



Most Rev. José R. López-Gastón, Ph.D.

Roman Catholic Bishop

+
Rockford, Illinois, March 16, 1997

Dr. Eberhard Heller
Ergertshausen, Germany

Dear Dr. Heller:

Thank you for your letter of January 11, 1997, that I received at the end of February.

On this letter, I will make an effort to clarify certain points, and, if possible, to destroy prejudices and foster Catholic Unity.

I can write in English, Spanish, French or Latin. I never was fluent in German.

"Papabile"?

Who told you that I presented myself as "Papabile"? or that I authorized somebody else to do that? I solemnly swear that I never considered myself "papabile", neither in 1994 nor now. I never, never, never, made a campaign on this regard. Do you think that I am crazy or stupid? I have never met you, so who ever told you this was making a rash judgement and spreading a lie and calumny. I am an unworthy priest, and the last of the bishops.

To consider myself "papabile" would not be a matter of pride, but a lack of common sense and a sin against the regulations of Canon Law.

I am against the "Perennial Headlessness". Sedevacantism becomes comfortable for many people, under many excuses, with the subsequent proliferation of Episcopal traditional Churches, that sooner or later deprived of unity, charity and the universal authority, become sects. I have been and I will be always ready to cooperate to the election of the Holy Father. There are only two sensible responses to the present crisis if we are Catholics: either we are sedevacantists, and then we must elect the Pope, as soon as possible, or we are not, and then we must obey John Paul II. I am astonished at the divisions, criticisms, even hatred among "traditional" Catholics, Priests and Bishops.

I agree that in the present circumstances we need a spiritual giant, a man who may possess an extraordinary theological and cultural background, an unfailing courage, a great diplomatic skill ^{an holiness} and a clear and sound judgement, as well as a strong will.

Only the Lord may provide such a man. However we should not forget what He said: "I could transform these stones into children of Abraham". And so He did with St. Peter, St. Fabian, St. Silverius, and many others.

"Assisi Meeting"

It is not the time to defend that election. It was a failure. The man elected did not act; he became a puppet of a certain family. He maintained a civil job, and, as far as I know he has not been consecrated bishop. He also refused to communicate with those who supported him at first. So he lost all his rights. At that time we communicated with sedevacantist bishops, priests, groups, publishers, and even with the Society of St. Pius X and some members of the modernist hierarchy, like Oddi and Ratzinger.

No letters, fax, telephone calls and personal visits were spared in more than 25 countries. We were applying the guidelines set by St. Robert Bellarmino, Suarez, Francisco de Victoria, but most people refused to hear, others were afraid, others hid themselves under a false prudence, some laughed at us, some thought we were crazy and a few dismissed us as little people looking for notoriety. We found very little cooperation and a lot of misunderstanding, suspicions, prejudices, fears, lack of interest, absurd excuses for an indefinite delay, etc. I learned a lot about the misteries of the human hearts...

There were not PERSONAL declarations, but theological, historical and Canon Law based treatises. The Assisi meeting was based on them, even if you don't want pay attention to them.

"Who am I"?

Every year we read in Sexagesima Sunday the self-defense master piece of St. Paul against his detractors in his second epistle to the Corinthians.

I am only a sinner, but I think every human being has the right to a good name and reputation.

It's easy to discover in your words an olympic scorn for my person. Perhaps you consider me an almost illiterate man, a vineyard worker of the eleventh hour, without theological and philosophical background.

Let me correct this erroneous concept, based on prejudices or on second-hand informations. I will limit myself to four items:

- 1) Ethnicity: I am a Latin American, but I am not neither black nor Indian. My family originated when in 1340 "le Comte Gaston de Foix" married Isabeau, a daughter of the king and the queen of Navarre, Juana II and Felipe IV, d'Erseus, in the Pyrenees. My family gave great saints to the Church; the most remarkable was St. Joseph Calasanz y Gasto, founder of the Pious Schools.



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2) Education: At the age of 14 I entered a pre-ovariate of the Marist Brothers. Nine years later, in 1951, after passing many exams in Dogmatic Theology, Soteriology, Moral Theology, Ascetic and Mystic (Tanqueria), Apologetics, Sacred Scripture, Methodology, etc., I obtained a diploma in Theology and Religious Education. This diploma was signed and personally delivered by His Eminence, Cardinal Manuel Arteaga, Arch-bishop of Havana.

In 1956, I obtained the Doctorate in "Filosofía y Letras" in the Catholic University of Havana; "Philosophy and Humanities" (St. Augustine, St. Anselm, St. Thomas, mainly)

In 1968, I obtained the Doctorate in Romance Languages, in the University of Florida, U.S.A.

In addition to the official studies, included a Master in Education. I was an untired reader and researcher. My main topics of study for years: "History of the Church" and "Hagiography".

3) Dedication to the Church:

Religious Brother Educator: 1951-1960

Deacon: 1972 - Founder and Chairman of the Board of "St.

Athanasius Traditional School"; (breakup with the Conciliar Archbishops of Santa Fe, New Mexico, U.S.A.): 1977-1987...

First meeting with Fr. Moisés Carmona in Peapulco: 1976.

Priest: 1988. Episcopal consecration: 1992, and "sub conditione" in 1993.

4) Publications: I have published several articles and books on History, and Historical Religious Subjects. In 1997: I received the recognition of the "Academia Balear de la Historia" in Spain: I became Member Emeritus of that high level institute.

In 1990 and 1991 I published in Miami, Florida, the periodical: "Call to Unity" in English and in Spanish, helped by my friend, Princess Palma de Ruspoli. I also wrote for "Roma" in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

I have also written other long works on the present situation, and the eventual solution; those works may be published after my death; at present I don't wish more criticism, divisions and misunderstanding.

"Bishops Bartholomäus Schneider"

I have never met him. He wrote to me and, last year, he signed, along with with Fr. Rolf: "The Profession of Tridentine Faith", "An abjuration of errors, schism and heresies" and "The Anti-Modernist OATH". They submitted to me, these documents, as a Catholic Bishop, in all Charity and Common Sense I welcome them back in the Catholic Faith and in the Church faithful to the teaching of 19 centuries. Obviously I have not dealt with the issue of the "sub conditione" consecration, because of the geographic distance.

"My Present Life"

Due to my financial debts after the Assisi meeting I had to forget about my retirement as University Professor and I got a job in Illinois teaching Latin and Classical Literatures. I have a private oratory at home where I celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. If Catholic requests my services for the administration of the sacraments, I am always ready to help. This summer I will ordain a great theologian and very well known author in the true Catholic Church, who came to me with exemplary humility.

You labeled me: "sectarian". That proves your prejudice, rash judgement and lack of knowledge. I Hate all sects AND DIVIS
I am a Catholic, a Roman Catholic, I cannot be anything else, this is why I always try to foster CHARITY, UNITY and Understanding.

On December the 8th, 1944, when I received the religious's habit, I made mine the prayer of Psalm 26, and I still repeat it:

"Unam peti ad Dominum, hanc requiram:
ut inhabitem in domo Domini omnibus diebus vitae meae

For the rest, I don't care about the misconceptions and criticisms: "Blessed are you when they speak all kind of ill-sayings against you. Rejoice, then, because your reward will be great in heaven". Amen.

Praying for you, I bless you "in nomine Patris, et Filii et Spiritus Sancti",

+ José R. López - Gastón