

Reflections
on
Suspension a Divinis

It raises a grave problem and will still cause the spilling of floods of ink even though I should perchance vanish off the stage of the Church militant.

In what does it really consist? It deprives me of the right inherent in the priest, and a fortiori in the Bishop, of celebrating Holy Mass, of conferring the Sacraments, and of preaching in consecrated places; namely, I am forbidden to celebrate the new Mass, to confer the new sacraments, to preach the new doctrine.

Thus, because I have refused these novelties precisely since their institution, I am henceforth officially forbidden to use them. Since I refuse the new Mass, I am therefore kept from saying it. One can easily guess from this how little harm this suspension does me.

Here is one more proof that this new Church, which they themselves have now described as "Conciliar," is destroying itself. His Eminence Msgr. Benelli himself, in his letter of last June 25, so designates it. Speaking of the seminarians, he writes, "If they have good will and are seriously prepared for a priestly ministry in true fidelity to the Conciliar Church, finding the best solution for them will then be undertaken; but let them also make a beginning through this act of obedience to the Church."

What could be clearer? We must henceforth obey and be faithful to the Conciliar Church, no longer to the Catholic Church. Right there is our whole problem: We are suspended a divinis by the Conciliar Church and for the Conciliar Church, to which we have no wish to belong.

That Conciliar Church is a schismatic Church, because it breaks with the Catholic Church that has always been. It has its new dogmas, its new priesthood, its new institutions, its new worship, all already condemned by the Church in many a document, official and definitive.

That is why the founders of the Conciliar Church insist so much on obedience to today's Church, prescindng from yesterday's Church as though it no longer existed.

This Conciliar Church is schismatic, because it has taken as a basis for its updating principles opposed to those of the Catholic Church: such as the new concept of the Mass expressed in numbers 5 of the Preface to (the decree) Missale Romanum and 7 of its first chapter, which gives the assembly a priestly rôle that it cannot exercise; such likewise as the natural--which is to say divine--right of every person and of every group of persons to religious freedom.

This right to religious freedom is blasphemous, for it attributes to God purposes that destroy His Majesty, His Glory, His Kingship. This right implies freedom of conscience, freedom of thought, and all the Masonic freedoms.

The Church that affirms such errors is at once schismatic and heretical. This Conciliar Church is, therefore, not Catholic. To whatever extent Pope, Bishops, priests, or faithful adhere to this new Church, they separate themselves from the Catholic Church. Today's Church is the true Church only to whatever extent it is a continuation of and one body with the Church of yesterday and of always. The norm of Catholic faith is Tradition. The demand of His Eminence Msgr. Benelli is, then, illuminating: submission to the Conciliar Church, to the Vatican II Church, to the schismatic Church. For our part, we persevere in the Catholic Church, by the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

+Marcel Lefebvre

(Trans. B. F. Dryden)

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