanks to these archives, historians could track with a greater precision the “ratline” through which the *Nazi* and *Ustashi* Catholic criminals (many of them genocide priests and money launderers), tried to reach the Vatican. There, false documents were prepared for them to escape the international courts. The clandestine exodus from Rome was toward South America. Genocide perpetrators loyal to the Vatican could thus find a refuge first in the Vatican and then in several countries of South America, as well as Spain, where the fascism or falangism of Franco survived for half a century.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ M. Aarons & J. Loftus, *Unholy Trinity. The Vatican, the Nazis and the Swiss Banks* (1999, Revised Version). Among the numerous Catholic perpetrators of genocide who escaped from Germany and other countries to Rome to be protected by the Holy See from the international courts, we can mention:

Franz Stangl (commander of the Treblinka extermination camp, where 900,000 were killed, escaped to Rome, Syria, and then to Brazil).

Gustav Wagner (commander at Sobibor, the other big death camp in Poland, went with Stangl, walking from Austria to Rome, from where they fled also to Brazil).

Alois Brunner (he sent hundreds of thousands of victims to the death camps of Stangl and Wagner at Treblinka and Sobibor. He escaped to Rome and from there to Damasco, Syria).

Adolf Eichmann (the chief architect of the holocaust which had to watch so that the deadly machinery led by Stangl and Wagner worked to the fullest, received another identity in the Vatican and lived hidden in a monastery in Genoa till escaping to Argentina).

Walter Rauff (he supervised mobile vans connected to diesel motors, so that 100,000 Jews died asphyxiated during the trip to the concentration camps. He also helped the Vatican to launder nazi money through his friend Frederic Schwendt, one of the greatest swindlers of history).

Ante Pavelic and his elite *ustashi* (after the genocide of 60,000 Jews and Gypsies, and between 300,000 and 600,000 Serbs [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ustashe>], fled through Austria to Rome disguised as monks and priests, where Pavelic found refuge in Castel Gandolfo, residence of the popes; using false passports he and almost all of his criminal government fled to Argentina, where they formed the *Croatian Liberation Movement* which performed terrorist acts even in the USA. “By the end of the war the Ustaše, under Pavelić’s leadership, had exterminated an estimated 30,000 Jews, 29,000 Gypsies, and between 300,000 and 600,000 Serbs,” *Ustashe*, Wikipedia.

For a list of fascist priests who exterminated thousands of Jews and Orthodox Serbs, laundered money, smuggled the gold robbed from their victims, and found refuge after the war in the Vatican and in Catholic convents before escaping to other countries with false documents, see also *Unholy Trinity*... Let us mention some of them.

Fathers Cecelja and Draganovic were declared fascists who found refuge in the Vatican.

Father Dragutin Kamber was a bloody mass murderer who set up a concentration camp which he led as commander, and “proclaimed that Orthodox Serbs and Jews had to be exterminated as being harmful for the Ustashi State. He carried out many interrogations with torture in his own house, in whose basement he killed his victims. The first to be killed in this way were Serb professors and priests. He also instigated and led massive massacres in Doboj.

Was the Roman Church really cleansed from the moral filth which characterized her in the past? No, of course not! Rome is no cleaner today than in the Middle Ages. Even worse, according to the book of revelation, the demonic corruption of the Roman antichrist would increase at the end, especially when the daughters of Babylon would likewise prostitute with her to unite with the governments of this world, falling into the same politico-religious games of their mother (Rev 17:4).⁴⁵ All that Babylonian corruption would come to light so that many faithful children of God who are scattered in all churches and religions, could see clearly to leave that den of corruption, and avoid the final plagues through which God will destroy this world (Rev 16; 18:4-5).

Generalized Moral Corruption

Let us begin by pointing out that the Catholic clergy has always pretended to have a moral vision that the civil authorities supposedly don't have. This pretension is based on a belief in the superiority of the spiritual power over the state (the soul-body Thomist connection already mentioned). In turn, they justify such a moral superiority of the clergy in a curious interpretation of 1 Cor 2:15, where the apostle Paul states that "the spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one." But the apostle is not dealing there with a pretension of not being judged by civil authorities for claiming to have a higher moral vision, because he considered those secular authorities as being ordained by God to punish the wicked, without concern for religious affiliation (Rom 13:1ff).⁴⁶

That haughty presumption of a higher moral vision has led the Catholic clergy to require that they not be judged by civil courts, but exclusively by ecclesiastical courts.⁴⁷ Furthermore, any person of the clergy or the laity who wants to take to civil courts priests, nuns, bishops, and cardinals, neglecting the ecclesiastical courts, is considered by the Vatican as a traitor.⁴⁸ Then there is the persistent resistance of

Father Dominik Mandic was an official representative of the Vatican in Saint Girolamo, whose institution, according to the Italian agents, was "a den of Croatian and *ustashi* nationalists."

Montseigneur Karlo Petranovic, who later escaped to Canada, living in Niagara Falls for the following three or probably more decades. During the Pavelic regime, Petranovic instigated and led several massacres against Orthodox Serbs. He was the second in command of the death camp of Ogulin.

"The golden priest" was father Draganovic. He smuggled 400 kilograms of gold, valued at millions of dollars, and a considerable amount of money abroad. That money was needed to launch a crusade on Croatia, considered a bulwark in the greatest Serb state (Yugoslavia). When Pavelic was still leading Croatia, with the help of Catholic priests, he began to transfer large amounts of gold to the Swiss banks (since the beginning of 1944), for the purpose of supplying arms to the crusaders. About 2,000 kgs. of gold remain in a bank in Berna, as one of the depots of the Vatican. These Krizari (crusaders) came to the pope for help and he received them well. Through his intervention, they obtained arms and ammunition to recover Croatia.

For the barbarism perpetrated against Jews, Gypsies, Orthodox, and socialists with pope Pius XII support, see A. R. Treiyer, *El Vaticano y los Grandes Genocidios del S. XX* (2004), in <http://adventistdistinctivemessages.com/Spanish/articulos.html>

⁴⁵ See n. 34.

⁴⁶ In 1 Cor 2:15 Paul is referring to the spiritual discernment of the one who converts to God, to appreciate the truths of the gospel. No one can judge or condemn, for example, someone for believing that Jesus died for him. While for Jews, that belief was "a stumbling stone," for pagan Greeks it was "foolishness" because they could not understand it. However, for the one who is illuminated by the Spirit of God, faith in Jesus is "power and salvation of God for he who believes" (v. 14; cf. 1:21-24). But as to morality, if we don't obey the law of the state which is not contrary to the law of God, we will be judged as any other citizen, because we all are sinners by nature.

⁴⁷ The famous bull *Unam Sanctam* of Pope Boniface VIII, which has been reaffirmed by the ablest of later Pontiffs, and is accepted by standard Roman canonists as *de fide* and therefore infallible, settles that point in this clear declaration of law: "And if the earthly power deviate from the right path, it is judged by the spiritual power; but if minor spiritual power deviate from the right path, the lower in rank is judged by the superior; but if the supreme power, the Papacy, deviate, it can be judged not by man, but by God alone," *History of the Christian Church*, Schaff, V, Part II, 25. Sebastian B. Smith, D. D., states the law in these words: "In whatsoever things, whether essentially or by accident, the spiritual end—that is, the end of the Church—is necessarily involved, in those things, **THOUGH THEY BE TEMPORAL**, the Church may by right exert its power, and the civil state ought to yield," *Elements of Ecclesiastical Law*, Volume I, pages 253-4.

"The foregoing quotation from Dr. Smith, published with the Imprimatur of three reigning prelates of Rome, including the late Cardinal McCloskey of New York, indicates the virtually boundless scope claimed by the canon law for the jurisdiction of ecclesiastical courts. It is declared that in all matters, whether spiritual or temporal, which affect the Church, ecclesiastical authority is supreme and the civil tribunals are subordinate." [<http://www.reformation.org/canon-law-ch4.html>]

⁴⁸ "Canon 1553 of the *Codex Juris Canonici* reaffirms... the claim of exclusive jurisdiction of all matters in which prelates,

the clergy to testify before civil courts, appealing to matters of conscience. This concept is the basis of the horrible medieval wrath against heresy over any other offense because it implied a contempt for papal authority.⁴⁹

What's interesting about this is the fact that the *Canon Law* of the Catholic Church requires absolute impunity for the papacy, presuming at the same time that the pope can make mistakes like any other human being and still be infallible in faith and morals.⁵⁰ That required impunity for the clergy before the civil laws, before objective external forums, is one of the principal causes of the Catholic ecclesiastical corruption. While they could impose that principle in Catholic countries for many centuries, with the coming of Protestantism and democracy, such a pretention has been involved in numberless conflicts between the canonic and civil laws.⁵¹

The principle of Church/State separation drawn from the Bible by the Protestant countries acknowledged that we are all sinners by nature and therefore equals before the civil law. It undermines the Roman ecclesiastical notion of impunity required by the Canon Law.⁵² "The ceaseless and universal strife between civil and ecclesiastical authority in all Roman Catholic lands seeking to maintain government by the people is due fundamentally to that pernicious doctrine. The assertion that supreme jurisdiction is vested in the Pope, in whose election the people have absolutely no voice, can never be reconciled with the principle of popular sovereignty."⁵³

This crisis intensified when clerical immorality (especially the cases of pedophilia discovered in convents and dioceses) came to light in the USA.⁵⁴ There renowned lawyers attempted to bring the pope himself before an international court. Among the principal inquiries were not only the clerical pedophilia, but also money laundering that the Vatican was able to carry out with impunity through the Banco Ambrosiano (the only bank in the world which doesn't permit external audit). Feeling inadequate to face the moral problem of the Roman clergy, Pope Benedict XVI resigned and thus avoided an international verdict against him. Pope Francis then initiated an apparent reformation of the curia with the supposed purpose of cleansing his church of that corruption, and quelling the world indignation raised against her.

Was pope Francis able to cleanse the Catholic Church? Several years went by, and it became apparent that he was not. Many have asked themselves if that was ever his intention. As an Italian saying goes,

priests or members of religious orders are concerned... 'The Church by her own exclusive right judges... all cases of persons who enjoy the privilege of the ecclesiastical forum, in accordance with Canons 120, 614 and 680.' Canons... specify prelates, priests and members of religious orders as entitled to the privilege of ecclesiastical forum. Any person, whether a private citizen or public official, who causes compulsory process to issue requiring a cardinal, archbishop, bishop or abbot to attend civil court in any capacity incurs ecclesiastical punishment under the canon law."

⁴⁹ "The one outstanding crime in contemplation of canon law is heresy. Under all systems of justice, treason is a grave felony, and the papal authorities have uniformly regarded heresy as a species of treason. That crime is grounded in resistance or disloyalty to government. Heresy is such resistance to the authority of the papal government which claims divine authority and suzerainty over all other governments. Since heresy is resistance to that government, it is at once deemed the blackest of all sins and the most atrocious of crimes. Consequently it has always incurred torture and death in the most excruciating forms in lands where Rome is permitted to inflict such punishments," *ibid*.

⁵⁰ "No principle of canon law is better established and none has been asserted and enforced with more vigor and persistency than the doctrine of the jurisdictional independence, and supremacy of the Pope in both civil and ecclesiastical matters. The *Codex Juris Canonici*, enacted by the Holy See and now binding on every Roman Catholic in the world, is replete with that doctrine from end to end," *ibid*.

⁵¹ "But the growth of Protestantism and democracy in the last four centuries limits and restrains the criminal vengeance formerly dispensed with fiendish cruelty by the See of Rome. Unless new papal alliances can reestablish the political supremacy of the Pope, the Inquisition will probably never again be able to afflict mankind," *ibid*.

⁵² For the conflicts between the Canon Law and the civil law in the USA, see [https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1203&context=cjlpp]. Cardinal Darío Castrillón, doctorated in Canon Law, served in Rome as prefect for the Congregation for the Clergy, from 1996 to 2006, and as president of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei" from 2000 to 2009. He sent a letter in 2001, with the approval of Pope John Paul II, praising a French bishop for facing prison rather than delivering a pedophile priest to civil courts, cf. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/22/obituaries/cardinal-daro-castrillon-hoyos-vatican-sexual-abuse-scandal.html

⁵³ "Under the papal doctrine as stated there is virtually no limit to the matters over which ecclesiastical courts have claimed jurisdiction. That jurisdiction is both civil and criminal." [http://www.reformation.org/canon-law-ch4.html]

⁵⁴ See J. R. Fornicola, Ph.D., *Catholic Clerical Sex Abuse: The Vatican; the American Bishops, and U.S. Church/State Relations*. [hrr.hartsem.edu/bookshelf/FormicolaPaper.doc].

“Rome never changes.” What the old prophet says about the evil empire is fulfilled in Rome. “We would have healed Babylon, but she was not healed. Forsake her, and let us go each to his own country, for her judgment has reached up to heaven” (Isa 51:9; Rev 18:5).

Facts, statistics, and causes of the moral corruption of the Catholic Church

Toward the end of the 1980’s, sporadic public outcries began to appear in the public media against the Catholic clergy for child abuse, including nuns and religious orders. In the 1990’s, those accusations became more pronounced in the media, especially in Ireland, Canada, Australia, and the USA. A series of documentaries for TV such as “Suffer the Children” (UTV, 1994), brought national attention in Ireland.⁵⁵

Some complaints were made also before the United Nations by nuns who reported that priests required them to have sex in their monasteries so they could avoid contracting AIDs with public women. The reports came from 23 countries, mostly from Africa. But the Vatican downplayed the report referring to the different culture of that continent.⁵⁶ But violations of nuns by priests and bishops is being now denounced in many countries and continents.⁵⁷

In 2002 the world was surprised by the investigation made in the USA by *The Boston Globe*, resulting in nearly 100 priests accused of pedophilia in Massachusetts alone. Despite the attempt to hinder such investigation by the Roman Catholic Church, the process as well as the results of the study were universalized in 2015 in the film *Spotlight*. That film won numerous awards and was nominated the best film of 2015 by several publications.⁵⁸ Once those abuses were published, thousands called *The Boston Globe* to share new complaints from within the USA and from other countries as well. Since then, it has been harder for the Catholic Church to curtail the denunciations.

In 2004, the *John Jay College of Criminal Justice* reported that in the USA alone there were 10,667 complaints against 4,492 priests accused of child abuse. The number of priests has now exceeded 5,000. In Ireland the inquiry about a series of criminal clerical abuses against hundreds of children began in the 1990’s. The investigation required by the State ended by documenting “tens of thousands of children from the 1940’s to the 1990’s who suffered abuse, including sexual abuse at the hands of priests, nuns, and church staff in three dioceses.”⁵⁹

At least 3,000 civil complaints were raised against the Catholic Church in the USA alone. In 2009 that church had to pay more than 2.6 billion dollars for abuse perpetrated in her diocese since 1950. In order to survive, the Catholic Church had to resort to bankruptcy in several of her dioceses. The complaints continue even as she continues to declare herself in bankruptcy.⁶⁰ We are shocked at how costly the child abuse of her curia is for the Roman Church in a country where the church cannot require impunity because it is not a Catholic country.

En August 2018, a judicial investigation in Pennsylvania, USA, revealed 1,000 cases of child abuse

⁵⁵ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church_sexual_abuse_cases

⁵⁶ See <https://www.nytimes.com/2001/07/15/nyregion/demonstrators-at-un-accuse-priests-of-abusing-nuns-in-africa.html> For newspapers at that time, see *Clarín* (Argentina), March 21, 2001, “Escándalo por abusos sexuales”; *El País* (Spain), Marz 22, 2001), “Sexo de curas y monjas”; “Los abusos a monjas reabren el debate sobre el sexo en la Igl. Católica”; “La Iglesia asegura...,” etc. On the swindlers immorality combined in missional works which involve the Vatican, see *El País* (Spain), Marz 10, 2001), “El ex-director de las Obras Misionales Pontificias denuncia irregularidades fiscales y contables”; *idem*, (21 de Marz), “La Iglesia reconoce gestiones contables ‘incorrectas’ en las obras misionales”, etc.

⁵⁷ “Escándalo en la Iglesia. Monjas abusadas por sacerdotes: un flagelo que la Iglesia prefiere callar” (*Clarín*, Agosto 4, 2018)

⁵⁸ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spotlight_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spotlight_(film))

⁵⁹ See *Catholic Church Sexual Abuse Cases* in https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church_sexual_abuse_cases In the document of Wikipedia we can find statistics of clergy child abuse in different countries.

⁶⁰ See https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/settlement-reached-in-st-paul-archdiocese-bankruptcy-case/2018/05/31/bca83a9a-64ef-11e8-81ca-bb14593aca6_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.92517e8a7017 In the USA, 15 Catholic dioceses and archdioceses had to opt for bankruptcy, including three in the state of Minnesota, to protect themselves from the increase of claims of child abuse by their clergy. At the present time, a fourth diocese in Minnesota is also considering to resort to bankruptcy in an attempt to quell the complaints. The archdiocese of Saint Paul is paying more than 210 million dollars to 450 victims of sexual clerical abuse. It is the second most expensive bankruptcy in the history of the USA. The most expensive took place in 2007, in the archdiocese of Los Angeles: 660 million dollars to 508 victims.

committed by 300 priests over a period of seventy years. The official statement also said it was the belief of the investigating body that many more cases had occurred which they could not sufficiently validate in the research. It was also proven that bishops and priests received instruction from the Vatican about how to cover the facts and avoid being judged by the civil courts, and how to hinder the investigation by feigning interest in the accusations.⁶¹ One of the leaders of the investigation conducted in Boston during the previous decade, was interviewed by Fox News and affirmed that a similar dramatic percentage of the clerical child abuse reported in Boston and in Pennsylvania would be obtained if a worldwide investigation took place.⁶² In his view, this problem is systemic in the Roman priesthood.⁶³ Carlo Maria Viganò, former representative of the Vatican in the USA, asked pope Francis to resign, arguing that he, as well as other cardinals in the Vatican, were informed of the abuses and, in spite of that, the pope tried to conceal those cases of pedophile.⁶⁴

Excuses. After suggesting that the different culture of the African continent should be taken into account in the consideration of the priestly abuse in the convents of nuns, pope John Paul II tried to excuse the gravity of the situation by referring to the corrupt society of the USA. Now the blame rested principally on the immorality of a Protestant country.⁶⁵ This happened once they found in Boston about 100 priests who were accused of child abuse,⁶⁶ and many more in the rest of the USA. But a little later this argument lost weight when many complaints began to appear from different countries, including Catholic countries like Mexico.⁶⁷

The Catholic Church has also been attempting to diminish the impact of her ecclesiastical moral degradation by saying that in the 21th Century, the cases of pedophilia decreased. However, the civil entities rejected that estimation based on the fact that most victims only dare to denounce their abuse publicly when they reach an average of 30 years after the violation took place. Another excuse cited an equivalent percentage of pedophile priests in comparison with the general population, which is not true according to the most recent statistics published on the problem. Pedophilia among the Roman Catholic Priests is much higher than in the general population.⁶⁸ Even if that were true, how could the Roman curia continue their claim to a higher moral vision than that of the civil population?

⁶¹ [https://www.lemonde.fr/religions/article/2018/08/29/pedophilie-en-pennsylvanie-le-procureur-dit-que-le-vatican-etait-au-courant_5347264_1653130.html] [<https://www.infobae.com/americamundo/2018/08/15/el-fbi-detalla-el-manual-de-jugadas-de-la-iglesia-catolica-para-encubrir-abusos-sexuales-de-300-sacerdotes-en-pensilvania/>] [https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/08/17/estados_unidos/1534538033_258338.html] [<https://www.infobae.com/americaeuu/2018/08/16/pedofilia-en-pensilvania-el-fiscal-general-denuncio-que-los-curas-usaron-la-fe-como-un-arma-para-abusar-de-los-menores/>]

⁶² A “shocking” report into the sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy in Germany is “probably only the tip of the iceberg”, the country’s justice minister has said. The German Catholic church presented the results of an investigation into decades of sexual abuse of children on Tuesday afternoon. The report details the cases of 3,677 children, the majority of whom are male, who were sexually abused between 1946 and 2014. About 1,670 clerics, mainly priests, are implicated. [<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/25/report-details-sexual-abuse-german-catholic-church>]

⁶³ <http://video.foxnews.com/v/5822556994001/?sp=show-clips>

⁶⁴ [<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/08/pope-francis-sex-abuse-ireland-vigano/568615/>] [<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/08/26/former-vatican-diplomat-calls-for-pope-francis-to-resign-claims-ignored-sex-abuse-allegations.html>]

⁶⁵ Cardinal Gerhard Müller, prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, in an interview with the Catholic World Report, again blamed the Protestant influence on the Catholic clergy for the immorality of the Catholic priesthood. See “Cardenal Müller: ‘Es la protestantización de la Iglesia’”, in *Acción Familia* (June 30, 2018). [<https://www.accionfamilia.org/crisis-de-la-iglesia/cardenal-muller-es-la-protestantizacion-de-la-iglesia/>]

⁶⁶ *Newsweek*, March 4, 2002; *Daily News*, March 15, 2002, etc.

⁶⁷ In Mexico, the most notorious denunciation was of father Marcial Maciel, the founder of *Los Legionarios* (Legion of Christ), one of the most powerful orders of the Catholic Church, which pope John Paul II honored and tried to protect at all cost, until the overwhelming proofs could no longer be concealed. Maciel had illegitimate children by several women who he sexually abused. He plagiarized 80% of a book which became the principal spiritual book of the Legion of Christ. He was also accused of fraud and extortion, and was a drug addict. See https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcial_Maciel Véase también: El País, “La increíble vida de Marcial Maciel”: https://elpais.com/diario/2010/01/24/domingo/1264308758_850215.html

⁶⁸ J. MS. Pearce, *Are Catholic Clergy more Likely to Be Paedophiles than the General Public?* [<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1646775916e6ca6b>]

Finally, the Roman pontiff has repeatedly said that in comparison to the large number of priests who serve in the Catholic Church, only a small percentage of them have been child abuse perpetrators. However, the situation would change dramatically if a similar detailed investigation took place like those carried out in Boston and in Pennsylvania. On the other hand, the moral corruption of the curia is not limited to child abuse. For example, some estimate that there is a culture of homosexuality in the Roman priesthood with an average of nearly 60%.⁶⁹ Yet no one brings homosexuals to civil courts unless that lifestyle is linked to other delinquent activities. The cup with the wine of the Roman Catholic adulteries has to do with many other moral and spiritual deviations from the gospel (Rev 17:4), which for Luther belonged to the Roman dunghill. When we compare the gospel with many Catholic dogmas, we cannot avoid concluding that the essence of the Roman Church is deception. E. G. White was right when she wrote, “through this mammoth system of deception the prince of evil achieves his purpose of bringing dishonor to God and wretchedness to man” (GC 570).

The national and international entities which have been judging and continue to judge the clerical abuses of the Roman Catholic Church are numerous. Here we can mention the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which in 2014 accused the pope and the Roman Catholic Church of trying to conceal the facts to save their reputation.⁷⁰ Where is the problem and what is the cause of such a vast depravation which the Holy See has made its legacy to the whole world?

Causes. Throughout the decades of child sexual abuse, what did the Catholic Church do to stop this crime? Essentially, nothing! If the civil authorities had not intervened at the beginning of the 21st Century, everything would have continued as before.

International legal experts have expressed again and again that the ecclesiastical Roman Catholic structure and the confessional are the principal causes of pedophile proliferation.⁷¹ Catholicism feels that its code of clerical celibacy makes it morally superior to the civil population and should not be judged by civil authorities.⁷² Instead of cooperating with secular courts, in most cases the Church has simply moved the violators to other countries where they continue having contact with children. Instead of being expelled from the priesthood, the Vatican provides a means of escape to pedophile priests as the same Vatican did with *Nazi* and *Ustashi* Catholic criminals after the Second World War. In time the Church

⁶⁹ “The notion that many Catholic priests are quietly gay is not new. In the 2000 book *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*, Rev. Donald B. Cozzens suggested that the priesthood was increasingly becoming a gay profession. Cozzens estimated that as many as 58 percent of priests were gay, and that percentages were even higher for younger priests. His numbers matched previous estimates by sociologists who put the numbers of gay priests between 10 and 60 percent. Father Gary Meier, a gay, St. Louis-based Catholic clergyman, says there’s a wide range of statistics out there on gay priests, but jokes that in his experience, ‘30 percent are gay, 30 percent are straight, and 30 percent are in denial.’” E. Flock, Catholic Priests: It’s ‘Empirical Fact’ That Many Clergy Are Gay (U.S. News, July 29, 2013) [<https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/07/29/catholic-priests-its-empirical-fact-that-many-clergy-are-gay>]

⁷⁰ The church’s “preoccupations in dealing with cases of child sexual abuse... were the maintenance of secrecy, the avoidance of scandal, the protection of the reputation of the Church, and the preservation of its assets. All other considerations, including the welfare of children and justice for victims, were subordinated to these priorities,” see reference in n. 80 and 81.

⁷¹ “The structures and rules of the Catholic Church facilitated that cover-up. Moreover, the report asserted that, ‘State authorities facilitated that cover-up by not fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure that the law was applied equally to all and allowing the Church institutions to be beyond the reach of the normal law enforcement processes,’” *ibid*. “On December 10, 2002 a group called the *Coalition of Catholics and Survivors* stated publicly that among the numerous files the Archdiocese released December 3, it had come across a document revealing that Pope John Paul II himself had written a letter, May 25, 1999, counseling the cover-up of pedophile priests. He advised that “a defrocked Catholic priest who had a history of molesting boys should leave the areas where his ‘condition’ was known – or stay put as long as it caused no scandal” (MSNBC News, “Smoking Gun in Church Crisis?” Dec 11, 2002, Online edition). The leader of the group, Joseph Gallagher, commented: “That would explain why (other) Bishops have done the same thing as Cardinal Law – they’ve moved sexual offenders from parish to parish without notifying the parishioners” (*ibid*) [https://www.traditioninaction.org/HotTopics/a01gPedophilia_PapalLetter.html].

⁷² A 2005 article in the conservative Irish weekly the *Western People* proposed that *clerical celibacy* contributed to the abuse problem by suggesting that the institution of celibacy has created a “morally superior” status that is easily misapplied by abusive priests: “The Irish Church’s prospect of a recovery is zero for as long as bishops continue blindly to toe the Vatican line of Pope Benedict XVI that a male celibate priesthood is infallible and superior to other sections of society.” Christoph Schönborn and Hans Küng have also said that priestly celibacy could be one of the causes of the sex abuse scandals within the Catholic Church.

requests mercy and forgiveness for perpetrators, making the Mother Church's forgiveness of her children a good example, just as John Paul II advocated mercy and forgiveness for the criminal acts of the medieval Inquisition in his so-called "purification of history." So also Francis began his papacy by attempting to silence the international indignation against the Vatican by requiring zero tolerance for pedophile priests and proclaiming at the same time a *Jubilee of Mercy*. Our question is, "mercy for who or whom?"⁷³

The confessional.⁷⁴ We have already seen the role played by *Canon Law* in the ecclesiastical structure of the Catholic Church, which requires impunity for the clergy before the civil courts. Let us see now the role of the confessional in the corruption of the Catholic Church. But first, we must assert that the very requirement of kneeling before a priest to confess personal sins is a blasphemy.⁷⁵ The Levitical law determined that the priest performed the atonement or purificatory ritual, but did not say that the priest forgave the sinner. Instead, it says, "he will be forgiven," meaning of course by God if the sinner was sincere in their confession (Lev 5:10,13,16, etc). Only God granted forgiveness, because He is the only one who knows the heart of all men (1 Rey 8:39).

The Roman Catholic confessional lends itself to the increase of "solicitous" and "flagellant" priests who shield themselves behind the secrecy of the Roman Catholic confessional. The *solicitous* fathers request sex, arguing that having sex with a priest is not sin. They then send the victims to confess before another accomplice priest. The *flagellant* fathers are those who assign an exorbitant penance to be absolved, in cases where the victims refuse to have sex with the father confessor. During the Middle Ages this evil was often epidemic.⁷⁶ Today, more and more nuns are daring to denounce the violations suffered at the hands of the bishops and the priests at large, where the confessional is the most fitted place for those violations. Many nuns become pregnant with babies they didn't want to have, and some even die in the same convent where the abusive bishop officiates the funeral service.⁷⁷

According to modern lawyers, the document of instruction prepared by the Catholic Church to deal with that problem in 1962, known as *Crimen sollicitationis*, is "a directive from the Vatican to keep all allegations of sexual abuse secret, leading to widespread media coverage of its contents. Lawyers for some of those making abuse allegations claimed that the document demonstrated a systematic conspiracy to conceal such crimes."⁷⁸

⁷³ In Argentina, the "dirty war" of the Catholic militaries against the left, and where about 30,000 were tortured and made to disappear, was fostered by the Catholic curia. Later on, when international pressure increased, and the restoration of the civil government was completed, the Catholic Church in Argentina was concerned for the consequences of the former repression, and started to call for a "national reconciliation." See A. R. Treiyer, *El Vaticano y los Grandes Genocidios del S. XX*, parte XI, C [www.adventistdistinctivemessages.com]

⁷⁴ For a history of the non biblical rite of confession, see J. Rodríguez Molina, *Origen y Desarrollo Histórico* (2008) [http://www.ugr.es/~pwlac/G24_11Jose_Rodríguez_Molina.html].

⁷⁵ When Jesus told the paralytic, "your sins are forgiven," the Jewish scribes accused him of blasphemy, knowing that only God knows the heart of men and can determine who can receive forgiveness (Mark 2:7; cf. 1 Kings 8:39). The Pharisees didn't know that Jesus was the Son of God, God Himself in the human flesh and therefore He could forgive sins. Kneeling before other people or even the angels of God is also an issue related to blasphemy (Rev 19:10; 22:8-9; see Matt 4:10; Philip 2:5-11).

Peter means "stone," and we all are "living stones" that Jesus gathers to build His church (1 Pe 2:4-6). But only Jesus is the "Rock" upon which the Church is built (1 Cor 10:4), through the testimony in the gospels by the apostles of the Lord (1 Cor 3:11; Eph 2:20). The keys of the kingdom given to Peter and the other apostles (Matt 16:19; 18:18), represent the Word of God (Luke 11:52). If the church works in agreement with the Bible, what she binds on earth through baptism or unbinds through excommunication, will be corroborated in heaven. The church is also responsible to the leading of the Spirit of God in this mission (John 20:23; Titus 3:5). Forgiveness is offered by the followers of Christ through the preaching of the gospel. All who accept it, and are baptized, receive forgiveness of sins by God alone (Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38; 10:43; 22:16, etc).

⁷⁶ See F. Ayllón, *El Tribunal de la Inquisición* (Lima, 2000), 609; A. R. Treiyer, *La Inquisición de Lima y los Movimientos Libertadores de América* (2000), in http://adventistdistinctivemessages.com/Spanish/articulos.html

⁷⁷ "Escándalo en la Iglesia. Monjas abusadas por sacerdotes: un flagelo que la Iglesia prefiera callar" (Clarín, Agosto 4, 2018. "Despite the denunciations that are shaking the ecclesiastical hierarchy in Chile and large part of the world, the religious nuns are still suffering these practices..." [https://www.clarin.com/mundo/monjas-abusadas-sacerdotes-flagelo-iglesia-prefiere-callar_0_Bk_YZwmSX.html]

⁷⁸ See reference in n. 80 and 81.

The secrecy of confession allows the Catholic Church to cover or neglect the cases of pedophilia and other crimes, and deny information to civil authorities based on their right to free exercise of that religion.⁷⁹ However, it is not sin to share with the higher ecclesiastical authorities the content of the confession. In some countries that claim of secrecy is accepted, in others it is not. For this reason, the records which could compromise the priesthood before the civil authorities, are often made to disappear.

We may better understand, in this context, the statement of E. G. White in the book *The Great Controversy*.

“The church’s claim to the right to pardon leads the Romanist to feel at liberty to sin; and the ordinance of confession, without which her pardon is not granted, tends also to give license to evil. He who kneels before fallen man, and opens in confession the secret thoughts and imaginations of his heart, is debasing his manhood and degrading every noble instinct of his soul. In unfolding the sins of his life to a priest,—an erring, sinful mortal, and too often corrupted with wine and licentiousness,—his standard of character is lowered, and he is defiled in consequence. His thought of God is degraded to the likeness of fallen humanity, for the priest stands as a representative of God. This degrading confession of man to man is the secret spring from which has flowed much of the evil that is defiling the world and fitting it for the final destruction” (GC 567).⁸⁰

When the condition of local Catholic institutions raise judicial and popular indignation in some countries, the Vatican tries to wash its hands by claiming it has no jurisdiction over local archbishoprics. But everyone knows that such a strategy contradicts the *Canon Law* of the Church because it states that the Vicar of Christ has power over the whole church. According to this law, it is the duty of the local bishops to inform the papacy of what happened. In addition, in order to take communion in the mass, every catholic must first make confession before a superior. Therefore the Roman curia is aware of everything happening everywhere and at all levels.

According to statistics, the greatest number of minor victims of clerical abuse are from 11 to 14 years old. It is in that unstable and formative stage when the pedophiliac priests initiate their victims into homosexuality, with explicit threats should they reveal the facts.⁸¹ These poor victims bear a tremendous burden of conscience which in some cases leads to suicide, or revealing the facts publicly only after overcoming the fear of ecclesiastical retaliation some years later.⁸² Pope Francis attempted to pacify one such victim in Chile by telling him not to worry for God had made him homosexual and still loved him.⁸³ Is the pope not telling him in this way, not to worry for having been initiated into homosexuality by one

⁷⁹ See <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/aug/15/melbourne-archbishop-says-hed-rather-go-to-jail-than-report-child-abuse-heard-in-confession>

⁸⁰ “The true source of corruption was the confessional, which was invented in the 16th Century to separate physically the priest from the penitent. When we read the connection of the cases submitted to the inquisitorial loupe—some too innocent to be published—we can understand the relevance of that instrument in the fostering of sin,” H. Kamen, “Sexualidad e Inquisición”, in *La Inquisición* (Madrid, 1986), 78. About the temptations of the confessor priest for hearing the confession, how they fell into consensual masturbation and fornication, see https://www.iconbusters.com/iconbusters/htm/sex_crimes/lechery/solic.htm

⁸¹ The *Committee of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* concluded in 2014 that “due to a code of silence imposed on all members of the clergy under penalty of excommunication, cases of child sexual abuse have hardly ever been reported to the law enforcement authorities in the countries where such crimes occurred”.

⁸² “Produced by a victim of clerical sex abuse for the *British Broadcasting Corporation* (BBC) in 2006, the documentary *Sex Crimes and the Vatican* included the claim that all allegations of sex abuse are to be sent to the Vatican rather than the civil authorities, and that ‘a secret church decree called *Crimen sollicitationis* ... imposes the strictest oath of secrecy on the child victim, the priest dealing with the allegation, and any witnesses. Breaking that oath means instant banishment from the Catholic Church – excommunication.” The documentary quoted the 2005 Ferns Report: “A culture of secrecy and fear of scandal that led bishops to place the interests of the Catholic Church ahead of the safety of children.” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Church_sexual_abuse_cases]

⁸³ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/05/21/pope-francis-gay-man-god-made-you-like-man-juan-carlos/628438002/> and https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/21/world/europe/pope-francis-gays-god-made-you-this-way-.html?mc=contentSEdom&ad-keywords=auddevgate&gclid=CjwKCAjwpljZBRBsEiwA0TNlr1QNFCMzHs7JRcYSPvf-8E7cKUXLn0EgApz0MZW8G6-XqRrFC55vQxoCdWoQAvD_BwE&dclid=CIW-msH209sCFQDH4wedeAMORQ

or more priests, because he can remain in the church in that condition without remorse and, therefore, without needing to complain against the Roman Catholic Church?

We are informed that “the Vatican City holds 50 miles of secret documents hidden from the public. No browsing is allowed and no one knows what their contents are. They are hiding a lot of things that are meant to be kept secret, including details about scandals related to pedophilia, homosexuality, corruption, money laundering and the acceptance of payments in exchange for declaring someone a saint are only a few in a long list of cases that the Holy See keeps quiet behind its thick, rocky walls.”⁸⁴

The Mass. Another focal point of corruption that we find in the Roman Catholic priesthood is the Mass, the most sacred ritual of the Catholic rite.⁸⁵ Through the rite of the Mass the clergy blasphemously presume to transform the bread into Christ's body, and the wine into His blood, as if the priest could create God Himself. Instead of seeing in the bread and in the wine a symbol of the sacrifice of Christ, as the Evangelical churches at large believe them to be, Catholics affirm that these elements in the Mass become literally the body and blood of God's Son (Transubstantiation). And this, in spite of those celiac priests who cannot eat the bread of the Mass without risking death, and others whose lot could be the same if they drink wine.⁸⁶

The Mass is linked to the confessional, because no one can take communion in the mass without first confessing to a priest. Therefore the corruption of the confessional is linked to the presumed sacrifice of the Mass, where the Son of God is believed to be sacrificed again, without concern for the Biblical declaration that Jesus was sacrificed “only once” (Heb 7:26-27; 9:28; 10:10,12,14). For Catholics, the “altar” is the most sacred place in their churches, again without noticing that the Bible says that our “altar” is in the heavenly temple, where Jesus Himself officiates as our High Priest and where no earthly priests are permitted to officiate (Heb 13:10; see Heb 8:1-2).

The wine of the Mass contains a higher percentage of alcohol than what modern societies allow for table use. In many countries like in the USA, the percentage of alcohol permitted for the table is 14% or less,⁸⁷ but for the Mass the Roman Catholic Church allows a maximum of 18 or 20% alcohol.⁸⁸ What kind of presumably higher moral vision can the priests proclaim with that amount of alcohol in their system?

⁸⁴ <http://www.thesleuthjournal.com/vatileaks-ii-spells-vaticans-double-standards/>

⁸⁵ “Why is the Church failing to clearly identify these problems and help more people to break away from the chains of alcohol? The most obvious factor is the life of Christ and the centrality of the Eucharist, which requires the use of wine. Jesus did not abstain from wine like John the Baptist did, and wine is part of the Last Supper, as well as the Miracle at Cana, which prefigures the Eucharist. For proponents of alcohol use, following the Way of Christ does not seem to require abstaining from the use of alcohol. And the Church's long approval of alcohol use and even participation in the creation of alcoholic beverages is seen as an affirmation of this” (R. Christian, *The Catholic Church's Drinkings Problem* (March 3, 2014) [<https://millennialjournal.com/2014/03/03/the-catholic-churchs-drinking-1problem/>])

⁸⁶ Celiac Disease, Alcohol Intolerance, and the Church's Pastoral Response
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/celiac-disease-and-alcohol-intolerance.cfm>

⁸⁷ *Legal Information Institute* [<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/27/4.36>]. “In the European Union, wine is defined as an alcoholic beverage produced by fermentation of grapes that contains minimally 8.5% and maximally 15% abv [²⁷]. In the U.S., table wine, also called light wine, is defined as grape wine that contains no more than 14% abv” [<http://www.nutrientsreview.com/alcohol/alcoholic-beverages-abv-calories.html>]. “Upermarkets in Finland were allowed to sell only fermented beverages with an alcohol content up to 4.7% ABV, but Alko, the government monopoly, is allowed to sell wine and spirits. The alcohol law in Finland was changed in 2018, allowing grocery stores to sell beverages with an alcohol content up to 5.5% ABV. This is also the case with the Norwegian Vinmonopolet and the Swedish Systembolaget (though in Sweden the limit for allowed ABV in supermarkets is 3.5%. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol_law On average, the ABV for beer is 4.5 percent; for wine, 11.6 percent] [<https://www.livescience.com/32735-how-much-alcohol-is-in-my-drink.html>])

⁸⁸ “Grape alcohol is added to weak wines in order to preserve them, provided that the alcohol level does not exceed 18%,” in *Zenit*, “Table Wine for Mass” (Jan 27, 2009) [<http://www.ewtn.com/library/liturgy/zlitur255.htm>]. “A minimum or maximum level has never been specified in canonical literature since the revision of the Code of Canon Law in 1983; however, in the estimation of canonists, it usually falls somewhere below 20%”, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Regarding the Wine Used for Mass* (July 24, 2003) [<https://www.dosp.org/worship/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/Wine-Used-for-Mass-2011.pdf>]

Take into account that the actual cup used in the Mass is normally quite large. There are pictures of pope Francis drinking from a cup that covers most of his face.⁸⁹ If we take into account that in many places a priest must offer the Mass several times, we can imagine in what condition he offers it at the end of the day. And if he has to drive after that, what kind of explanation can they give to the police for driving drunk? Could he explain that he became drunk from the blood of God's Son?⁹⁰

It is for this reason that the per capita consumption of wine in the Vatican is the highest in the world, even two or three times more than in countries characterized for high levels of drinking.⁹¹ According to therapists who have dealt with alcoholic addiction among the Catholic clergy, 10% of priests are alcoholic. And this percentage is considered lower than the real percentage because most priests try to conceal the problem.⁹² There are also testimonies of private feasts organized by high prelates where they get seminarian teenagers drunk to initiate them more easily into homosexuality.⁹³

The clergy and even the pope himself seeks a justification for drinking wine using the example of Jesus when he transformed water into wine. But this excuse has no foundation because the wine that Jesus created was not fermented.⁹⁴ Otherwise He would have been accused of not following the divine advise of king Solomon when he exhorted not to drink fermented wine (Prov 23:30-35). Contrary to what some believe, people in the ancient world had means of preserving unfermented wine.⁹⁵ Thus the accusation that Jesus drank wine is a slander because He ate with sinners to redeem them, not to partake of their sins.

No wonder John Wycliffe, the great English reformer, saw in the Roman Mass the fulfillment of the "abomination of desolation" spoken by prophet Daniel and referred to by Christ in its double dimension in the Christian dispensation (Dan 9:26-27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14; Luc 21:20; see Rev 11:2).⁹⁶ The term "abomination of desolation" is a reference to a detestable idolatry which produces consternation in the sight of heaven. The papacy is the idol of millions of people who consider the popes as sitting in the midst of the church at the place of God and Christ in His priestly ministry. They offer the Eucharist, which is a mockery of the sacrifice of Christ and His intercessory ministry in the heavenly temple.

Money laundering. What can we say about money laundering performed by the Banco Ambrosiano, about which the media has spoken so much?⁹⁷ Faced with international pressure surrounding the Vatican, pope Francis promised transparency. Not long after, he said that a great miracle took place with the location of millions of dollars in cash in the Vatican coffers, which permitted the balance of the Vatican deficit.⁹⁸ Many reports of Vatican misdeeds have surfaced after this news appeared. One comes from Argentina, Francis's home country. It is based on his friendship with the former government of the Kirchners, and the millions of dollars that some of their close associates tried to conceal in convents to

⁸⁹ See <https://catholicsay.com/what-if-a-priest-can't-drink-wine/>

⁹⁰ <https://www.infobae.com/america/mundo/2017/04/19/la-insolita-justificacion-de-un-cura-por-su-exagerada-tasa-de-alcoholemia/>

⁹¹ The figures show that residents of the Vatican consume 74 litres of wine on average – roughly equivalent to 105 bottles over the course of a year. That's around double the amount drunk by the average person in France or Italy as a whole, and triple the quantity consumed in the UK [<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/vatican-city-drinks-more-wine-per-person-than-anywhere-else-in-the-world-9151475.html>]

⁹² I. D. Parrish, *Clergy Hide Alcoholism until World Falls Apart, Therapist Says* (May 27, 1987) [http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/1987-05-27/news/0130200267_1_recovering-alcoholic-drinking-clergy]

⁹³ See T. Rastrelli, *Confessions of an Ex-Priest: Learning to Drink Like a Catholic Cleric* (Feb 2, 2016) [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-rastrelli/confessions-of-an-ex-priest_b_1838037.html]

⁹⁴ Pope Francis said that a marriage feast without wine is shameful" [<https://www.foodandwine.com/blogs/wedding-without-wine-shameful-says-pope-francis>]; [<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/francis-chronicles/pope-francis-no-baptist-wedding-without-wine-shameful>]

⁹⁵ See <http://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/what-are-historical-and-scriptural-facts-about-fermented-drinks-bible>

⁹⁶ See A. R. Treiye, *The Apocalyptic Times of the Sanctuary*, chap 7 (The horrific abomination that replaced the heavenly intercession).

⁹⁷ <http://www.theseleuthjournal.com/vatileaks-ii-spells-vaticans-double-standards/>

⁹⁸ *El Pais*, "El Vaticano encuentra cientos de millones ocultos", Dec 4, 2014. https://elpais.com/internacional/2014/12/04/actualidad/1417725879_772485.html

escape justice. This would have been confirmed by a Catholic deacon who testified before a judge to free his conscience.⁹⁹

In May 2016, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone received 200,000 Euros from donations made to a hospital for children which he used to refurbish his golden apartment in a Vatican attic. When the media confronted him for living in such abject luxury, he justified himself saying that other cardinals live in more luxurious and expensive apartments.¹⁰⁰ Facts like these bring to memory a statement of E. G. White in her book *The Great Controversy*, 568: “Conscientious souls are kept in constant terror fearing the wrath of an offended God, while many of the dignitaries of the church are living in luxury and sensual pleasure” (see Matt 23:4).

“The Vatican has also been involved in child trafficking. Vatican-run hospitals used to take newborns from the hands of their mothers, claiming that they had died during birth or immediately after labor. Doctors, nurses and priests were involved in a scheme to later sell the babies to other families for large sums of money. It is estimated that some 300,000 children were stolen from their parents to be sold as merchandise...”¹⁰¹

“The Church has been shaken by its own associations with powerful criminal organizations in Italy, including the Sicilian Mafia, the Calabrian ‘Ndrangheta and Campanian Camorra. Not only did the Vatican refuse to denounce the crimes of the Mafia, but also denied that the Mafia even existed. The Vatican’s relations with the Mafia began in the early 1900’s, as the Church sought to deal with alternative powers to the Italian government in an attempt to fight its authority. Pope Francis has been mild mannered on the issue saying that Mafia members should repent for their sins.”¹⁰²

Conclusion

Why do so many people seek refuge in a historically bloody, deceitful, demonic, and corrupt city? Is the historical evidence not sufficient to stop looking to Rome as a holy city, and her highest spiritual prince as Holy Father? Evidently not! The Bible warned us that “the whole world” would marvel at the resurgence of its final power (Rev 13:3-4). Why? Because the Roman Catholic Church responds to what every non regenerate heart wants, that is, a formula to be saved without a change of life, without true regeneration from sin. Instead of salvation *from* their sins, the multitudes prefer something to calm their tormented conscience and be saved *in* their sins. It is for this reason that most people prefer to look for the absolution of a man they can deceive, instead of God to whom they cannot lie. The apostle Paul also warned us of the reason why the deception of the entire world would be permitted again at the end of time. They prefer a lie over the truth (2 Thess 2:9-11).

The greatest criminals and swindlers of this world find refuge in an earthly city whose highest ruler requires that he be called Holy Father, and his ruling throne the Holy See. But they cannot enter the only true “Holy City” of God, “the New Jerusalem” (Rev 21:2), or “heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb 12:22); because no filthiness can find refuge there. The only King and Spouse of the heavenly city is the Lamb, Christ Jesus (Rev 19:7,9,16; 21:9-10). “Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Rev 21:27). “Outside are dogs [homosexuals: Deut 23:18 (lit. “dog” for the position in the sexual act)], those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood” (Rev 22:15).

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived:

⁹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/diariochacourbano/videos/322581084982751/>

¹⁰⁰ Barbie Latza Nadeau, *Hospital Funds Diverted to Cardinal’s Villa*: “Scores of other prelates live in even nicer apartments,” in <https://www.thedailybeast.com/hospital-funds-diverted-to-cardinals-villa>

¹⁰¹ This is still being done today in some countries of the world [<https://nypost.com/2018/07/06/charity-worker-nun-arrested-for-selling-babies-at-shelter/>]

¹⁰² <http://www.thesleuthjournal.com/vatileaks-ii-spells-vaticans-double-standards/>

Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor 6:9-10).¹⁰³ A righteous God warns the world of what He will do in His judgment. “I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge of lies, and water will overflow your hiding place. Your covenant with death will be dissolved, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be trampled by it” (Isa 28:17-18).

“Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues” (Rev 18:4). This is the last call of God to the world which He proclaims through the last remnant of His followers, those who “keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus” (Rev 12:17; 14:8,12). “His word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare” (GC 581).

God has many people who belong to Him in all churches and religions, who are confused about the filthiness that is growing so rapidly in the religious world. He is calling them today to come out of Babylon. But the question is: do I have any Babylonian corruption in me? Christ is our only hope! He is our Savior! Unless we cleanse ourselves of our sins in His blood, and unless we convert with all our heart to His law, we will not be able to unite with those who fulfill the divine mission of calling the world to leave the confusion and corruption of Babylon.

¹⁰³ See 1 Tim 1:9-10: “murderers, sexually immoral, homosexuals..., liars and perjurers.”