

The Future of the Catholic Church



Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict was addressing the United States bishops who were making their "ad limina" visit. Pope Benedict told them:

"One of the most memorable aspects of my pastoral visit to the United States

was the opportunity it afforded me to reflect on American's historical experience of religious freedom, and specifically the relationship between religion and culture...America...as enshrined in your nation's founding documents, was grounded in a worldview shaped not only by faith but a commitment to certain ethical principles deriving from nature and nature's God. Today that consensus has eroded significantly in the face of powerful new cultural currents which are not only directly opposed to core moral teachings of the Judeo-Christian tradition, but increasingly hostile to Christianity as such."

Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI), from his book, Faith and the Future

"The church will become small and will have to start afresh, more or less, from the beginning. She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity. As the number of her adherents diminishes...she will lose many of her social privileges...As a small society, [the Church] will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members...It will be hard-going for the Church, for the process of crystallization and clarification will cost her much valuable energy. It will make her poor and cause her to become the Church of the meek.

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USA, the New "Sodom and Gomorrah"



America has chosen Caesar and the elimination of God and the Ten Commandments, and we have chosen free money, same sex marriage, abortion, contraception, anti-Christian mandates, a culture of death and approval of a drug culture Adults as well as children are forbidden to hear the Word of God in all public institutions: all sorts of falsehoods prevail using rationalism and "mainstream open mindedness" to disguise false concerns for social justice in order to manipulate liberal political agendas for purely selfish purposes. Unfortunately, many professed Christian religious have also compromised the truth in their self-serving pride, as predicted by Our Holy Mother in the approved apparitions of Fatima, Portugal, 1917 and Akita, Japan, 1973. Fino Giordano, President, OMQofP-Betania XIII

A Post-Election Homily

Father Jeffery Montz, St. Elizabeth Seton, Kerner, La

I want to begin today by thanking those of you who went out on Tuesday and voted for the sacredness of human life. Just as the widow's deed in our first reading will never be forgotten as long as the Scriptures are read, be assured that no righteous deed that we ever undertake will be forgotten by Almighty God.

This past Wednesday, the day after the election, I received a message on my phone at the parish office from a gentleman who didn't identify himself by name but who said he was a parishioner. And in this message, this gentleman ranted for several minutes about Tuesday's election results. And here were the first words out of his mouth, **"You lost Father, you lost!" Well, the first thing I want to say about Tuesday night's**

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MESSAGES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MEDJUGORJE

Message of January 25, 2013 *"Dear children! Also today I call you to prayer. May your prayer be as strong as a living stone, until with your lives you become witnesses. Witness the beauty of your faith. I am with you and intercede before my Son for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

Message of February 25, 2013 *"Dear children! Also today I call you to prayer. Sin is pulling you towards worldly things. I have come to lead you towards holiness and the things of God, but you are struggling and spending your energies in the battle with the good and evil that are in you. Therefore, dear children, pray, pray, pray until prayer becomes a joy for you and your life will become a simple walk towards God. Thank you for responding to my call."*

The Future of the Catholic Church

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...The process will be long and wearisome as was the road from the false progressivism on the eve of the French Revolution – when a bishop might be thought smart if he made fun of dogmas and even insinuated that the existence of God was by no means certain...But when the trial of this sifting is past, a great power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church. Men in a totally planned world will find themselves unspeakably lonely. If they have completely lost sight of God, they will feel the whole horror of their poverty. Then they will discover the little flock of believers as something wholly new. They will

discover it as a hope that is meant for them, an answer for which they have always been searching in secret.

And so it seems certain to me that the Church is facing very hard times. The real crisis has scarcely begun. We will have to count on terrific upheavals. But I am equally certain about what will remain at the end: not the Church of the political cult, which is dead already, but the Church of faith. She may well no longer be the dominant social power to the extent that she was until recently; but she will enjoy a fresh blossoming and be seen as man's home, where he will find life and hope beyond death."

Guns, Children, Prayer, America

Dr. Anthony Ciuffo, Vice President of OMQoP-Betania XIII, hosts a radio show, "Listen Up, Jesus Is on the Air," (WGBB-AM Radio 1240, Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am). He invited Mr Paul Val, a father and grandfather and resident of Long Island, to be a guest on the show. Paul Val wrote a song, "There Was a Time in America." It is a response to the Columbine school massacre. Mr. Val's concerns about America and our children are the sentiments of this month's newsletter. He brings out in song the heartfelt concerns about what is happening in America since 1962 when the Supreme Court declared praying in schools unconstitutional, and since 1963 when the Warren court prohibited schools from reading anything from the Bible in school.

May I make some of my own observations and statistics at this point?

First: The Federal Government has not come up with a true number of how many federal laws there are on the books. They do know they must exceed 100,000 and all of them relate to the Ten Commandments.

Second: When you take the authority out of all the schools and public institutions, what is left? The Prince of Darkness enters because the Prince of Light and Peace has been barred.

A Few Consequences of the Court's Rulings

A. Moral Decline of Youth:

1. Before 1963, pregnancies of girls 15-19 years old were 15 per thousand. After 1963, this number increased 187% over the next 15 years.
2. For girls ages 10-14, pregnancies increased 553% since 1963.
3. For these age groups, cases of sexually transmitted diseases doubled.
4. SAT scores have been declining since 1963 except for private religious schools.

B. Violence in USA Schools Since God Has Been Barred:

Between 1935 and 1964, there is no documentation of violence or death in public schools. However, from 1965 to 2005 the number of deaths has doubled every 10 years. From 2005 to 2012, deaths in the schools have more than doubled, mostly children.

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|-----------|------------|
| 1965-1974 | 20 deaths |
| 1975-1984 | 16 deaths |
| 1985-1994 | 35 deaths |
| 1995-2004 | 61 deaths. |
| 2005-2012 | 142 deaths |



Ten Commandments being removed from a Federal Building "The Consequences Have Been Devasting"

Since 1963 divorces increased by 300% each year for 15 years.

Since 1963 unmarried couples living together increased 335%.

Since 1963 single parent families increased 160%.

Conclusion: Remove the fear and love of God from the human heart, whitewash the reality that sooner or later all of us will answer to a supreme moral being, eliminate the concept that He demands adherence to His laws, and it is but a short step to the deterioration of the

cornerstone of society, the family. When the fear of God is done away with, there is no longer any reason to treat the marriage vows as sacred, and to bring up God-fearing children. From there it is an even shorter step to all other sinister and evil circumstances we find ourselves witnessing today. Teen pregnancies, abortions, all sorts of sexual perversion, violent crime, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, dishonesty, theft, broken families, foul language, lack of respect and responsibility, a welfare state, are all the logical fruits of a culture without GOD. These are all the ingredients for the NEW SODOM and GOMORRAH, as voted for in the last American election, 2012.

- Fino Giordano, President, OMQoP-Betania XIII

Source of information: Specialty Research Associates; Director, David Barton
Report entitled: America: To Pray or Not to Pray

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election results is that I didn't lose on Tuesday night, our entire country lost!

Now, having said that, I know that there are several of you who have just decided to tune me out, or you're now burning with anger at me because of what I just said, and you can't wait to give me a piece of your mind. But let me say two things in this regard. Number one, I am a priest of Jesus Christ, not because of any merit on my own, not because I'm any better than anyone else. God probably chose me because I am nothing and He wants to make something out of me. But I have been anointed and consecrated by God to preach His truth. And so you can tune me out, but be warned: you do so at your eternal peril.

Second, if you're angry because you read into my words that this homily is going to be about one elected official whom you probably voted for, you're wrong. What I have to say today goes far beyond just one elected official. What I have to say is about the overall trend that was put on display in Tuesday's election results.

Did you know, for instance, that on Tuesday several states voted by popular majority to legalize the recreational use of marijuana? Did you know that a plan to legalize physician-assisted suicide was barely rejected in Massachusetts? Did you know that for the first time in our country's history, several states, by popular vote, chose to legalize gay marriage? Did you know that two of these states are run by Catholic governors who actively encouraged their constituents to vote in favor of same sex unions? Did you know that in Florida, a ban on tax payers funding of abortion was rejected by the people? Add to all this the fact that some who were elected in Tuesday's elections are pathological liars, people who have been exposed in their lies numerous times. Apparently, **a majority of Americans now condone lying, or perhaps worse, for them the lie has become the truth, evil has become good. Now can you begin to see the trend?**

In the days after the elections, all the talking heads in the media have been trying to explain how this all happened. But not one person in the mainstream media has gotten it right. You see, these election results are not about one party's marketing advantage over another. Ultimately, they're not about the appeal of one person over another, nor are they about one party being more up-to-date while the other is behind times. What we saw on Tuesday night IS about the moral decline of our nation.

Tuesday's voting results are a mere confirmation of a choice that a majority in this country made, some as far back as 50 years ago, to reject God and to embrace evil in one form or another! And who's to blame for this choice? Well, ultimately, each individual is responsible for his or her choices. Those who chose to vote with evil are to blame for their own choices, and they all have to answer to God for the way they voted. But the reality is, I don't think any of us can take ourselves completely off the hook on this one. Why? Because one of the worst contributing factors to the moral decline of our country has been the lukewarmness that has plagued the Catholic Church for years all the way from the bishops down to the people in the pews. Pope St. Pius X once said, "All evil in the world is due to lukewarm Catholics." Think about that for a second.

Well, I have to be honest with you. I've seen this lukewarmness in every church parish at which I've served. But you know where else I see this lukewarmness? I see it when I look in the mirror; I see it in myself. And if we're honest with ourselves, I think all of us would see one or more areas of lukewarmness in our own spiritual lives.

My brothers and sisters, each one of us has a moral obligation to do all that we can to try to reverse the moral decline of our nation. And the first place that we have to begin is within ourselves. We have to begin by responding to that vocation, which is common to all of us, what the Church calls "the universal call

to holiness," the call from Jesus to each one of us to become a saint!

In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul says, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling." How many of us, each day, tremble as we strive for holiness? How many of us live with a lively fear of hell, a place that is real and a place where souls go for all eternity? Or have we instead accepted mediocrity in our spiritual lives? "Oh, I'm too busy to pray Lord, I just don't have the time... I'm too tired to pray, I'll get to it tomorrow... Oh, I don't like that teaching of the Church, I am not going to do that, who do they think they are, coming up with this stuff... I think I've done enough for God; what more do I have to do for Him?"

In one of His parables, Jesus poses an important question that we would do well to ask ourselves: "Which of you, wishing to construct a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?" Well, what cost is Jesus talking about? He's not giving construction advice to builders and contractors. The context of that Gospel is the cost of discipleship, what it costs to be a saint, ultimately what it costs us to get to Heaven. But all too often we act as if that cost is cheap! "I go to Mass on most Sundays, I'm a good person; I haven't murdered anybody. Of course I'm going to Heaven!"

Jesus dealt with this kind of cheap discipleship in the Gospels when He said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven." On the Day of Judgment, many will say to Jesus, "Didn't we go to Mass fairly often on Sundays and didn't we put some money in the collection basket? Didn't we accept at least some of the Church's teaching? Besides, as I said before, I'm a good person, I didn't murder anybody." Then Jesus will declare to them, "I never knew you, go away from me, you evildoers!"

My brothers and sisters, in ordinary times lukewarmness in our approach to salvation is deadly. But we are not

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entering into ordinary times. We are not moving forward into ordinary times. There is a great battle brewing, in fact this battle is already upon us, a battle in our country between good and evil, and I can feel this battle in the very marrow of my bones. If we are not striving for holiness with every fiber of our being, we will not have what it takes to pay the cost of discipleship, we will not have what it takes to get to Heaven! As Jesus says near the end of Matthew's Gospel, "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now and never will be. And if those days had not been shortened, no one would be saved...no one would be saved: but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened."

It's clear from the trends that we see in Tuesday's election results that people of faith in this country are going to be attacked relentlessly over and over again by one wave of evil after another. And so we must be sure that we have included these attacks in our calculations. A lukewarm faith will never survive the attacks of an army of evil that is Legion. We must become saints! And do not wait

for tomorrow to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for tomorrow may be too late. Today, let us resolve to root out all sin from our lives! Today, let us resolve to remove all evil from our hearts! Today, let us double our efforts at prayers! Today, let us pray that Mary, the Mother of God, our Mother, will once again crush the head of Satan, and intercede for the grace of perseverance for us!

Today, let us resolve to take up our cross and be a disciple of Jesus Christ! Christ, who in the words of the Servant of God, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, "*will restore within us moral indignation, Who will make us hate evil with a passionate intensity, and love goodness to a point where we can drink death like water!*"

The final message that I received from that gentleman's call on Wednesday was that I need to stop preaching the way I do. I need to stop telling people how they ought to live their lives, what teachings of the Church they need to follow. If he wants to support gay marriage, "I just need to shut up and give him a choice."

Well, sir, in answer to your request, I give you a choice: *You can either come here to this Catholic Church and listen to the Word of God and to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church or you can leave and go somewhere else.*"

Our Mother Queen Of Peace - Betania XIII

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