

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel

P. O. BOX 237

MONROE, CONNECTICUT 06468

(203) 261-8290

October 13, 1982

Father Hector Bolduc
St. Mary's College
St. Marys, Kansas

Dear Father Bolduc:

Thank you for your too charitable prayers, but "weep not for me but for yourself." It seems from your letter of October 7 that you are either a liar (as I have often heard) or yourself mentally non compos (as you so suspiciously aver of Archbishop Thuc - tell me the name and address of even one witness at any function of his willing to "attest" to his "mental incompetency").

It is simply false that I told you: 1) that the priest we priests at the Easter meetings nominated for consecration would be consecrated by Bishop ("Fr.") Musey; 2) that "a meeting would be held at which one individual would be selected as Pope; 3) that I "repeated this several times" and that you "questioned me about it." Would that I could excuse you on the grounds that you simply misunderstood me!

The facts of the matter are that at the time you came to see me I had not - as I have indeed subsequently and have by no means retracted in our newsletter - made up my own mind about the papal vacancy. (Fr. Saenz' book was at hand because I was studying the question.) As for the matter of electing a pope (eventually) I have never denied the intention of the new bishops to do so, but this was not my own intention or that of the priests who met here. While welcoming the new bishops, we were all at that time - including all the priests you named - by no means decided about Sede vacante.

Contrary also to what you wish to believe, I am not "soft pedalling" my subsequent and present conviction that we have no legitimate pope in John Paul II, nor the logical, but so far merely implicit, conclusion that somehow one eventually has to be provided for the Church. Among the "fake Popes" you allow as "floating around," how are you so theologically certain that John Paul is not one of them? (There are many imposter priests floating around too.)

And who says I (we?) am claiming any "prerogative to others" for electing a pope? I would have no more voice in such an election than you. Obviously that is for honestly Catholic bishops to see to. Much less am I "threatening" anyone with a papal election.

As for "reputed" theologians, those who, as you say, do not "seriously consider" Sede vacante and its implications are indeed "reputed" theologians. Did not Archbishop Lefebvre seriously consider it some years ago when he was suspended by the apparent pope?

One would think you yourself are the pope the way you presume to condemn me and others for "schism and heresy" with scarcely the whisper of a reason. Your infamous "warning to traditional Catholics concerning false shepherds," so replete with slanderous insinuations and autocratic (sic) excommunications should indeed have been a warning to them - concerning false editors.

So far as I'm concerned (unlike yourself), when it comes to matters theological, I place little stock in personalities and much in syllogisms. Saints can err and Satan can sometimes speak the truth. Cold logic must guide us. Refute the reasons I have given for my opinions if you seriously expect me to abandon them.

Respectfully,

Fr. Robert McKenna, O.P.

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