Catholic Captivity

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R. J. M. I.

By

The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, The Grace of the God of the Holy Catholic Church, The Mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel and Crusher of Heretics, The Protection of Saint Joseph, Patriarch of the Holy Family, The Intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel and the cooperation of

Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi

To Jesus through Mary

Júdica me, Deus, et discérne causam meam de gente non sancta: ab hómine iníquo, et dolóso érue me

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam



"For the sins that you have committed before God, you shall be carried away captives." (Baruch 6:1)

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Introduction

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Why Catholics Are in Captivity

As a Punishment from God or to Evangelize

During the Old Covenant era the Israelites were God's chosen people. During the New Covenant era only Catholics are God's chosen people. God allows his chosen people to be ruled by unbelievers in godless lands either as a punishment for his chosen people's sins or as a prelude to converting godless people and godless lands by the preaching and good example of his faithful chosen people.

Speaking through Moses, God tells his chosen people that they will be blessed if they obey all of his commands and cursed if they do not:

"Behold I set forth in your sight this day a blessing and a curse: A blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: A curse, if you obey not the commandments of the Lord your God, but revolt from the way which now I shew you, and walk after strange gods which you know not." (Deut. 11:26-28)

These conditions are the same for God's chosen people for all generations.

God punishes his sinful chosen people with captivity

One curse that God inflicts upon his disobedient chosen people causes them to lose control over the land in which they live and to be placed under the yoke (the rule) of unbelievers:

"But if thou wilt not hear the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep and to do all his commandments and ceremonies, which I command thee this day, all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee... The Lord make thee to fall down before thy enemies, one way mayst thou go out against them, and flee seven ways, and be scattered throughout all the kingdoms of the earth... And as the Lord rejoiced upon you before doing good to you, and multiplying you: so he shall rejoice destroying and bringing you to nought, so that you shall be taken away from the land which thou shalt go in to possess. The Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the farthest parts of the earth to the ends thereof..." (Deut. 28:15, 25, 63-64) "I will destroy your land, and your enemies shall be astonished at it, when they shall be the inhabitants thereof. And I will scatter you among the Gentiles, and I will draw out the sword after you, and your land shall be desert, and your cities destroyed." (Lev. 26:32-33) "The house of Israel were made captives for their iniquity, because they forsook me, and I hid my face from them: and I delivered them into the hands of

their enemies, and they fell all by the sword. I have dealt with them according to their uncleanness, and wickedness, and hid my face from them." (Ez. 39:23-24)

Catholic Commentary, on Apocalypse 2:5: "Note that the cause why God taketh the truth from certain countries, and removeth their Bishops or Churches into captivity or desolation, is the sin of the Prelates and people. And that is the cause (no doubt) that Christ hath taken away our golden candlestick, that is, our Church in England. God grant us to remember our fall, to do penance and the former works of charity which our first Bishops and Church were notable and renowned for."

Apocalypse 2:5: "Be mindful therefore from whence thou art fallen: and do penance, and do the first works. Or else I come to thee, and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou do penance."

When God punishes his chosen people for their sins by placing them under the yoke of godless rulers in godless lands, not all of the chosen people are evil. Some are faithful, such as the prophets, who must suffer along with the evil majority. God's punishment of his chosen people for their great sins serves several purposes: It arouses some of the sinful chosen people to repent; it explates the punishments due to their confessed sins and hence appeases God's wrath and ends the punishment; and it results in converting some of the godless people and their godless lands by the preaching and example of the faithful.

Their captivity causes some to repent and expiates God's wrath

God's punishing his sinful chosen people with captivity causes some of them to repent and expiates the punishments due to their confessed sins and hence appeases God's wrath and ends the punishment:

"If thy people Israel shall fly before their enemies, (because they will sin against thee,) and doing penance, and confessing to thy name, shall come, and pray, and make supplications... Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them back to the land which thou gavest to their fathers." (3 Ki. 8:33-34) "Let thy anger cease and be appeased." (Ex. 32:12)

Litany of the Saints, a Catholic prayer: "O God, whose property is always to have mercy and to spare, receive our humble petition: that we, and all Thy servants who are bound by the chains of sin, may by the compassion of Thy goodness mercifully be absolved. Graciously hear, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the prayers of Thy suppliants, and pardon the sins of those who confess to Thee: that in Thy bounty, Thou mayest grant us both pardon and peace. In Thy clemency, O Lord, show unto us Thine unspeakable mercy: that Thou mayest both loose us from all our sins and deliver us from the punishment which we deserve for them. O God, who by sin art offended and by penance pacified, mercifully regard the prayers of Thy people making supplication to Thee, and turn away the scourges of Thine anger, which we deserve for our sins."

We read of the repentance of the exiled Jews in the land of Persia and their prayer to return and possess the land God had cast them out of:

"And they said to me: They that have remained, and are left of the captivity there in the province, are in great affliction, and reproach: and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and the gates thereof are burnt with fire. And when I had heard these words, I sat down, and wept, and mourned for many days: and I fasted, and prayed before the face of the God of heaven. And I said: I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, strong, great, and terrible, who keepest covenant and mercy with those that love thee, and keep thy commandments: Let thy ears be attentive, and thy eyes open, to hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, night and day, for the children of Israel thy servants: and I confess the sins of the children of Israel, by which they have sinned against thee: I and my father's house have sinned. We have been seduced by vanity, and have not kept thy commandments, and ceremonies and judgments, which thou hast commanded thy servant Moses. Remember the word that thou commandedst to Moses thy servant, saying: If you shall transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: But if you return to me, and keep my commandments, and do them, though you should be led away to the uttermost parts of the world, I will gather you from thence, and bring you back to the place which I have chosen for my name to dwell there. And these are thy servants, and thy people: whom thou hast redeemed by thy great strength, and by thy mighty hand. I beseech thee, O Lord, let thy ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants who desire to fear thy name..." (2 Esd. 1:3-11)

Their captivity converts some of the unbelievers and godless lands

God's punishing his chosen people with captivity in foreign lands causes the conversion of some of the Gentile unbelievers by the prayers, preaching, and good example of the faithful among his chosen people. God's chosen people have always been obliged to try to convert good-willed unbelievers. During the Old Covenant era the Gentile converts were known as proselytes. They were circumcised and treated as Israelites:

"If any stranger be willing to dwell among you, and to keep the Phase of the Lord, all his males shall first be circumcised, and then shall he celebrate it according to the manner: and he shall be as he that is born in the land." (Ex. 12:48)

King David prayed for the Gentiles to convert and called them to conversion:

"The Lord hath made known his salvation: he hath revealed his justice in the sight of the Gentiles. Declare his glory among the Gentiles: his wonders among all people. O bless our God, ye Gentiles: and make the voice of his praise to be heard. Bring ye to the Lord, O ye kindreds of the Gentiles, bring ye to the Lord glory and honour." (Ps. 97:2; 95:3; 65:8; 95:7)

"Sing ye to the Lord, all the earth: shew forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the Gentiles: his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great and exceedingly to be praised: and he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens. Praise and magnificence are before him: strength and joy in his place. Bring ye to the Lord, O ye families of the nations: bring ye to the Lord glory and empire. Give to the Lord glory to his name, bring up sacrifice, and come ye in his sight: and adore the Lord in holy becomingness. Let all the earth be moved at his presence: for he hath founded the world immoveable. Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad: and let them say among the nations: The Lord hath reigned." (1Par. 16:23-31)

Even when the Israelites were punished by God for their great sins by being placed under the captivity of unbelievers, they were still obliged to try to convert the goodwilled unbelievers who controlled the land. Tobias, a faithful Israelite, was taken into captivity to Assyria where he preserved the faith: "*Tobias of the tribe and city of Nephtali… was made captive in the days of Salmanasar king of the Assyrians* [and], *even in his captivity, forsook not the way of truth.*" (Tobias 1:1-2) Tobias' prayers, good works, and preaching caused some of the sinful Israelites to repent and converted some of the Assyrian Gentiles:

"Give glory to the Lord, ye children of Israel, and <u>praise him in the sight of the</u> <u>Gentiles</u>: Because he hath therefore scattered you among the Gentiles, who know not him, that you may <u>declare his wonderful works</u>, and make them know that there <u>is no other almighty God besides him</u>. He hath chastised us for our iniquities: and he will save us for his own mercy. See then what he hath done with us, and with fear and trembling give ye glory to him: and extol the eternal King of worlds in your works. As for me, I will praise him in the land of my captivity: because he hath shewn his majesty toward a sinful nation. <u>Be converted therefore, ye sinners</u>, and do justice before God, believing that he will shew his mercy to you. And I and my soul will rejoice in him. Bless ye the Lord, all his elect, keep days of joy, and give glory to him. Jerusalem, city of God, the Lord hath chastised thee for the works of thy hands. Give glory to the Lord for thy good things, and bless the God eternal, that he may rebuild his tabernacle in thee, and may call back all the captives to thee, and thou mayst rejoice for ever and ever. Thou shalt shine with a glorious light: and all the ends of the earth shall worship thee." (Tobias 13:3-13)

We read of Tobias giving alms to these Assyrian converts, also known as proselytes: *"He gave all his tithes to the proselytes..."* (Tobias 1:7) Hence God's punishment of his chosen people with captivity causes the conversion of some of the Gentile unbelievers by the prayers, preaching, and good example of his faithful chosen people, such as Tobias.

God punished his sinful chosen people with the Babylonian captivity

During the Old Covenant era God commanded the Israelites to submit to the yoke of the pagan king of Babylon, Nabuchodonosor, as a punishment for and an expiation of their grievous sins. This Babylon, also known as Chaldea, is modern day Iraq. The ultimate punishment was the destruction of the Temple by fire in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians:

"For among my people are found wicked men... They are grown gross and fat: and have most wickedly transgressed my words... Shall I not visit for these things, saith the Lord? or shall not my soul take revenge on such..." (Jer. 5:26, 28-29) "For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the Lord: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire..." (Jer. 21:10) "And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nabuchodonosor king of Babylon my servant..." (Jer. 27:6) "For the sins that you have committed before God, you shall be carried away captives into Babylon by Nabuchodonosor the king of Babylon." (Baruch 6:1) "Gird thee with sackcloth, O daughter of my people, and sprinkle thee with ashes: make thee mourning as for an only son, a bitter lamentation..." (Jer. 6:26)

God's punishment of the Israelites not only served to make some of his sinful chosen people repent and expiate their sins and thus appease God's wrath but also had the additional benefit of converting good-willed Babylonians by the influence of the faithful Israelites who were under the Babylonian yoke. The good example of the prophets Jeremias, Ezechiel, Daniel, and other faithful Israelites, who were under the Babylonian yoke, eventually converted the king of Babylon, as well as other Babylonians. King Nabuchodonosor is one such convert. He converted before he died:

"Now at the end of the days, I Nabuchodonosor lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my sense was restored to me: and I blessed the most High, and I praised and glorified

him that liveth for ever: for his power is an everlasting power, and his kingdom is to all generations. And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing before him: for he doth according to his will, as well with the powers of heaven, as among the inhabitants of the earth: and there is none that can resist his hand, and say to him: Why hast thou done it? ... Therefore I Nabuchodonosor do now praise, and magnify, and glorify the King of heaven: because all his works are true, and his ways judgments, and them that walk in pride he is able to abase." (Daniel 4:31-34)

Catholic Commentary, on Daniel 4:34: "'I Nabuchodonosor do now'... From this place some commentators infer that this king became a true convert, and dying not long after, was probably saved."

When God's punished chosen people had done sufficient penance in Babylon, God eased and then abolished the Babylonian yoke that was upon them by punishing the Babylonians by the hand of the Persians, also known as the Medes, the modern day Iranians:

"The Lord hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: and his mind is against Babylon to destroy it, because it is the vengeance of the Lord, the vengeance of his temple. ...And I will render to Babylon, and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil, that they have done in Sion, before your eyes, saith the Lord." (Jer. 51:11, 24)

The Persians conquered and captured Babylon in 539 B.C. God then moved the heart of the Persian rulers to give the Israelites their freedom, to allow them to return to the Promised Land, and to assist them in rebuilding the Second Temple, which was completed in 520 B.C. Hence God's chosen people regained control over land:¹

"In the first year of Cyrus king of the Persians, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremias might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of the Persians: and he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and in writing also, saying: Thus saith Cyrus king of the Persians: The Lord the God of heaven hath given to me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judea. Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him. Let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judea, and build the house of the Lord the God of Israel: he is the God that is in Jerusalem. And let all the rest in all places wheresoever they dwell, help him every man from his place with silver and gold, and goods, and cattle, besides that which they offer freely to the temple of God, which is in Jerusalem." (1 Esdras 1:1-4)

In the history of fallen mankind, this same cycle is repeated: God tries his chosen people to test their faithfulness; a good portion of God's chosen people prove faithful; God then gives his faithful chosen people control over land; the vast majority of God's chosen people rebel against him; God takes away their control over land; God's oppressed chosen people repent, do penance, and amend their ways; God punishes or destroys their oppressors; God gives back to his chosen people control of land. And this cycle will end when Jesus Christ upon his Second Coming destroys the Antichrist and his kingdoms and returns the land, the whole earth, to his chosen people for all eternity with Christ the King and Mary the Queen ruling over them:

¹ Warning: Do not be fooled by current day Israel. Even though the apostate Jews regained control over Israel, they and it are an abomination of desolation in a place where they do not belong. They are not blessed but cursed. They are bringing the Antichrist to power. God is using the Talmudic and Zionist Jews, just as He used the Greeks and Antiochus Epiphanes, to punish his chosen people, nominal and bad Catholics.

"And the seventh angel sounded the trumpet: and there were great voices in heaven, saying: The kingdom of this world is become our Lord's and his Christ's, and he shall reign for ever and ever. Amen. ... And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest render reward to thy servants the prophets and the saints, and to them that fear thy name, little and great, and shouldest destroy them who have corrupted the earth." (Apoc. 11: 15-18) "Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land." (Mt. 5:4)

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth was gone, and the sea is now no more. And I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice from the throne, saying: Behold the tabernacle of God with men, and he will dwell with them. And they shall be his people; and God himself with them shall be their God." (Apoc. 21:1-3)

During the Old Covenant era God's chosen people were punished for their great sins by being placed under the successive pagan yokes of the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans:

Catholic Commentary, on Apocalypse 13:1: "The seven heads are seven kings, that is, seven principal kingdoms or empires, which have exercised, or shall exercise, tyrannical power over the people of God; of these, five were then fallen, viz.: the Egyptian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Persian, and Grecian monarchies: one was present, viz., the empire of Rome: and the seventh and chiefest was to come, viz., the great Antichrist and his empire."

As a punishment for their great sins, God placed the Israelites under the yoke of the pagan Romans in 63 B.C. when Pompeius (Pompey) the Great took Jerusalem and subdued the Jews. Consequently during Christ's First Coming and before the birth of the Catholic Church, the Israelites, God's then chosen people who were under the Old Covenant, did not control land and were under the yoke of pagan Rome.

After Jesus' death on the cross, when the New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant and Catholicism replaced Judaism and the Catholic Church replaced the synagogue and Catholics replaced the Israelites as God's chosen people, Catholics found themselves under that same pagan Roman yoke but not as a punishment for their sins but as a means to convert the pagan Romans and their pagan lands. It took 300 years of influence by good Catholics who converted many non-Catholics before God lifted the pagan Roman yoke and began to convert pagan Roman lands to Catholic lands:

A History of the Catholic Church, by apostate Fr. Philip Hughes: "How far had Christianity spread by the time of the conversion of Constantine [4th century]? ... At Rome there had been Christians from within a few years of Our Lord's Ascension, and a Pagan historian speaks of them as 'a great multitude' at the time of Nero's persecution. From the second century Rome becomes a great centre of expansion, whence southern and central Italy are evangelised. Northern Italy was a much later conquest. Of Christianity in Gaul, our earliest certain attested fact is the persecution of 177 which reveals at Lyons a well-ordered and flourishing church. A hundred and forty years later, at the Council of Arles, sixteen bishops of Gallic sees were present, among them bishops from Bordeaux, Rheims and Rouen. Spain knew the Church as early as the days of St. Paul who was, seemingly, one of its first apostles. But we know nothing of its Christianity until the persecution of Decius (250-251). Fifty years later the Church there had so profited by the long peace which followed Valerian (259) that, at the Council of Elvira (300), forty Spanish bishops assembled. In Britain, too, there were Christians and organised churches, Christians who gave their lives in the persecution of 304-5 ... The first evidence of Christianity in Africa

is as late as 189-the martyrdoms at Scillium. The churches in Africa are, by then, already numerous and well-organised. A few years later and Tertullian has been received at Carthage (c. 194) and can urge as one of his pleas for toleration that the Christians are almost the majority in every town of the province. Certainly in the two provinces of Numidia and Proconsular Africa there were, by the beginning of the third century, seventy bishops. But the real strength of Christianity lay to the east of the Adriatic. Greece, Epirus, Thessaly and Thrace were by the end of the second century very well evangelised. Into the Danube provinces to the north Christianity came later, but not too late to produce martyrs under Diocletian. Dalmatia's conversion began with Titus, and it is in the lands evangelised by St. Paul and his lieutenants that we find Christianity strongest three centuries later. ... The final, decisive step was not the fruit of any further meditation but was due to something which happened to Constantine the very night before the battle at the Milvian Bridge, a mile or two outside the Flaminian Gate of Rome. In a dream the emperor was bidden to mark his soldiers' shields with the sign of God...and go into battle with this as his badge. He did so. In the fight which followed he was victorious, and Maxentius was drowned in the Tiber as he fled from the field. Constantine entered Rome convinced now that the one, supreme God was the God whom the Christians worshipped-Jesus Christ."2

So we see that after 300 years of influence by good Catholics who converted many non-Catholics in many non-Catholic lands, God used a just war conducted by Constantine to relieve and then crush the pagan Roman yoke and to eventually convert the land to Catholic control. In a miraculous way God called Constantine to kill the enemies of Catholics, God's chosen people. This was the first fulfillment of Christ the King's prophecy when he said, "*as for those my enemies, who would not have me reign over them, bring them hither, and kill them before me.*" (Lk. 19:27)

Nominal *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Constantine the Great, 1908: "In spite of the overwhelming numbers of his enemy (an estimated 100,000 in Maxentius' army against 20,000 in Constantine's army) the emperor confidently marched forward to Rome. A vision had assured him that he should conquer in the sign of the Christ, and his warriors carried Christ's monogram on their shields, though the majority of them were pagans. The opposing forces met near the bridge over the Tiber called the Milvian Bridge, and here Maxentius' troops suffered a complete defeat, the tyrant himself losing his life in the Tiber (28 October, 312). Of his gratitude to the God of the Christians the victor immediately gave convincing proof; the Christian worship was henceforth tolerated throughout the empire (Edict of Milan, early in 313)."

Even though *The Golden Legend* contains heresies and false accounts, it teaches the truth in this regard:

Heretical *The Golden Legend*, "The Finding of the Holy Cross": "When Maxentius invaded the Roman empire, Emperor Constantine arrived at the Milvian bridge to do battle with him. Constantine was exceedingly anxious about this battle and often raised his eyes to heaven in search of help from above. Then in a dream he saw, in the eastern part of the sky, the sign of the cross blazing with fiery brilliance, and angels standing by and saying to him: 'Constantine, in this sign you will conquer' (*In hoc signo vinces*). And, as we read in the *Tripartite History*, while Constantine puzzled about the meaning of this, the following night Christ appeared to him with the sign he had seen in the sky, and ordered him to have a standard made with this sign on it, because this would be of help to him in combat. So Constantine, again happy and confident of victory, drew on his forehead the sign of the cross that he

² A History of the Catholic Church, by Fr. Philip Hughes, vol. i, "Chapter 5: The Way of Christian Life."

had seen in the sky, had the military standards changed to the shape of the cross, and carried a gold cross in his right hand. After that he prayed the Lord not to allow his right hand, which he had armed with the salutary sign of the cross, to be bloodied or stained by spilled Roman blood, but to grant him victory over the tyrant without bloodshed. Maxentius meanwhile gave orders to arrange his boats as a trap, stringing floats across the river to look like a level bridge. Now, when Constantine drew up to the river, Maxentius rushed upon him with a small band of troops, commanding the rest to come after him; but he forgot his own stratagem and started across the false bridge, thus being caught by the ruse with which he had hoped to deceive Constantine, and was drowned in the depths of the stream. Thereupon Constantine was unanimously acclaimed emperor by all present. We read in a fairly reliable chronicle that at that time Constantine's faith was not yet perfect and that he had not yet been baptized, but that after an interval he had a vision of Saints Peter and Paul and was reborn by holy baptism at Pope Silvester's hands." (vol. i.)

This miracle and Constantine's military victory for the Catholic Church and for Catholicism is indeed one proof that during the New Covenant era God condones just wars and especially religious wars that deliver good Catholics from oppression and bring Christ's Catholic kingdom into the temporal realm. Constantine's victory in A.D. 312 paved the road for Christ's temporal Catholic kingdoms on earth. Catholics were now to obtain control over lands because in God's eyes they proved themselves worthy. This was the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy that Catholics will convert not only peoples but also nations: "Going therefore, teach ve all nations... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (Mt. 28:19-20) This is the kingdom that Christ prayed would come upon earth as it is in heaven: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Mt. 6:10) Christ wills that his kingdom on earth should be like his kingdom in heaven, which is both a spiritual and temporal kingdom. Hence God wills that his earthly kingdom should also be spiritual and temporal. In the second psalm King David prophesied the coming of Christ, the only begotten of the Father, and that Christ through his Catholic Church would convert not only Gentile people but also Gentile lands to the utmost parts of the earth:

"The Lord hath said to me: Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and <u>I will give thee the Gentiles for thy inheritance</u>, and the utmost parts of the <u>earth for thy possession</u>. Thou shalt rule them with a rod of iron, and shalt break them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Ps. 2:7-9)

St. Paul refers to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of this second psalm because Christ is the Messiah and the only begotten Son of God:

"And we declare unto you, that the promise which was made to our fathers, This same God hath fulfilled to our children, raising up Jesus, <u>as in the second psalm also</u> is written: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee." (Acts 13:32-33)

According to King David's second psalm, Jesus Christ's kingdom consists of not only converted Gentiles ("I will give thee the Gentiles for thy inheritance") but also converted Gentile lands because Christ and his followers are given "the utmost parts of the earth for [their] possession." Therefore, the rise of Catholic kingdoms and the Holy Roman Empire was ordained by God as a reward to his chosen people, Catholics.

But, alas! Most Catholics, just like most Israelites during the Old Covenant era, eventually became evil. And thus God punished the Catholic kingdoms and the Holy Roman Empire just as he punished the kingdoms of Israel and Juda during the Old Covenant era. Because God is just, he punishes his own people the most when they sin because they give the true God a bad name and because they, more than others, should have known better than to rebel against God: "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required: and to whom they have committed much, of him they will demand the more." (Lk. 12:48)

Not all of the Catholic kingdoms, then, were pleasing to God. Catholic lands that were ruled and inhabited by a majority of bad Catholics were not pleasing to God. If the majority did not repent and become good Catholics, God eventually replaced their Catholic lands with non-Catholic lands. God did the same with his chosen people during the Old Covenant era: "A kingdom is translated from one people to another, because of injustices, and wrongs, and injuries, and divers deceits." (Eclcus. 10:8) The kingdoms of Israel and Juda were only pleasing to God when ruled and inhabited by a majority of faithful Israelites. If the majority of God's chosen people were not faithful, God punished them with the loss of their land and placed them under the yoke of unbelievers. The Bible records only three kings of Juda who were exceptionally faithful to God, while most were bad: "Except David, and Ezechias, and Josias, all committed sin. For the kings of Juda forsook the law of the most High, and despised the fear of God. So they gave their kingdom to others, and their glory to a strange nation. They burnt the chosen city of holiness, and made the streets thereof desolate according to the prediction of Jeremias." (Ecclus. 49:5-8) The same can be said of Catholic rulers during the New Covenant era: only few were exceptionally good and most were bad.

However, just because there were many bad Israelites and many bad Israelite lands in the history of the Old Covenant era is no proof that the God of Israel is not the one true God and that the Synagogue was not the one true Church and that Judaism was not the one true religion and that the Israelites and Gentile converts were not God's chosen people. Likewise, just because there have been many bad Catholics and many bad Catholic lands during this New Covenant era is no proof that the God of the Catholics is not the one true God and that the Catholic Church is not the one true Church and that Catholicism is not the one true religion and that Catholics (both Catholic Jews and Catholic Gentiles) are not God's one and only chosen people.

Therefore one cannot credibly say that just because a Catholic army loses a battle to a Moslem or Protestant army that the Catholic Church, Catholicism, and Catholics are not God's one true Church, religion, and chosen people; just as one could not credibly say that just because the Israelites lost a battle to unbelievers during the Old Covenant era that the Synagogue, Judaism, and Israelites were not God's true Church, religion, and chosen people during that time. If Protestants believe God is on their side just because they win a battle over Catholics, then what is to be said about Moslem victories over Catholics or Protestants? By the same reasoning, then, God would have to be the God of Islam and hence Moslems would be God's chosen people. And if the Moslems used the same reasoning, they would have to believe that the Catholic God is the one true God as soon as they lose a battle to Catholics. But this is not logical because God would have to constantly change his nature, thoughts, ways, and chosen people, which would make God insane or a liar. Hence the one true Church and religion can only be identified if all the marks necessary for a true Church and religion exist in spite of the fact that God's chosen people lose a battle or are punished by God in other ways. And only the Catholic Church and religion has all these marks. Let this be a warning to non-Catholics who think that the Catholic Church and religion are not the one and only true Church and religion just

because they see God punishing immoral or fallen-away Catholics by taking away their control over lands, by placing them under the yoke of godless rulers, and by placing them under the Romans' One Curse in which they have fallen into gross sins of immorality because of their faithlessness.

God teaches us the sad fact that most people will end up in hell, even most of his chosen people: "For many are called, but few chosen." (Mt. 20:16) Most Jews from the Old Covenant era are in hell, and most Catholics during the New Covenant era end up in hell.³ So evil are the sins of self-professed Catholics from the 16th century onward, that God has progressively taken away their control of land and put them under the tyrannical yoke of non-Catholic States and rulers to the point that there are no more true Catholic lands in the whole world. This is a fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy of the massive falling away of the Gentile Nations, which was completed in the twentieth century when there were no more truly Catholic lands upon the face of the earth. Jesus speaks of events that will occur just previous to his Second Coming. One is that good Catholics will be hated by all nations, which implies that all the nations will not be Catholic nations: "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall put you to death: and you shall be hated by all nations for my name's sake." (Mt. 24:9) Jesus says that there will come a time during this generation, which is the New Covenant era, when he will be rejected en masse by his chosen people, Catholics, to the point that it will be like the days of Noe when only eight of God's chosen people remained faithful:

"For as the lightning that lighteneth from under heaven, shineth unto the parts that are under heaven, so shall the Son of man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things, and <u>be rejected by this generation</u>. And as it came to pass in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." (Lk. 17:24-26)

St. Paul also speaks of a great revolt in which Catholic people and Catholic nations shall revolt against the Catholic God:

"Let no man deceive you by any means, for unless there come <u>a revolt</u> first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition [the Antichrist], who opposeth, and is lifted up above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself as if he were God." (2 Thess. 2:3-4)

Catholic Commentary, on 2 Thess. 2:3: "'A revolt' ...It may...be understood also of <u>a revolt of many nations from the Catholic Church</u>; which has, in part, happened already, by means of Mahomet, Luther, &c., and it may be supposed, will be more general in the days of the Antichrist."

After all, that is how *all* the nations come to serve the Antichrist instead of the true Christ. Indeed, God has punished his chosen people by allowing non-Catholic people and nations to gather against Catholics and Catholic lands to turn them into non-Catholic lands: "According to my desire I will chastise them: and the nations shall be gathered together against them, when they shall be chastised." (Osee 10:10) This gathering of the nations against Catholics and Catholic lands started in an effective and progressive way when Satan was released from his prison; that is, when God gave him the power to succeed because of the great sins of his chosen people, Catholics. St. John sees this event in one of his visions of the Final Days:

"And when the thousand years shall be finished, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go forth, and seduce the nations, which are over the four quarters

³ See my book *How to Be a Good Catholic*: Most Catholics go to hell.

of the earth, Gog, and Magog, and shall gather them together to battle, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." (Apoc. 20:7)

Hence Satan succeeds in converting into his camp the nations that are over the four quarters of the earth and almost all men so that their number is as great as the sand of the sea. In another Final Day vision, St. John sees the success of Satan (the Dragon), the Beast (the Antichrist), and the False Prophet (an apostate antipope of the apostate Vatican II Church) in converting and gathering the kings of the whole earth to make war against the Catholic God:

"And I saw from the mouth of the dragon, and from the mouth of the beast, and from the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are the spirits of devils working signs, and they go forth unto the kings of the whole earth, to gather them to battle against the great day of the Almighty God." (Apoc. 16:13-14)

All the nations of the earth are now gathered under the yoke of Satan who is preparing the earth for the worldwide domination of the Antichrist: "[Antichrist], whose coming is according to the working of Satan, in all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and in all seduction of iniquity." (2 Thess. 2:9-10) In another Final Day vision, St. John sees almost all the people on earth adoring the Antichrist, which implies a mass apostasy of Catholics: "The beast [Antichrist], all that dwell upon the earth adored him." (Apoc. 5:8) It logically follows, then, that all the nations and their armies will be non-Catholic nations and armies that are under the control of the Antichrist. Indeed, in yet another Final Day vision, St. John sees all the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together by the Beast, the Antichrist, in order to make war upon Christ and his army of good Catholics, angels, and saints: "And I saw the beast [the Antichrist], and the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war with him [Jesus Christ] that sat upon the horse, and with his army." (Apoc. 19:19)

Catholic Commentary, on Apoc. 19:19: "Ver. 19. ...Here is the beast, or antichrist, with prodigious armies gathered from all parts of the earth, and headed by their kings and princes."

King David foresaw this battle between the kings of the earth and Christ: "*The kings* of the earth stood up, and the princes met together, against the Lord and against his Christ." (Ps. 2:2) Dear reader, marvel not when I say that there are no true Catholic lands in the whole world. Marvel not when I say that there are so few true Catholics left in these latter days of the Great Apostasy so as to be close to the number of eight as in the days of Noe. What I say is prophecy fulfilled! It is the Word of God, which anyone can know who honestly reads the Bible with a good Catholic commentary and honestly observes the world in which he lives. (See my book "End Time Signs: Mary Crushed John Paul II's Head with Her Heel!: Follow the few Catholics whom the world hates.")

Must Give God His Due and Then Caesar

The first duty of Catholics no matter where they live or what they do is to love and obey God above all things:

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole strength." (Deut. 6:5)

Catholic Commentary, Deut. 6:5: *Whole heart...soul...and strength.* God admits of no partner... We must give God the preference before all..."

"Jesus said to him: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like to this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments dependent the whole law and the prophets." (Mt. 22:37-40)

Proof that a man truly loves God is that he obeys all of God's commandments. Jesus says, "*If you love me, keep my commandments*. ...*He that loveth me not, keepeth not my words*." (Jn. 14:15, 24) If Catholics want to be saved, they must obey all of God's commandments. Jesus says, "*If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments*." (Mt. 19:17)

One of God's commandments is that Catholics must obey their lawful rulers, even non-Catholic rulers, in all things but sin, things that unjustly threaten their lives, and things that are impossible. God the Son, Jesus Christ, commands Catholics to give Caesar his due:

"Tell us therefore what dost thou think, Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not? But Jesus knowing their wickedness, said: Why do you tempt me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the coin of the tribute. And they offered him a penny. And Jesus saith to them: Whose image and inscription is this? They say to him: Caesar's. Then he saith to them: Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God, the things that are God's." (Mt. 22:17-21)

Catholic Commentary, Mk. 12:17: "...Christ clearly establishes here the strict obligation of paying to Caesar what belongs to Caesar..."

Therefore, the second duty of Catholics is to give their rulers their due. And this applies not only to Catholic rulers, but also non-Catholic rulers, as Caesar was a pagan. Echoing Christ, St. Paul teaches Catholics about this duty:

"Let every soul be subject to higher powers. For there is no power but from God: and those that are ordained of God. Therefore, he that resistent the power resistent the ordinance of God. And they that resist purchase to themselves damnation. For princes are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to thee, for good. But if thou do that which is evil, fear, for he beareth not the sword in vain. For he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath upon him that doth evil. Wherefore, be subject of necessity not only for wrath but also for conscience' sake. For, therefore, also you pay tribute, for they are the ministers of God, serving unto this purpose. Render, therefore, to all men their dues. Tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour." (Rom. 13:1-7)

Catholic commentary, Rom. 13:1: "*Let every soul*, or every one, *be subject*, &c. Lest Christians should misconstrue their Christian liberty, he here teacheth them that every one (even priests and bishops) must be subject and obedient to princes, even to heathens, in secular matters, as they were at that time, as to laws that regarded the policy of the civil government, honoring them, obeying them, and their laws, as it is the will of God, because the power they act by is from God. So that *to resist them*, is *to resist God*. And every Christian must obey them even for conscience-sake. Take notice that St. Paul does not say that there is no prince but

from God, but only that there is no power but from God, meaning no lawful power, and speaking of true and just laws."

Therefore, when God's chosen people find themselves under the yoke of unbelievers, they must submit to that yoke in all things except sin, things that unjustly threaten their lives, and things that are impossible until God sees fit to deliver them by war or other legal means; that is, legal in the eyes of God.

Even though Catholics must give Caesar his due, they must first and foremost give God his due. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so much higher is obedience to God over obedience to Caesar. God, speaking through the prophet Isaias, says,

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are exalted above the earth, so are my ways exalted above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts." (Isa. 55:8-9)

Catholics ruled by non-Catholics in non-Catholic lands would do well to think of themselves as Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon.

Joseph in Egypt: "He [Pharao] said therefore to Joseph... Thou shalt be over my house, and at the commandment of thy mouth all the people shall obey. Only in the kingly throne will I be above thee. And again Pharao said to Joseph: Behold, I have appointed thee over the whole land of Egypt. And he took his ring from his own hand and gave it into his hand. And he put upon him a robe of silk and put a chain of gold about his neck. And he made him go up into his second chariot, the crier proclaiming that all should bow their knee before him, and that they should know he was made governor over the whole land of Egypt. And the king said to Joseph: I am Pharao; without thy commandment no man shall move hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." (Gen. 41:39-44)

Daniel in Babylon: "Then the king [of Babylon] advanced Daniel to a high station, and gave him many and great gifts. And he made him governor over all the provinces of Babylon, and chief of the magistrates over all the wise men of Babylon. And Daniel requested of the king, and he appointed Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago over the works of the province of Babylon, but Daniel himself was in the king's palace." (Dan. 2:48-49)

While living and working in godless lands and being ruled by godless rulers, Joseph and Daniel maintained the faith and obeyed the rulers in all things except sin, things that unjustly threaten their lives, and things that were impossible. For example, Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago disobeyed the king of Babylon when he commanded them to bow down and worship an image of one of his gods that he set up:

"And presently at that very time some Chaldeans came and accused the Jews, And said to king Nabuchodonosor: O king, live for ever: Thou, O king, hast made a decree that every man... shall prostrate himself, and adore the golden statue. And that if any man shall not fall down and adore, he should be cast into a furnace of burning fire. Now there are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the works of the province of Babylon, Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago: these men, O king, have slighted thy decree. They worship not thy gods, nor do they adore the golden statue which thou hast set up. Then Nabuchodonosor in fury and in wrath, commanded that Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago should be brought; who immediately were brought before the king. And Nabuchodonosor the king spoke to them, and said: Is it true, O Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago, that you do not worship my gods nor adore the golden statue that I have set up? ...Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago answered and said to king Nabuchodonosor: We have no occasion to answer thee concerning this matter. For behold our God, whom we worship, is able to save us

from the furnace of burning fire, and to deliver us out of thy hands, O king. But if he will not, be it known to thee, O king, that we will not worship thy gods, nor adore the golden statue which thou hast set up." (Dan. 3:8-18)

Daniel's enemies, moved by envy, influenced King Darius to pass a decree that no one in his lands must pray to any god for thirty days except to the king. But Daniel disobeyed this decree and thus continued to pray to the one true God, the God of Israel. And when he was caught doing so, his enemies informed the king:

"It seemed good to Darius, and he appointed over the kingdom a hundred and twenty governors to be over his whole kingdom. And three princes over them, of whom Daniel was one, that the governors might give an account to them, and the king might have no trouble. And Daniel excelled all the princes, and governors: because a greater spirit of God was in him. And the king thought to set him over all the kingdom whereupon the princes and the governors sought to find occasion against Daniel with regard to the king. And they could find no cause nor suspicion because he was faithful, and no fault nor suspicion was found in him. Then these men said: We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel unless perhaps concerning the law of his God. Then the princes, and the governors craftily suggested to the king, and spoke thus unto him: King Darius, live forever: All the princes of the kingdom, the magistrates, and governors, the senators, and judges have consulted together, that an imperial decree and an edict be published that whosoever shall ask any petition of any god or man for thirty days but of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, therefore, O king, confirm the sentence and sign the decree, that what is decreed by the Medes and Persians may not be altered nor any man be allowed to transgress it. So king Darius set forth the decree and established it. Now when Daniel knew this, that is to say, that the law was made, he went into his house and opening the windows in his upper chamber towards Jerusalem, he knelt down three times a day and adored, and gave thanks before his God, as he had been accustomed to do before. Wherefore, those men carefully watching him found Daniel praying and making supplication to his God. And they came and spoke to the king concerning the edict: O king, hast thou not decreed that every man that should make a request to any of the gods or men, for thirty days, but to thyself, O king, should be cast into the den of the lions? And the king answered them, saying: The word is true according to the decree of the Medes and Persians which it is not lawful to violate. Then they answered and said before the king: Daniel, who is of the children of the captivity of Juda, hath not regarded thy law nor the decree that thou hast made, but three times a day he maketh his prayer. Now when the king had heard these words, he was very much grieved; and in behalf of Daniel, he set his heart to deliver him and even till sunset he laboured to save him. But those men perceiving the king's design, said to him: Know thou, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is that no decree which the king hath made may be altered. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of the lions. And the king said to Daniel: Thy God, whom thou always servest, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den, which the king sealed with his own ring, and with the ring of his nobles that nothing should be done against Daniel. And the king went away to his house and laid himself down without taking supper, and meat was not set before him, and even sleep departed from him. Then the king rising very early in the morning went in haste to the lions' den: And coming near to the den, cried with a lamentable voice to Daniel, and said to him: Daniel, servant of the living God, hath thy God, whom thou servest always, been able, thinkest thou, to deliver thee from the lions? And Daniel answering the king, said: O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel and hath shut up the mouths of the lions, and they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him justice hath been found in me, yea and before thee, O king, I have done no offence. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and he

commanded that Daniel should be taken out of the den. And Daniel was taken out of the den and no hurt was found in him because he believed in his God. And by the king's commandment those men were brought that had accused Daniel, and they were cast into the lions' den, they and their children and their wives, and they did not reach the bottom of the den before the lions caught them and broke all their bones in pieces." (Dan. 6:1-24)

While the apostles and Jesus' other followers obeyed their pagan rulers in pagan Rome, they obeyed God above all things. When commanded to obey men and in so doing disobey God, "Peter and the apostles answering, said: We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

Therefore, if there is ever a conflict between obeying God and obeying Caesar, then God must be obeyed and Caesar disobeyed; that is, if one wants to be saved: *"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."* (Mt. 19:17) If men want to be saved, they must disobey anyone or anything that would make them disobey God. Hence, if a non-Catholic ruler tries to force Catholics to sin against the faith or morals, or unjustly threatens their lives, or to do the impossible, Catholics must disobey him.

The Catholic Church is God's Mystical Body on earth. She is God's voice and arm of justice, mercy, and sanctification on earth. St. Paul teaches that *"The Church of the living God* [is] *the pillar and ground of the truth."* (1 Tim. 3:15) And Jesus decrees, *"He* [that] *will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican."* (Mt. 18:17) Therefore, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so much higher is obedience to the Catholic Church over obedience to Caesar, be he a Catholic or a non-Catholic ruler. Consequently, a Catholic is first and foremost a member and citizen of the Catholic Church before he is a member of a race or citizen of a nation. It is a Catholic's utmost allegiance to God and not to his race or family or nation that will save him. St. John teaches that

"As many as received him [Jesus], he gave them power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in his name. Who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (Jn. 1:12-13)

Men are not saved by their blood and flesh; that is, by their race and family. Nor are they saved by the will of men; that is, by the rulers of nations. Men are saved by their faith in and obedience to the true God and his Catholic Church, as proved by their obedience to all of God's commandments as taught by the Catholic Church. St. Paul teaches that *"You are all the children of God by faith, in Christ Jesus."* (Gal. 3:26) Therefore, men are not children of God by race, family, or the rulers of their lands, but by the Catholic Church and faith. Earthly nations can only give men temporary material things, all of which will pass away. Only the Catholic Church can give men the spiritual things they need to save their souls and attain everlasting life. As high as spiritual things are above temporal things, so is the authority of the Catholic Church and her rulers above the temporal authority of national rulers. Even though Boniface VIII and Leo XIII were apostate antipopes, they teach the truth in this regard:

Apostate Antipope Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctum*, 1302: "We must recognize the more clearly that spiritual power surpasses in dignity and in nobility any temporal power whatever, as spiritual things surpass the temporal. ...For with truth as our witness, it belongs to spiritual power to establish the terrestrial power and to pass judgement if it has not been good. Thus is accomplished the prophecy of Jeremias concerning the Church and the ecclesiastical power: 'Behold to-day I have placed

you over nations, and over kingdoms' and the rest. Therefore, if the terrestrial power err, it will be judged by the spiritual power..."

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *Sapientiae Christianae*, 1890: "5. Now, if the natural law enjoins us to love devotedly and to defend the country in which we had birth, and in which we were brought up, so that every good citizen hesitates not to face death for his native land, very much more is it the urgent duty of Christians to be ever quickened by like feelings toward the Catholic Church. For the Church is the holy City of the living God, born of God himself, and by him built up and established. Upon this earth, indeed, she accomplishes her pilgrimage, but by instructing and guiding men she summons them to everlasting happiness. We are bound, then, to love dearly the country whence we have received the means of enjoyment this mortal life affords, <u>but we have a much more urgent obligation to love, with ardent love, the Church to which we owe the life of the soul, a life that will endure forever. For fitting it is to prefer the good of the soul to the well-being of the body, inasmuch as duties toward God are of a far more hallowed character than those toward men."</u>

Just as a body without a soul is dead, so is a Catholic dead who places the body of an earthly nation over the concerns of Catholic Church and thus of his soul: "*Health of the soul in holiness of justice is better than...a sound body*" because "*the body without the spirit is dead*." (Eccu. 30:15; Jam. 2:26) Only the Catholic Church has the power from God to make the spirit alive and holy. Only the Catholic Church has the power to rule, teach, and sanctify souls in the name and by the power of the one true God, the Catholic God. Jesus gave this command to his apostles and their successors, the popes and Catholic bishops:

"Going therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." (Mt. 28:19-20)

That Jesus will be with his apostles until the consummation of the world proves that the original apostles would have successors who would carry on their mission, and these successors are none other than popes and other Catholic bishops.

Catholics must always remember that their true home is in heaven with God and in the world to come after Jesus' second coming. Catholics, then, must also remember that "they are pilgrims and strangers on the earth." (Heb. 11:13) King David says, "The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven." (Ps. 10:5) "To thee have I lifted up my eves, who dwellest in heaven." (Ps. 122:1) Men can only lift up their eves to God through his Catholic Church, who shows to men God, his heaven and the paradise to come. God's Catholic Church can be compared to supernatural eyeglasses that men need to see supernatural spiritual things about God and to see them clearly. Only through the Catholic Church can men see the supernatural spiritual things of God. This is what Christ primarily meant when he said that he came to make the blind see: "Jesus said: For judgment I am come into this world that they who see not, may see ... to preach deliverance to the captives, and sight to the blind." (Jn. 9:39; Lk. 4:19) With their eyes primarily focused on heaven and the paradise to come through the Catholic Church, Catholics will not be led astray by sinful commands from nations and their earthly rulers. Laws that are sinful or not reasonable are not binding in the eyes of God. Even though Leo XIII was an apostate antipope, he teaches the truth in this regard:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *Libertas Praestantissimum*, 1888: "Likewise, the liberty of those who are in authority does not consist in the power to lay unreasonable and capricious commands upon their subjects, which would equally be criminal and would lead to the ruin of the commonwealth; but the binding force of human laws is in this, that they are to be regarded as applications of the eternal law, and incapable of sanctioning anything which is not contained in the eternal law, as in the principle of all law. Thus, St. Augustine most wisely says: 'I think that you can see, at the same time, that there is nothing just and lawful in that temporal law, unless what men have gathered from this eternal law'. If, then, by anyone in authority, something be sanctioned out of conformity with the principles of right reason, and consequently hurtful to the commonwealth, such an enactment can <u>have no binding force of law</u>, as being no rule of justice, but certain to lead men away from that good which is the very end of civil society."

Hence, iIf a Catholic's duty to obey God through his Catholic Church ever conflicts with his duty to Caesar, then God speaking through his Catholic Church, must be obeyed and Caesar disobeyed. In this case Catholics are obliged to disobey Caesar if they do not want to sin and place themselves in a state of damnation:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, Sapientiae Christianae, 1890: "6. Moreover, if we would judge aright, the supernatural love for the Church and the natural love of our own country proceed from the same eternal principle, since God himself is their Author and originating cause. Consequently, it follows that between the duties they respectively enjoin, neither can come into collision with the other. We can, certainly, and should love ourselves, bear ourselves kindly toward our fellow men, nourish affection for the State and the governing powers, but at the same time we can and must cherish toward the Catholic Church a feeling of filial piety, and love God with the deepest love of which we are capable. The order of precedence of these duties is, however, at times, either under stress of public calamities or through the perverse will of men, inverted. For, instances occur where the State seems to require from men as subjects one thing, and religion from men as Christians quite another; and this, in reality, without any other ground than that the rulers of the State either hold the sacred power of the Church of no account or endeavor to subject it to their own will. Hence arises a conflict and an occasion through such conflict of virtue being put to the proof. The two powers are confronted and urge their behests in a contrary sense; to obey both is wholly impossible. No man can serve two masters, for to please the one amounts to contemning the other.

"7. As to which should be preferred no one ought to balance for an instant. <u>It is a high crime indeed to withdraw allegiance from God in order to please men, an act of consummate wickedness to break the laws of Jesus Christ in order to yield obedience to earthly rulers, or, under pretext of keeping the civil law, to ignore the rights of the Church; 'we ought to obey God rather than men.' This answer, which of old Peter and the other Apostles were used to give the civil authorities who enjoined unrighteous things, we must in like circumstances give always and without hesitation. No better citizen is there, whether in time of peace or war, than the Christian who is mindful of his duty; but such a one should be ready to suffer all things, even death itself, rather than abandon the cause of God or of the Church...</u>

"10. But, <u>if the laws of the State are manifestly at variance with the divine law</u>, containing enactments hurtful to the Church, or conveying injunctions adverse to the duties imposed by religion, or if they violate in the person of the supreme Pontiff the authority of Jesus Christ, then, truly, <u>to resist becomes a positive duty</u>, to <u>obey</u>, <u>a crime</u>... Here anew it becomes evident how unjust is the reproach of sedition; for the obedience due to rulers and legislators is not refused, but there is a deviation from their will in those precepts only which they have no power to enjoin. Commands that are issued adversely to the honor due to God, and hence are beyond the scope of justice, must be looked upon as anything rather than laws. You are

fully aware, venerable brothers, that this is the very contention of the Apostle St. Paul, who, in writing to Titus, after reminding Christians that they are 'to be subject to princes and powers, and to obey at a word,' at once adds: 'And to be ready to every good work.' Thereby he openly declares that, if laws of men contain injunctions contrary to the eternal law of God, it is right not to obey them. In like manner, the Prince of the Apostles gave this courageous and sublime answer to those who would have deprived him of the liberty of preaching the Gospel: 'If it be just in the sight of God to hear you rather than God, judge ye, for we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.' (Acts 4:19)

"11. Wherefore, to love both countries, that of earth below and that of heaven above, yet in such mode that the love of our heavenly surpass the love of our earthly home, and that human laws be never set above the divine law, is the essential duty of Christians, and the fountainhead, so to say, from which all other duties spring."

Let us listen to a nominal Catholic (Catholic in name only) who obeyed men rather than God by placing his allegiance to his nation over his allegiance to the Catholic God and his Catholic Church. This man is John F. Kennedy, thirty-fifth President of the United States, from 1961 to 1963. He publicly declared that he was an American first and a Catholic second:

Catholics and American Culture, apostate Mark S. Massa, S.J., Chap. 6, "A Catholic for President?", p. 137: "His address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, D.C., represented one of Kennedy's most direct expositions of his views on church and state, birth control, and diplomatic relations with the Vatican. In it Kennedy emphasized, yet again, what he felt had been his position since the outset of his campaign: 'There is only one legitimate question...Would you, as President, be responsive in any way to ecclesiastical pressures or obligations *of any kind* that might *in any fashion* influence or interfere with your conduct of that office in the national interest? My answer was—and is no...I am not the Catholic candidate for President. I am the Democratic party's candidate for President who happens to be Catholic. I do not speak for the Catholic Church on issues of public policy, and no one in that Church speaks for me.""⁴

Catholicism was near the bottom of Kennedy's list of priorities. Kennedy put politics before God, before the Catholic faith and Catholic Church. He schismatically rebelled against the Catholic Church's authority over him by saying that no one in the Church speaks for him. In so doing he abandoned the Catholic Church and faith to which he owed primary allegiance. By saying "no one in that [Catholic] Church speaks for me," Kennedy rejected and denied his Catholic duty to be subject to the Roman Pontiff by listening to and obeying the pope and the Catholic Church above and before any other person or thing. He says that when he rules as President, he will not do so as a Catholic, which is a denial of Christ and his Catholic Church in favor of Judeo-Masons whose cause he served by default. Jesus teaches that

"No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one, and love the other: or he will sustain the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Mt. 6:24)

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." (Mt. 12:30)

⁴ Footnote from book: "The Responsibility of the Press: Address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Washington, D.C., April 21, 1960," in "*Let the Word Go Forth*": *The Speeches, and Writings of John F. Kennedy*, ed. Theodore Sorensen (New York: Delacorte Press, 1988), 126, 128."

"He that shall deny me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven." (Mt. 10:33)

Even though Leo XIII was an apostate antipope, he speaks the truth in this regard. And is so doing, condemns nominal Catholic rulers like President John Kennedy:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, Sapientiae Christianae, 1890: "33. As to those who mean to take part in public affairs, they should avoid with the very utmost care two criminal excesses: so-called prudence and false courage. Some there are, indeed, who maintain that it is not opportune boldly to attack evil-doing in its might and when in the ascendant, lest, as they say, opposition should exasperate minds already hostile. These make it a matter of guesswork as to whether they are for the Church or against her, since on the one hand they give themselves out as professing the Catholic faith, and yet wish that the Church should allow certain opinions, at variance with her teaching, to be spread abroad with impunity. They moan over the loss of faith and the perversion of morals, yet trouble themselves not to bring any remedy; nay, not seldom, even add to the intensity of the mischief through too much forbearance or harmful dissembling. These same individuals would not have any one entertain a doubt as to their good will towards the Holy See; yet they have always a something by way of reproach against the supreme Pontiff... 34. The prudence of men of this cast is of that kind which is termed by the Apostle Paul 'wisdom of the flesh' and 'death' of the soul, 'because it is not subject to the law of God, neither can it be.""

What Catholics must not and must give to Caesar

Catholics living in non-Catholic nations and under non-Catholic rulers must not give Caesar his due in the following things:

- In things that are sinful; that is, in things that are sins against the Catholic faith and morals
- In things that are impossible
- In things that unjustly threaten their lives
- In things a pope or other legitimate authority decrees that Catholics must not give to Caesar, some of which ordinarily can be given to Caesar.

Catholics living in non-Catholic nations and thus under non-Catholic rulers must give Caesar his due in the following things:

Catholics must pay taxes, even if some of the taxes go to sinful things, such as the building and maintenance of pagan temples. For example, Jesus commanded the apostles and his other followers to pay taxes to pagan Rome, even though some of those taxes went to the building and maintenance of pagan temples and other sinful things. (Mt. 22:17-21) However, Catholics must not pay taxes if a legitimate Catholic authority decrees that they must not pay taxes.

• Catholics can join non-Catholic armies and fight in their wars, provided they do not have to do anything sinful and provided a legitimate Catholic authority has not forbid them to do so. The famous Theban Legion was a Catholic Legion in the pagan Roman army that fought valiantly. Many of your martyrs in the early days of the Catholic Church were soldiers in the pagan Roman army. They fought for pagan Rome as long as they were not commanded to do something sinful. Hence, when the army commanded that Catholic soldiers must offer sacrifice to or show reverence to false gods or idols, they refused and were either

martyred, imprisoned, or kicked out of the army. For example, the Catholic soldiers of the Theban Legion were commanded to reverence false gods and idols but refused and thus were martyred.

- If allowed to vote, Catholics must vote for the lesser evil, provided a legitimate Catholic authority has not forbid them to vote.⁵
- Catholics can be rulers and politicians and hold other offices, provided they do not have to do anything sinful and provided a legitimate Catholic authority has forbid them to do so. Think of Joseph in pagan Egypt who was second in authority under Pharao, and of Daniel in pagan Babylon was the top governor.
- Catholics must pledge allegiance to the non-Catholic nations and rulers, provided there is nothing sinful in the pledge.
- Catholics must pray for their non-Catholic rulers.

When living under non-Catholic nations and rulers, Catholics must tolerate evil things but they must not consent to them or respect them. Hence they must tolerate idols, false gods, and sins of immorality but they must never consent to these things or respect them. For example, a Catholic who is present during a meeting of non-Catholic rulers who invoke their false gods must tolerate this and can remain silent, but he must not consent to the false gods or respect them. Think of Joseph when he was at the court of Pharao when Pharao was praised as "god on earth." Joseph remained silent and did not condemn it every time he heard it, but he did not consent to or respect this title.

Must Give God His Due

Must pray and work for the conversion of the people and land

The primary duty Catholics owe to non-Catholics in non-Catholic lands is to pray and work for the conversion of the non-Catholic people, rulers, and land. Jesus commands Catholics to love their enemies: "I say to you, Love your enemies: do good to them that hate you: and pray for them that persecute and calumniate you." (Mt. 5:44) Catholics must always remember that they too were once God's enemies: "Whereas you were some time alienated and enemies in mind in evil works: Yet now he hath reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unspotted, and blameless before him." (Col. 1:21-22) "When as yet we were sinners, according to the time, Christ died for us… When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." (Rom. 5:8-10)

Catholic Commentary, on Rom. 5:6: "*Why did Christ...die for the ungodly*? He shews Christ's great mercy and love for mankind, that he would die for us, who were sinners, and consequently his enemies."

Just as Christ loved Catholics when they were his enemies (that is, before they were baptized and entered the Catholic Church), so too must Catholics love their enemies, under pain of mortal sin. For this love to be true, Catholics must wholeheartedly desire

⁵ See RJMI book On Voting for the Lesser Evil.

the best things for their enemies. And the best thing for any man is the salvation of his immortal soul, without which all other good things will pass away and be replaced by evil and painful things in hell for all eternity. Even though Leo XIII was an apostate, he teaches the truth in this regard:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *Sapientiae Christianae*, 1890: "4. It cannot be doubted that duties more numerous and of greater moment devolve on Catholics than upon such as are either not sufficiently enlightened in relation to the Catholic faith, or who are entirely unacquainted with its doctrines. Considering that forthwith upon salvation being brought out for mankind, Jesus Christ laid upon his Apostles the injunction to 'preach the Gospel to every creature,' he imposed, it is evident, upon all men the duty of learning thoroughly and believing what they were taught. This duty is intimately bound up with the gaining of everlasting salvation: 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be condemned.' ...15. The chief elements of this duty consist in professing openly and unflinchingly the Catholic doctrine, and in propagating it to the utmost of our power."

Therefore, there is no greater work of charity toward non-Catholic people and non-Catholic lands than to pray and work for their conversion. The conversion of a non-Catholic land to a Catholic land gives glory to the Catholic God and makes it easier for Catholics to save their souls and to convert non-Catholics and other non-Catholic lands.

The primary duty, then, that Catholics owe to non-Catholics and non-Catholic lands is to pray for the conversion of the non-Catholic people and lands. However, prayer is not enough. Catholics must also *work* for the conversion of non-Catholics and non-Catholic lands. This work consists of self-mortification, obeying all of God's commandments in order to be a good Catholic and give good example, and doing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. All these works are necessary for Catholics to have a hope of converting non-Catholic people and lands. Without sufficient prayer, Catholics cannot sufficiently do these good works.

Work of mortification

Acts of mortification by Catholics are necessary for their own salvation and to gain grace for the conversion of non-Catholics and non-Catholic lands:

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth." (Col. 3:5)

"I was clothed with haircloth. I humbled my soul with fasting, and my prayer shall be turned into my bosom." (Ps. 34:13)

"I chastise my body and bring it into subjection lest perhaps, when I have preached to others, I myself should become a castaway." (1 Cor. 9:27)

St. Augustine, *Enchiridion*, 421: "Those who govern the Church have rightly appointed times of penitence, that the Church in which the sins are remitted may be satisfied."⁶

Even though Pius XI was an apostate antipope, he tells the truth in this regard. He teaches the great value of Catholics doing penance not only for their own sins but also for the sins of others so that God may have mercy on sinners and sinful nations by converting both:

⁶ c. 65

Apostate Antipope Pius XI, "On the Sacred Heart" (*Caritate Christi Compulsi*), 1932: "25. Penance then is, as it were, a salutary weapon placed in the hands of the valiant soldiers of Christ, who wish to fight for the defense and restoration of the moral order in the universe. It is a weapon that strikes right at the root of all evil, that is at the lust of material wealth and the wanton pleasures of life. By means of voluntary sacrifices, by means of practical and even painful acts of self-denial, by means of various works of penance, the noble-hearted Christian subdues the base passions that tend to make him violate the moral order. But if zeal for the divine law and brotherly love are as great in him as they should be, <u>then not only does he practice penance for himself and his own sins</u>, but he takes upon himself the <u>expiation of the sins of others</u>, imitating the Saints who often heroically made themselves victims of reparation for the sins of others, imitating even the divine Redeemer, who became the Lamb of God 'who taketh away the sins of the world.""

Work at being a good Catholic

Catholics must be good Catholics to be saved and to make easier the conversion of non-Catholic people and non-Catholic lands. By their good example, good Catholics prove to good-willed non-Catholics that what they preach, the Catholic religion, is not empty words or something impossible to attain or something that produces bad fruit. The good fruit produced by good Catholics testifies to the goodness of the Catholic God, Catholic Church, and Catholic religion. Whereas, bad Catholics scandalize the Catholic God, Church, and religion and hence give them a bad name and thus make it harder to convert good-willed non-Catholics. (See my book *How to Be a Good Catholic*: Bad Catholics, if not punished, cause scandal.)

Spiritual works of mercy

Just as the soul is more important than the body, so the spiritual works of mercy are more important than the corporal works of mercy. Man's corrupted body will die, but his soul will live forever. It is the soul that animates the body. Without the soul the body is dead. It is the disposition of the soul upon its separation from the body that determines if a man obtains everlasting life with God or everlasting damnation with Satan: "*It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment.*" (Heb. 9:27) Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman teaches her how much more important is spiritual food than corporal food. He tells her that physical water only temporarily satisfies and sustains the body while spiritual water satisfies and sustains life forever:

"Jesus answered, and said to her: Whosoever drinketh of this water [from Jacob's Well], shall thirst again; but he that shall drink of the water that I will give him, shall not thirst for ever." (Jn. 4:13)

Catholic Commentary, on Jn. 4:13: "*Shall thirst again*. After any water, or any drink, a man naturally thirsts again; but Christ speaks of the spiritual water of grace in this life, and of glory in the next, which will perfectly satisfy the desires of man's immortal soul for ever."

Jesus tells us that only the spiritual water of sanctifying grace gives everlasting life to the soul and at the General Judgment gives the elect an uncorrupted body that will never thirst, hunger, or suffer. Without this spiritual water no man can obtain everlasting life no matter how much physical water he drinks. It is a threefold spiritual work of mercy of converting unbelievers, which consists of admonishing the sinner and instructing the ignorant and counseling the doubtful, that converts a non-Catholic and places him in the way of salvation even if he does not benefit from the corporal works of mercy. Whereas the corporal works of mercy, no matter how many, can never convert a non-Catholic if he does not get the spiritual work of mercy of converting the sinner, which tells him what he must do to be in the way of salvation. An unbeliever does not get the Catholic faith by getting corporal things but by getting spiritual things; that is, the Catholic faith, which "*Faith comes by hearing; and hearing by the word of Christ.*" (Rom. 10:17) Even though Leo XIII was an apostate antipope, he teaches the truth in this regard:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *Satis Cognitum*, 1896: "15. The chief elements of this [Catholic] duty consist in professing openly and unflinchingly the Catholic doctrine, and in propagating it to the utmost of our power. For, as is often said, with the greatest truth, there is nothing so hurtful to Christian wisdom as that it should not be known, since it possesses, when loyally received, inherent power to drive away error. So soon as Catholic truth is apprehended by a simple and unprejudiced soul, reason yields assent. Now, faith, as a virtue, is a great boon of divine grace and goodness; nevertheless, the objects themselves to which faith is to be applied are... known... through the hearing. 'How shall they believe him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? Faith then cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.' Since, then, faith is necessary for salvation, it follows that the word of Christ must be preached."

Therefore, if a non-Catholic does not hear from a Catholic what he needs to be saved, either by word or in writing, he has no hope of attaining everlasting salvation:

Athanasian Creed, 361: "Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all, keep the Catholic faith: for unless a person keeps this faith whole and entire he will undoubtedly be lost forever... This is the Catholic faith: everyone must believe it, firmly and steadfastly, otherwise he cannot be saved." (D. 39-40)

This following example proves how much more important are the spiritual works of mercy than the corporal works of mercy. A Catholic comes across a non-Catholic man who is dying from thirst. The Catholic has just enough water to baptize the dying man if he converts but not enough water to quench his thirst. And the Catholic has to go a great distance to get enough water to quench the thirst of the dying man. Fearing that the non-Catholic may die before he gets him enough water and hence be damned to hell, the Catholic first gives the non-Catholic man the spiritual act of mercy of converting the unbeliever by telling him what he needs to save his soul. To do this, the Catholic must admonish the sinner by telling this non-Catholic that he is an unbeliever and hence on the road to hell. And the Catholic must also instruct the ignorant by telling this man what he must do to have a hope to be saved, which is convert to the Catholic faith and enter the Catholic Church:

Pope St. Gregory the Great, *Moralia*, 591: "The holy Catholic Church universal proclaims that God cannot be truly worshipped saving within herself, asserting that all they that are without her shall never be saved."⁷

If this non-Catholic man wants to convert and is not baptized, then the Catholic must baptize him with the little water he has. In this way the Catholic gave this non-Catholic man the spiritual water of sanctifying grace by water baptism that he needed for

⁷ v. 2, b. 14, s. 5.

everlasting life so that if he died right after the baptism for want of physical water to quench his thirst, he would go straight to heaven.

Let us take another example. A non-Catholic is dying from hunger and thirst and a so-called Catholic missionary gives him all the physical food and water he needs but never gives him spiritual food and water, which is the spiritual work of mercy of converting unbelievers. Now while this so-called Catholic has filled the non-Catholic's belly and quenched his physical thirst, the non-Catholic's soul remains dead—it remains in a state of damnation! No matter how much physical food and water a so-called Catholic missionary gives to non-Catholics, their souls remain dead with no hope to be saved unless they get the spiritual work of mercy of converting unbelievers. This socalled Catholic missionary does not have true charity because he is not concerned about the salvation of non-Catholics. Saint Paul speaks of this false charity and condemns it: "And if I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor...and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." (1 Cor. 13:3) True charity, then, does not simply consist of feeding the poor or of any other corporal work of mercy. The root of true charity is the love of the true God above all else, which includes the desire above all else to be with him forever. Without this charity, there can be no true charity. Hence a Catholic who has true charity seeks above all else to give unbelievers faith in and love of the true God so that they can save their souls instead of being damned to hell. Therefore, if a so-called Catholic distributes all his goods to feed poor unbelievers but does not also give them the spiritual work of mercy of converting unbelievers, then he does not have true charity; instead, he actually hates God and these poor unbelievers by withholding from them the things they need to know to be saved.⁸

In all this we see how much more necessary is the spiritual work of mercy of converting sinners than the corporal works of mercy. Without the spiritual work of mercy of converting sinners, sinners cannot be saved no matter how many corporal works of mercy a Catholic gives them and no matter how many of the other spiritual works of mercy a Catholic does for them. A Catholic can pray and do penance for the conversion of an unbeliever until "kingdom come" but unless some Catholic tells the unbeliever, either by word or in writing, what he needs to be saved, he cannot be saved. A Catholic can feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, ransom the captive, give shelter to the homeless, visit the sick, bury the dead, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, and pray for the living and the dead; but if he does not also give the spiritual work of mercy of converting sinners, then he has no true charity and all these apparent good things are empty and false. The goal of all these good things is to get sinners to repent and convert, without which they cannot be saved. To deprive sinners of the primary work of attempting to convert them is to deprive them of everlasting life. Faith cometh by hearing!

Corporal works of mercy

Even though the corporal works of mercy are not as important as the spiritual acts of mercy, the corporal works of mercy do help convert non-Catholics by the good example

⁸ This so-called Catholic missionary would also be suspect of denying the Salvation Dogma. He would need to be questioned to see if he believes in the heresy that men who die worshipping false gods or practicing false religions can be saved. If he does believe in this heresy, then he is a heretic who has been automatically excommunicated from the Catholic Church and hence is not Catholic no matter how much he thinks he is Catholic. (See RJMI book *The Salvation Dogma and Related Topics.*)

of Catholics who prove their goodness and their love for non-Catholics by these works. In many cases it is the *doing* of the corporal works of mercy that gets the attention of non-Catholics so that they would be attentive to the spiritual act of mercy of converting the sinner when the Catholic tells them what they must do to be saved. In this case the corporal works of mercy pave the road for the spiritual work of mercy of converting sinners, which is the ultimate goal.

In certain cases the corporal works of mercy are necessary for converting non-Catholics because by not doing these works when a Catholic should, he scandalizes non-Catholics and causes them to not want to hear about the Catholic faith or to turn away from it after being told, even if they may have an inclination to believe it. These non-Catholics would get a bad impression about Catholics and hence about the Catholic Church and faith. Non-Catholics would look upon Catholics as hypocrites who do not practice what they preach or, even worse, as preaching something that is impossible to do. In this case even if a non-Catholic has been given the spiritual act of mercy of converting the sinner and accepts the evidence so as to believe he must become Catholic, he would be greatly tempted to not become Catholic because of the bad example of bad Catholics who do not do the corporal works of mercy when they should or who are obstinately immoral. (See my book *How to Be a Good Catholic*: Bad Catholics, if not punished, cause scandal: Scandalize non-Catholics.)

Must fight against blasphemy and immorality

Catholics must do whatever is within their means to eradicate blasphemy or immorality in their private life, as well as in the public. This applies to Catholics who live in Catholic lands as well as in non-Catholic lands. Catholics have no excuse for allowing blasphemy, heresy, or immorality to enter their souls, homes, and neighborhoods. God promises always to give good Catholics all the help they need to protect the areas in which they live from blasphemy, heresy, and immorality:

"If thou wilt hear the voice of the Lord thy God, and do what is right before him, and obey his commandments, and keep all his precepts, none of the evils...will I bring upon thee: for I am the Lord thy healer." (Ex. 15:26) "If you walk in my precepts, and keep my commandments, and do them... I will give peace in your coasts: you shall sleep, and there shall be none to make you afraid. I will take away evil beasts: and the sword shall not pass through your quarters." (Lev. 26:3-6)

However, God does not promise to protect areas where non-Catholics or bad Catholics live from blasphemy, heresy, and immorality. Even though Catholics who live in a non-Catholic nation may not be able to eradicate blasphemy or immorality in the areas in which they do not live, they must nevertheless do whatever they justly can to oppose and eradicate it. If unsuccessful, Catholics must tolerate it while continuing to fight against it. Even if Catholics' good efforts fail to eliminate blasphemy or immorality in the areas of the non-Catholic nation in which they do not live, their efforts may mitigate it; and, most importantly, their efforts will definitely prevent it from entering their homes and Catholic neighborhoods. If Catholics inadequately fight it, then God will allow the blasphemy or immorality to enter their very homes and Catholic neighborhoods. Catholics, then, should look upon their fight to eradicate blasphemy or immorality in a non-Catholic nation as having a degree of success if their fight stems its tide in the non-Catholic areas. And even if it does not and Catholics have done their best to fight against it, then they are still successful in the eyes of God for doing all they could, and God will prevent it from entering their homes and neighborhoods.

After all, Jesus and his disciples tell us that the world is predominantly evil: "The world... I give testimony of it, that the works thereof are evil." (Jn. 7:7) "The whole world is seated in wickedness." (1 Jn. 5:19) Hence Catholics will find themselves many times being oppressed, persecuted, and martyred by the evil world and its evil ways, just as Jesus himself was oppressed, persecuted, and martyred: "If you had been of the world, the world would love its own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember my word that I said to you: The servant is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you: if they have kept my word, they will keep yours also." (Jn. 15:18-19) "And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12) Catholics find themselves oppressed, persecuted, and martyred, just as Jesus was, when they do their duty to fight against blasphemy and immorality. This duty consists of condemning all sins and denouncing the sinners who commit them. And if the sinners are not Catholic, this duty also consists of condemning their false gods and false religions, as well as their other sins, and teaching them about the one true God, the Catholic God, and the one true religion, the Catholic religion. This Catholic duty is what brings persecution upon Catholics! If enough Catholics do their Catholic duty in this regard, they will mitigate blasphemy and immorality and eventually convert the masses and gain control of the land. It took three hundred years of good Catholics doing this duty to convert many pagan Romans and hence eventually convert pagan nations to Catholic nations and the pagan Roman Empire to the Holy Roman Catholic Empire.

Must fight by making reparation by prayer, sacrifice, protest, and boycott

The Catholic fight against public blasphemy or public immorality consists in making reparation to God by prayers and sacrifices and by protests and boycotts against its purveyors and defenders. Catholics are obliged to fight in this way against public acts of blasphemy and immorality in the non-Catholic nations in which they live. If Catholics do not do this duty when they must or do it poorly, they commit sin. If they do this Catholic duty correctly and do not succeed, God will still bless and protect them. He will protect them by not letting the public blasphemy and immorality enter their Catholic neighborhoods and homes.

Must fight to death to prevent its entering Catholic neighborhoods and homes

If the non-Catholic State or bad Catholics attempt to introduce blasphemy or immorality into Catholic neighborhoods and homes, then Catholics must fight unto death to prevent it:

"Now therefore, O my sons, be ye zealous for the law, and <u>give your lives for the</u> <u>covenant</u> of your fathers. And call to remembrance the works of the fathers, which they have done in their generations: and you shall receive great glory, and an everlasting name." (1 Mac. 2:50-51)

Even though Leo XIII was an apostate antipope, he tells the truth in this regard:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *Sapientiae Christianae*, 1890: "13. Under such evil circumstances therefore, each one is bound in conscience to watch over himself,

taking all means possible to preserve the faith inviolate in the depths of his soul, avoiding all risks, and arming himself on all occasions, especially against the various specious sophisms rife among non-believers... 7. ...<u>The Catholic...is</u> mindful of his duty...to suffer all things, even death itself, rather than abandon the cause of God or of the Church."

Apostate Antipope Leo XII, *Charitate Christi*, 1825: "15. Strive to cleanse the faithful from the evil destruction that has overtaken Christian education. Strive with all your ability to saturate youth with Catholic customs and rules of life, demanding this of them, of their parents, and of their teachers. Especially however, see that they are on their guard against seduction, so that they may shudder at the evil opinions propagated by these miserable times and at the books inimical to religion, morals, and public peace, from which this foul crop of wickedness has grown. <u>May it be kept as a pest, far from the faithful people</u>."

If Catholics do their duty by fighting unto death to prevent blasphemy or immorality from entering their neighborhoods and homes, Catholics will never lose the battle. They will succeed either by preventing it from entering or by being martyred or imprisoned. In this way, the Catholic neighborhood will either remain Catholic and pure or cease to exist—and better that it should not exist than exist with public blasphemy and public immorality.

The reason Catholics must fight unto death to prevent public blasphemy or immorality from entering Catholic neighborhoods and homes is because one mortal sin places a Catholic on the road to hell:

"And whosoever shall keep the whole law, but offend in one point, is become guilty of all." (Jam. 2:10)

Catholic Commentary, on James 2:10: "Guilty of all... That is, he becomes a transgressor of the law in such a manner, that the observing of all other points will not avail him to salvation; for he despises the lawgiver, and breaks through the great and general commandment of charity, even by one mortal sin. For all the precepts of the law are to be considered as one total and entire law, and as it were a chain of precepts, where, by breaking one link of this chain, the whole chain is broken, or the integrity of the law consisting of a collection of precepts. A sinner, therefore, by a grievous offence against any one precept, incurs everlasting punishment."

Even though the Catechism of Trent contains several heresies, it teaches the truth in this regard:

Invalid and heretical *Catechism of Trent*, 16th century: "For whoever offends God, even by one mortal sin, instantly forfeits whatever merits he may have previously acquired through the sufferings and death of Christ, and is entirely shut out from the gate of heaven."⁹

A Catholic who dies with the guilt of one mortal sin will be damned to hell. If a Catholic wants to be saved, he must be willing to die rather than commit one mortal sin:

"If any man will follow me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel, shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his soul?" (Mk. 8:34-36)

Physical death is to be preferred over spiritual death, which is caused by one mortal sin. The very presence of public sins in a Catholic neighborhood means that many

⁹ Pt. I: Art. X (The Forgiveness of Sins): Greatness of this power: The great evil from which forgiveness delivers man.

Catholics living in that neighborhood are committing these sins or sinning by omission for allowing these sins to exist by not properly fighting against them. And the very presence of public sins is a near occasion of sin to all in the neighborhood, and hence these sins will spread throughout the Catholic neighborhood like a plague:

"Know you not that a little leaven corrupteth the whole lump?" (1 Cor. 5:6)

"Bear not the yoke with unbelievers. For what participation hath justice with injustice? Or what fellowship hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath the faithful with the unbeliever? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God... Wherefore, Go out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." (2 Cor. 6:14-17)

Therefore, good Catholics do not tolerate public acts of blasphemy and immorality in the areas in which they live. Good Catholics may not be able to stop public immorality or blasphemy in non-Catholic lands in the areas in which they do not live, but they certainly can succeed in the areas in which they do live, or die trying. And in this case die as martyrs they must if they want to save their souls. For God does not will that good Catholics be subjected to public acts of immorality or blasphemy in the immediate realm in which they live. If Catholics allow these things to exist in Catholic neighborhoods, they commit mortal sin, cause their Catholic children and others to fall into mortal sin, and plunge the Catholic community into mortal sin; hence they place the whole community under a curse and its members on the road to hell. And they give the Catholic God, Church, and religion a bad name and scandalize non-Catholics. (See my book How to be a Good Catholic: Bad Catholics, if not punished, cause scandal.)

It is important to remember that to prevent public blasphemy or immorality from entering Catholic neighborhoods and homes, the battle must also be fought in the areas of the non-Catholic nation in which Catholics do not live. In a word, this battle consists of Catholics doing all they can to evangelize these non-Catholic areas, as this is Christ's very first apostolic mandate:

"Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." (Mt. 28:19-20)

The main purpose of Christ's death on the cross and his Catholic Church is to offer salvation to all men; thus when the situation presents itself, Catholics are obliged to preach the Catholic faith to non-Catholics in an attempt to convert them into the Catholic Church so that they can have a hope to attain everlasting salvation, for to be saved men need supernatural faith and this *"faith cometh by hearing; and by hearing the word of Christ."* (Rom. 10:17) Therefore Catholics living in non-Catholic nations are duty bound to work for the conversion of the non-Catholic people and the non-Catholic nation. If Catholics do not fight this battle by doing all they can to evangelize the non-Catholic areas of the non-Catholic nation in which they live, then God will allow their very neighborhoods and homes to become infected with blasphemy, heresy, and immorality. Christ said that the Catholic who hides the talent given him, by not doing all he can to evangelize when he should, will lose not only the talent (the commission and ability to evangelize) but also whatever else he seems to have; namely, the Catholic faith:

"I went and hid thy talent... And his lord answering, said to him: Wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sow not, and gather where I have not strewed... Take ye away therefore the talent from him, and give it to him that hath ten talents. For to every one that hath shall be given, and he shall abound: but from him that hath not, that also which he seemeth to have shall be taken away. And the unprofitable servant cast ye out into the exterior darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Mt. 25:25-30)

Therefore, the Catholic who does not evangelize when he should shall lose the Catholic faith even if he thinks he has it and shall be cast into the exterior darkness; that is, on the road to hell. As a result, he falls under the Romans One Curse of obstinate immorality:

"And as they liked not to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them up to a reprobate sense, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all iniquity, malice, fornication, avarice, wickedness, full of envy, murder, contention, deceit, malignity, whisperers, detractors, hateful to God, contumelious, proud, haughty, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, foolish, dissolute, without affection, without fidelity, without mercy. Who, having known the justice of God, did not understand that they who do such things, are worthy of death; and not only they that do them, but they also that consent to them that do them." (Rom. 1:28-32)

And as a result, bad and nominal Catholics will never have true peace because "there is no peace to the wicked, saith the Lord God." (Isa. 57:21)

Unbelievers are more zealous than so-called Catholics

The sad fact is that since the onset of the Great Apostasy, which started many years before the apostate Second Vatican Council, almost all so-called Catholics have been bad Catholics or nominal Catholics. They have no true zeal in defending the one true God, the Catholic God, and the one true faith, the Catholic faith. I will shame so-called Catholics with the zeal that certain self-professed non-Catholics have for their false gods and false religions and then compare it to the weak or non-existent zeal of so-called Catholics and then teach what good Catholics are duty bound to do.

Jesus teaches that unbelievers and other sinners, whom he refers to as the children of the world, have more zeal for their sinful beliefs and sinful ways than his own people have for the true faith and holy ways:

"For the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light." (Lk. 16:8)

Catholic Commentary, on Lk. 16:8: "*Children of this world*, &c. are more prudent and circumspect as to what regards their temporal concerns, than they who profess themselves servants of God, are about the concerns of eternity. –*Commended the unjust steward*. …*In their generation;* i.e. in their concerns of this life. They [the children of the world] apply themselves with greater care and pains, in their temporal affairs, than the *children of light*, whom God has favoured with the light of faith, do to gain heaven."

Let us observe the zeal of certain unbelievers in defending their false gods and false religions when they are attacked.

Apostate Jewish zeal

Let us briefly observe the zeal of apostate Jews when anyone attacks their false Christ-denying god, their false religion of Talmudic Judaism, and their plots to bring the Antichrist to power. If anyone dare denounce just one Talmudic or Zionist Jew as evil either because of his evil beliefs or immoral ways, the apostate Jews zealously attack him and denounce him as an anti-Semite. Hence they change the focus from just denunciations against them because of their evil beliefs and evil ways to false denunciations of racism against their accusers. Instead of telling the truth that their accuser is denouncing them as evil because of their evil beliefs and evil ways and not because he hates the Jewish race, these Jews lie by portraying the accuser as a racist, as hating Jews because of their race. To make their lie seem more viable, the apostate Jews will publicly expose a real anti-Semite to make the public think that anyone who denounces apostate Jews, no matter how just the denunciation is, is also an anti-Semite. These apostate Jews then proceed to do all in their power to murder their accusers; and if that is not possible, to imprison or exile them; and if that is not possible, to cause them to lose their reputation, jobs, homes, and other possessions.

We see, then, that apostate Jews have a real, persevering, and effective zeal in defending and promulgating their false god and false religion. Hence their protests, boycotts, and other attacks are effective and prove that they are convicted in their beliefs and ways, evil as they are. Added to their real zeal is their almost complete control of the world and its Press organs, which makes their defence and attacks succeed almost every time. (See RJMI books *The Jews* and *Woe to You Who Call Evil Good!* and *Sin, Guilt, and the Passion of Christ* and *The Persecution of Rick Gonzalez.*)

Moslem zeal

Let us observe Moslem zeal when their religion is attacked. In September 2006 the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* published pictures that attacked the false religion of Islam by attacking its false prophet Mohammed. This one act ignited a zealous worldwide protest by Moslems. This protest consisted of all the necessary things to make a protest effective and to prove that the protestors are convicted in their beliefs, false as they are:

"Cartoon bans hit Danish firms," (CNN): "A boycott of Danish goods called by Muslim leaders over the publishing of cartoons of Prophet Mohammad is dealing a blow to the nation's businesses. Oil giant Iran became the latest nation to impose penalties, saying on Monday it would cut off all trade ties with Denmark. Reuters reported that Iran imports \$280 million worth of goods from Denmark a year. ...Iran has withdrawn its ambassador to Denmark as well. Qatar's Chamber of Commerce said it had halted dealings with Danish and Norwegian delegations, while in Bahrain, parliament formed a committee to contact Arab and Islamic governments to enforce the boycott. Iraq's transport ministry also said it was severing ties with the Danish and Norwegian governments, a move that includes terminating all contracts with companies based in those countries. The cartoons of Mohammed first appeared in a Danish paper Jyllands-Posten in September. ...Islam forbids depictions of Mohammed and many Muslims were furious at the drawings, one of which shows the religious figure wearing a turban shaped like a bomb...

"Deadly outrage: But tens of thousands of Muslims around the world continue to stage protests—some resulting in deaths—over the cartoons. Two protesters were killed and 13 others injured, when Afghan police fired Monday on about 2,000 protesters who tried to enter Bagram Airbase, a U.S. base north of Kabul, The
Associated Press reported. In the Afghan city of Mihtarlam, two protesters were killed and three others injured when police fired on a crowd after a man fired shots and others threw stones and knives, according to the AP. In the east African nation of Somalia, a stampede during a protest killed a teenager, AP reported. In Tehran, demonstrators protested outside the Danish Consulate and the Austrian Embassy. Austria is currently serving as president of the European Union. Other protests Monday took place in Amman, Tel Aviv, Gaza, Indian-controlled Kashmir, the Indian capital of New Delhi and Kut, a city in southern Iraq where about 5,000 people congregated, burned flags and burned an effigy of the Danish prime minister.

"Meanwhile in Paris, France Soir—a newspaper that published the cartoons of Mohammed—was evacuated for nearly three hours Monday after receiving a bomb threat. Amid the violence, non-Danish companies have rushed in to tell consumers about the origin of their products in a bid to keep them on supermarket shelves. Switzerland's Nestle, Italy's Ferrero and New Zealand's dairy co-operative Fonterra were among the companies putting out newspaper ads showing their products were not made or imported from Denmark, according to Reuters. Danish-Swedish dairy company Arla Foods told Reuters it was losing \$1.8 million of sales a day in the Middle East. Its products were removed from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. 'Not a single sachet of a Danish product is left on our shelves,' the director of a Kuwaiti supermarket told Reuters."

"Muslim protests over cartoons spread," (CNN): JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNN): "Muslims demonstrated Friday outside the Danish Embassy to protest caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed originally published in a Danish newspaper, Danish Ambassador Neils Erik Andersen told CNN. ... The issue emerged last fall, when the illustrator of a Danish book on the life of Mohammed demanded to remain anonymous, since the cover depicted the prophet. Outrage has spread widely in the Muslim world, with Morocco and Tunisia confiscating copies of France Soir. Demonstrations were slated to be held Friday outside the Danish Embassy in London. On Thursday, Palestinian gunmen shut down the European Union's office in Gaza City, demanding an apology for the cartoons' publication in Europe. Masked members of the militant groups Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinians' former ruling party, Fatah, fired bullets into the air, and a man read the group's demands. ...Some supermarkets in Jordan pulled Danish butter and dairy products from their shelves, and several firms in Jordan with foreign-sounding names bought newspaper ads declaring they aren't Danish."

This is the zeal our Lord said that unbelievers and other sinners have in defending and maintaining their false gods, false religions, and other sinful ways, which shames socalled Catholics who have no zeal for the true God, true religion, and the holy way.

And what was the result of this worldwide protest by Moslems? The world community was shocked and afraid that the Moslems would resort to more boycotts and violence around the world unless apologies were made because of this one attack against Islam. As a result of the Moslems' zeal, the "offenders" made public apologies and people around the world denounced the attack against Islam and its founder and instituted measures to stop any further attacks against Islam and Mohammed:

"Cartoon bans hit Danish firms," (CNN): "The Danish paper issued an apology in late January after weeks of quieter expressions of outrage and diplomatic efforts to avoid the widespread violence. The Danish government says it does not control what is in the country's newspapers and that courts will determine whether the newspaper that originally published the cartoons is guilty of blasphemy. The government has also expressed apologies for the offending drawings. ...CNN has chosen to not show the cartoons out of respect for Islam." "Muslim protests over cartoons spread," (CNN): JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNN): "During the meeting, Andersen reiterated an apology made earlier by Jyllands-Posten, the Danish newspaper, whose publication last September of the caricature offended some Muslims. ...He apologized for the publication of the cartoons, saying the newspaper did not mean to offend Muslims... CNN has chosen to not show the cartoons out of respect for Islam."

Weak or non-existent zeal of so-called Catholics

Now how could Catholics, who are the only ones who serve the one true God and profess the one true religion, expect any lesser result if they did the same as the apostate Jews and Moslems by protesting with equal zeal! Yet the lack of any effective protest on the part of so-called Catholics when the Catholic religion is attacked only proves that they are either bad Catholics or nominal Catholics. And this lack of true, unrelenting zeal puts no obstacle in front of those who publicly attack the Catholic religion and actually encourages more and worse attacks against the Catholic religion. Even though Leo XIII was an apostate antipope, he teaches the truth in this regard:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, Satis Cognitum, 1896: "14. ... When necessity compels... Each one [Catholic] is under obligation to show forth his faith, either to instruct and encourage others of the faithful, or to repel the attacks of unbelievers. ...15. The chief elements of this duty consist in professing openly and unflinchingly the Catholic doctrine, and in propagating it to the utmost of our power. ...14. ...To recoil before an enemy, or to keep silence when from all sides such clamors are raised against truth, is the part of a man either devoid of character or who entertains doubt as to the truth of what he professes to believe. In both cases such mode of behaving is base and is insulting to God, and both are incompatible with the salvation of mankind. This kind of conduct is profitable only to the enemies of the faith, for nothing emboldens the wicked so greatly as the lack of courage on the part of the good. Moreover, want of vigor on the part of Catholics is so much the more blameworthy, as not seldom little would be needed on their part to bring to naught false charges and refute erroneous opinions, and by always exerting themselves more strenuously they might reckon upon being successful. After all, no one can be prevented from putting forth that strength of soul which is the characteristic of true Christians, and very frequently by such display of courage our enemies lose heart and their designs are thwarted. Christians are, moreover, born for combat, whereof the greater the vehemence, the more assured, God aiding, the triumph: 'Have confidence; I have overcome the world.""

Observe the success of the Moslem protest in placing obstacles in the way of the world press and others to prevent repeated and expanded attacks against Islam. CNN was afraid to print the offending pictures because they knew that Moslems worldwide would boycott, protest, and sue CNN. Yet look how readily the world press publicly blasphemes Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and dogmas of the Catholic religion. For instance, the week before Christmas, in the years 2005 and 2006, CBS broadcasted "The Mystery of Christmas" that presented as possible the blasphemy that Mary was a whore and hence Jesus Christ was a bastard and not God. It also presented as possible the blasphemy that Joseph was Jesus' biological father and hence Jesus is not God. (See my book *End Time Signs*: CBS's Blasphemous "Mystery of Christmas.") And in response to Mel Gibson's good movie *The Passion of the Christ*, the world press attacked the gospels and their authors (St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John) by presenting blasphemous opinions from apostate Jews and others that the gospels contain lies and hence their

authors are liars. (See RJMI book *Sin, Guilt, and the Passion of Christ*: What Bible are the modern "scholars" reading?)

Now I ask you, dear reader, how do these attacks against the Catholic religion compare to the one attack against the false religion of Islam in which the "offending" pictures of the false prophet Mohammed are mild compared to the true blasphemy against Christ, Mary, and the gospels? Yet where is the true zeal of so-called Catholics in fighting against such attacks against the one true God, his mother Mary, and the gospels? How does it compare to the zeal the Moslems have in defending their false god and false religion? Can you not hear Jesus say, "*The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light.*" (Lk. 16:8)

Previous to these more recent blasphemous attacks against the Catholic religion, there were many more attacks unopposed by any effective and truly zealous counterattacks by so-called Catholics. For instance, works of modern art blaspheming Jesus and Mary have been publicly displayed in art museums. In 1989 a cross with the figure of Jesus on it (a crucifix) was submerged in a bottle of urine and publicly displayed in art museums:

Wikipedia: "*P**** *Christ* is a controversial photograph by American photographer Andres Serrano. It depicts a small plastic crucifix supporting the body of Jesus Christ submerged in a glass of the artist's urine. Some have suggested that the glass may also contain the artist's blood. The piece was a winner of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art's 'Awards in the Visual Arts' competition, which is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a United States Government agency that offers support and funding for artistic projects. The piece caused a scandal when it was exhibited in 1989, with detractors accusing Serrano of blasphemy and others raising this as a major issue of artistic freedom."

In a New York museum, a painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary was displayed that was painted with cow dung and pornographic pictures. Although the then mayor Giuliani took proper measures to boycott the purveyors of this type of blasphemous art by trying to withdraw public funding of it, the overall protest against this blasphemy was nonexistent:

"Hillary steps into dung art row," Tuesday, 28, September, 1999, 15:45 GMT 16:45 UK: "Turner Prize winner Chris Ofili's painting the Holy Virgin Mary is becoming a political hot potato in New York - with Hillary Clinton attacking mayor Rudolph Giuliani's threat to withdraw funding from the gallery exhibiting it. Mr Guiliani has threatened to withdraw the Brooklyn Museum of Art's annual \$7m grant from the city over the Sensation exhibition, which has already appeared in London and Berlin. He took particular offence to Mr Ofili's The Holy Virgin Mary, which depicts Mary with dark skin, African features and flowing robes. It also features elephant dung and cut-outs from pornographic magazines.

"Now Mrs Clinton - who, like Mr Giuliani, is widely expected to stand for the US Senate in New York - has defended the museum. ...Mr Giuliani - who is Roman Catholic - hit back, accusing Bill Clinton's wife of supporting the use of public money 'to attack and bash the Catholic religion'."

"The Virgin Mary in Brooklyn," a review of the Brooklyn Art Museum's controversial Sensation, Deidra Silva: "The controversy surrounding Sensation - a collection of stark works by black artists from London - began in Europe more than two years ago and was refreshed when New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani tried to shut down the exhibit because of its affront to Catholicism... At the crux of the political and religious struggle is Chris Ofili's Holy Virgin Mary... In a

description of the piece, Ofili (who considers himself a Roman Catholic) is quoted as saying that the painting is 'a hip-hop version' ...Indeed, rather than mimicking the dark, muted tones that are reminiscent of a typical Ruben-esque painting of the Virgin Mary, Ofili created an 8-foot African Virgin Mary wearing a sequin-adorned blue day-glow gown against a bright orange and yellow background. Her exposed right breast is a smooth ball of elephant dung - about the size of a grapefruit, decorated with concentric circles of sequins and showing bits of grass that the cow had consumed. Fluttering around her are not the wings of angels but by what appears to be magazine cutouts of buttocks...

"Lured by controversy or genuine interest, the unpretentious crowd arrived pushing baby strollers and towing toddlers. They donned college sweatshirts and wore New York Yankee baseball hats. Young and old, they came in droves to Brooklyn - more than an hour's drive and several lifestyles away from the hubbub of Manhattan's Upper West Side. At the crux of the political and religious struggle is Chris Ofili's Holy Virgin Mary. Situated behind Plexiglas to protect it from assault, the spectacle of 'Sensation' drew an assortment of remarks from the crowd but no gasps. The controversy fell flat on its face with this Friday afternoon crowd. 'What's the big deal?' 'Is that it?' The most critical comment came from an 8-year-old after his mom pointed out the elephant 'doo-doo' on the picture. 'Yuck,' was all he could muster up...

"Most came as a response to the Holy Virgin Mary controversy stirred up by Giuliani and, though they were not disappointed with the shocking content of the exhibit, the <u>lack of outrage of the crowd did little to help the mayor's cause. For</u> instance, there was nobody passing out protest flyers in front of the museum and, according to BMA security, there had been no attacks on any art in the exhibit."

Now how does that compare to the worldwide Moslem protest when their false prophet Mohammed was attacked? How does that compare to the apostate Jews' very zealous and persistent protests when their false Christ-denying god or false religion of Talmudic Judaism or false claim to Israel or phony Holocaust or any other of their evil beliefs and ways are attacked? Weak and ineffective protests by so-called Catholics prove that they do not really care about blasphemy against Jesus, Mary, the saints, and the Catholic religion, no matter how much they may verbally speak out against it—that is, if they speak out against it at all! Weak protests undermine any boycott efforts or other measures to stop the public blasphemy. If the majority of so-called Catholics do not care enough to vehemently protest against blasphemy, then why should the offenders and the non-Catholic governmental leaders be concerned enough to do something about it!

A California museum displayed a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a sewer pipe going through her womb:

"Unveiling the Sacred in Contemporary Art," February 24, 2001: "Robert Gober's 1997 installation at the Geffen Contemporary of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles received much less national notoriety than either Serrano's 'P*** Christ' or Ofili's 'Holy Virgin Mary,' but was even more controversial. At the center of the installation was a life-size statue of the Virgin Mary. Her stomach and womb pierced by a large culvert [sewer] pipe... She stood over a sewer gate."¹⁰

The lying blasphemer Dan Brown and his blasphemous book *Da Vinci Code*, published by Doubleday, 2003, teaches that Jesus is not God, that he survived the crucifixion by deceit and trickery and hence did not die and rise again, that he and Mary Magdalene were married and had children, that the gospels are full of lies, that the

¹⁰ Richard D. Hecht and Linda Ekstrom, Departments of Religious Studies and Studio Art, University of California, Santa Barbara, Cultural Turn III, "The Profane and the Sacred," University of California, Santa Barbara, 24 February, 2001.

Catholic Church invented the early doctrines of Christianity to control the masses, and that the Catholic Church conspires to hide the truth. And Hollywood turned this book into a movie to further indoctrinate the world with these blasphemies against God and his Catholic Church and religion:

Culture Wars, "Voices From The Underground," review of the Da Vinci Code by Anne Barbeau Gardiner: "What he has placed on the inside, under the wrappers, is an indoctrination into Gnosticism. The reader is intended to swallow the Gnostic poison while enjoying the murder mystery. The reader is also meant to imbibe many lies about Christian history which appear as factual declarations in the mouths of two well-educated characters who reinforce each other. Outrageous lies are given as indubitable facts - for example, ... that the Crusades were launched to destroy information about Mary Magdalene's having been the wife of Jesus (125, 232, 254). We are told in dogmatic tones that Original Sin was an idea devised to counter the 'sacred feminine' and that Christians regarded Jesus Christ as a mere mortal until 'the great deception' of his divinity was imposed by Constantine on the Nicene Council (238, 295). All this would be laughable, were it not meant to entrap young and uneducated readers. The author pretends to be on the side of the true Jesus and presents him as 'the original feminist' who 'intended for the future of his Church to be in the hands of Mary Magdalene,' but Peter foiled his plan. (248). Everything from Genesis to the modern Church is presented in this book as a struggle against the only religion that really counts for Brown - goddess-worship, which turns out in the end to be Magdalene worship. ... He shows the Bible as a web of lies, too, for he quotes Da Vinci saying, 'Many have made a trade of delusions and false miracles, deceiving the stupid multitude,' and adds that this is in reference to the Bible (231)."

And there are many, many other blasphemous books and movies that attack the Catholic God, Church, and religion. There are no worse sins than these, yet where is the Catholic zeal that opposes these heinous and abominable crimes:

"Let us pass on to the second gate of hell, which is blasphemy. ...Know, my brethren, what manner of sin blasphemy is. A certain author says: 'Every sin, compared with blasphemy, is light;' and first of all there is nothing worse than blasphemy. ...Blasphemy is a diabolical sin, because the blasphemer, like a demon, attacks God himself.... We read in the preface of the Pragmatic Sanction in France, that King Robert when praying for the peace of the kingdom, was answered by the crucifix that the kingdom never should have had peace if he had not eradicated blasphemy. The Lord threatens to destroy the kingdom in which this accursed vice reigns. They have blasphemed the Holy One of Israel, ... your land is desolate ... it shall be desolate. Oh, if there were always found some one to do what John Chrysostom advises: 'Strike his mouth, and sanctify thereby thy hand.' The mouth of the accursed blasphemer should be struck, and he should then be stoned, as the old law commanded: And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, dying let him die: all the multitude shall stone him. But it would be better if that were done which Louis, King of France, put in force: he commanded by edict that every blasphemer should be branded on the mouth with an iron. A certain nobleman having blasphemed, many persons besought the king not to inflict that punishment upon him; but Louis insisted upon its infliction in every instance; and some taxing him with excessive cruelty on that account, he replied that he would suffer his own mouth to be burned sooner than allow such an outrage to be put upon God in his kingdom."

Even though Leo XIII was an apostate antipope, he rightly warned that in 1890 these unopposed blasphemies were at a critical stage because so-called Catholics no longer had the faith and zeal of their faithful forefathers in fighting against these blasphemies: Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, Sapientiae Christianae, 1890: "3. As to what We have called the goods of the soul, which consist chiefly in the practice of the true religion and in the unswerving observance of the Christian precepts. We see them daily losing esteem among men, either by reason of forgetfulness or disregard, in such wise that all that is gained for the well-being of the body seems to be lost for that of the soul. A striking proof of the lessening and weakening of the Christian faith is seen in the insults too often done to the Catholic Church, openly and publiclyinsults, indeed, which an age cherishing religion would not have tolerated. For these reasons, an incredible multitude of men is in danger of not achieving salvation; and even nations and empires themselves cannot long remain unharmed, since, when Christian institutions and morality decline, the main foundation of human society goes together with them. ... The very times in which we live are warning us to seek remedies there where alone they are to be found-namely, by reestablishing in the family circle and throughout the whole range of society the doctrines and practices of the Christian religion. In this lies the sole means of freeing us from the ills now weighing us down, of forestalling the dangers now threatening the world.

"34. ...For the enemies of the Church have for their object—and they hesitate not to proclaim it, and many among them boast of it—to destroy outright, if possible, the Catholic religion, which is alone the true religion. With such a purpose in hand they shrink from nothing, for they <u>are fully conscious that the more fainthearted those who withstand them become, the more easy will it be to work out their wicked will.</u> Therefore, they who cherish the 'prudence of the flesh' and who pretend to be unaware that every Christian ought to be a valiant soldier of Christ; they who would fain obtain the rewards owing to conquerors, while they are leading the lives of cowards, untouched in the fight, are so far from thwarting the onward march of the evil-disposed that, on the contrary, they even help it forward."

Because of the lack of true and unrelenting zeal by nominal Catholics worldwide, these blasphemies against the Catholic God, Church, and religion continue, multiply, and worsen. The steady progression of public blasphemies against the Catholic God, Church, and religion is one proof that there are very, very, very few true Catholics left in the whole world, as in the days of Noah when only eight people in the whole world remained faithful to God. Truly we are living in the days when it was given to the Antichrist and his minions to blaspheme the true God, his mother Mary, and the saints:

"And there was given to him [the Antichrist] a mouth speaking great things, and blasphemies... And he opened his mouth unto blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." (Apoc. 13:5)

And God allows this to happen because there are so very few true and good Catholics left in the whole world. Let this be a warning to the almost unanimous mass of so-called Catholics: You are not Catholic. You are on the broad road to hell. You and the apostate Jews are God's worst enemies. And you are serving the Antichrist. (See RJMI book *Where Are the Catholic Bishops and Priests?*: Only a Few Laymen Are Faithful.)

The zeal of good Catholics

St. Paul says, "*Be zealous for that which is good in a good thing always*." (Gal. 4:17) The ultimate good thing is the Catholic faith and way of life, without which men cannot be saved. Apostate Antipope Leo XIII correctly teaches that the zeal of good Catholics is fiery and consumed in doing whatever is possible to eradicate blasphemy and other sins:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *Charitate Christi*, 1825: "11. ...We wish that every corruption of morals among the Christian people be removed forever, if possible. You know well that vices are especially dominant in your flocks. Your... zeal should never waver as you strive to eradicate sin and vice. That monstrous crime of blasphemy, for instance—who would ever have believed that it could be heard among Christians? ...The holy and terrible name of God is used irreverently in every land. Some even dare to blaspheme him whom the angels glorify. With fiery zeal, search out and attack this impiety which so greatly injures God. ...Do not let the faithful ever forget these words of the Lord: 'My house is a house of prayer' and 'The zeal for your house consumes me.' ... <u>Abolish this wickedness forever, as best you are able</u>, and replace it with zeal for prayer and for hearing the word of God."

Good Catholics make reparation by prayer, sacrifice, protest, and boycott

The flood of blasphemies in these final days is compounded because so-called Catholics have either not protested at all or protested with little zeal. What is the correct Catholic response to these acts of blasphemy? Just as the Moslems and apostate Jews zealously defend their false gods and false religions, Catholics should be equally and even more zealous in defending the true God and the true religion. Even though Gregory XVI was an apostate antipope, he teaches the truth in this regard:

Apostate Antipope Gregory XVI, *Commissum Divinitus*, 1835: "We especially direct all Our zeal and thoughts to provide as much assistance as We can whenever the everlasting salvation of the sheep and the Catholic religion seem to be in danger. We exhort you to <u>fight for the cause of God and the Church with greater zeal as the attacks of the enemy become more severe</u>."

Catholics should gather in great masses and protest in front of the art museums or other places where the blasphemy takes place and in front of the homes of the authors of the blasphemy. If that does not stop the public blasphemy, then Catholics should gather en masse and protest in front of the house of the owner of the museum and in front of the local leader, such as the mayor of the city in which the blasphemy takes place. If that fails, then Catholics must protest en masse in front of the state leader, such as the governor of the state in which the blasphemy takes place. If that fails, then Catholics must protest en masse in front of the federal leader, the president of the nation in which the blasphemy takes place. With letters and emails of protest, Catholics must flood the authors and purveyors of the blasphemy, as well as the appropriate local, state, and federal leaders. Catholics must also boycott the purveyors of blasphemy in whatever way is possible:

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *Sapientiae Christianae*, 1890: "16. …In respect, consequently, to the duties that bind us to God and the Church, it should be borne earnestly in mind that in propagating Christian truth and warding off errors the zeal of the laity should, as far as possible, be brought actively into play."

Apostate Antipope Leo XIII, *In Ipso*, 1891: "For, if evil men, strong in numbers and acumen unite here and there and conspire together to treacherously deprive Catholics of the gift of faith and its attendant advantages, surely it is right and necessary that Catholics should utilize their zeal and abilities to resist."

If these counterattacks by Catholics fail to stop the public blasphemy, then the Catholic protest must become more vehement. Catholics must then block the places where the blasphemy occurs so as to make it impossible for them to do business. If Catholics get arrested, so be it. If enough Catholics protest, their arrest would result in overcrowding the jails and put a strain on the incarceration of real criminals. But even if there were enough jail space, Catholics must still be willing to go to jail as long as it takes to succeed. Yea, Catholics must even be willing to die as martyrs if they must to stop public blasphemy!

If enough Catholics participate in these protests, the blasphemy will cease due to the sheer mass of numbers and for fear of more severe measures by Catholics, just as attacks against the false religion of Islam ceased because of the mass protest of Moslems throughout the world. But even if it does not cease, Catholics must still do this duty as an act of reparation to God and as their obligation to profess the faith and do the spiritual act of mercy of admonishing sinners.

Life in this world is a religious warfare by necessity

In St. Paul's writings he gives advice and he gives precepts. Precepts are laws that must be obeyed. St. Paul gives St. Timothy the following precept:

"This precept I commend to thee, O son Timothy; according to the prophecies going before on thee, that thou war in them a good warfare." (1 Tim. 1:18)

The Catholic commentary on this passage says, "He should wage a good warfare against the enemies of God and of his salvation."

Life in this world is a religious warfare, whether people acknowledge it or not. Even the atheists have a religion, a religion that professes there is no God. Even the humanists have a religion, a religion whose god is man himself. Even the materialists have a religion, a religion whose god is money and temporal power. Even the religiously indifferent have a religion, a religion whose god respects false gods and false religions instead of condemning them. By the very nature of their doctrines, all these false gods and false religions conflict with one another and with the one true God, the Catholic God, and the one true religion, the Catholic religion. Different religions' different doctrines about the nature and meaning of life logically cause spiritual and temporal contention and warfare. If anyone is honest about his religion, false as it may be, he must acknowledge that it conflicts with other religions; and this is what brings about contention, strife, and warfare (spiritual and temporal). Hence Catholics are in a constant state of religious warfare, spiritual and physical, with all the other religions and the gods of this world seated in wickedness (1 Jn. 5:19). The Catholic religion commands Catholics to disrespect and hate false gods and false religions and to do so publicly as part of their obligation to profess the faith. When a Catholic properly fulfills his obligation to profess the Catholic faith by condemning false gods and false religions, he will naturally offend unbelievers. Therefore, a true Catholic Press that condemns the false religion of Islam and its false prophet Mohammad does not apologize to Moslems or retract no matter how great the persecution. (See RJMI book Persecution of Rick Gonzalez.)

Must fight against immorality

Catholics are also obliged to fight against acts of public immorality in the nations in which they dwell. If Catholics do not do this when they must or do it poorly, they commit sin. If they do this Catholic duty correctly and do not succeed, God will still bless and protect them. He will protect them by not letting immorality enter their Catholic

neighborhoods and homes. Of what does this duty consist? It consists of protesting against and boycotting the purveyors of public immorality and making reparation for these sins.

Must protest against and boycott its purveyors and make reparation

The protests and boycotts regarding sins of immorality and its purveyors are conducted in the same way as mentioned above regarding sins of blasphemy and its purveyors. That means Catholics must fight to the death to prevent public immorality from entering Catholic neighborhoods and homes.

Proof that modern so-called Catholics have not done this duty

If Catholics do not do their best to fight against immorality in the non-Catholic lands where they live, then God will allow immorality to enter the areas in which Catholics live—Catholic neighborhoods and homes.¹¹ Proof that modern so-called Catholics have not done this Catholic duty or have done it very poorly is that public immorality prevails in so-called Catholic neighborhoods and homes. What do we see in so-called Catholic neighborhoods: go-go bars (bars where naked or almost naked women dance); prostitution; abortion clinics; illegal drugs and drug pushers; loan sharks; murderers; and stores selling pornography, sinful music, feminist and heretical literature, birth control devices, and pagan religious items, etc. You even see some of these things in so-called Catholic homes. No good Catholic would tolerate these things in the area in which he lives. Good Catholics may not be able to stop public immorality or blasphemy in non-Catholic neighborhoods in non-Catholic nations, but they certainly can succeed in the areas in which they do live—or die trying. And in this case die as martyrs they must if they want to save their souls:

"For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel, shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mk. 8:35-37)

Homosexual parades in New York City feebly protested

The apostate Anti-Cardinal John O'Connor ruled the New York City Diocese from January 1984 to May 2000. During his reign there were several homosexual parades in New York City. Never once did he properly fight against these public sinners and public acts of immorality that sought to justify in the eyes of the world the abominable mortal sin of homosexuality, the sin that caused God to destroy Sodom and its citizens. He did not properly condemn the sin of homosexuality nor properly denounce the homosexuals as abominable mortal sinners. To fulfil his obligation to profess the faith, he should have vehemently raised his voice on high and condemned the sin of homosexuality and denounced homosexuals as reprobates, especially when they obstinately seek to publicly justify their sin. O'Connor's protest against the homosexual parades was so weak and insufficient as to be non-existent. The only proper protest against such public displays of

¹¹ The main reason so-called Catholics fail in this duty is because most of them do not really have the Catholic faith and hence God places them under the Romans One Curse. (See my article *Romans One Curse*.)

immorality is to vehemently protest against them. And if they pass through Catholic neighborhoods and by Catholic churches, the protest must be unto death if necessary in order to stop these sinners from infecting Catholic neighborhoods and desecrating Catholic churches. The homosexual parades in New York City passed through Catholic neighborhoods and by St. Patrick's Cathedral. And when the homosexuals passed in front of the cathedral, they especially performed gross acts of homosexuality, which is direct blasphemy against the God of the Catholic Church. Oh, the only proper Catholic response to a crime like this is to fight unto death to prevent it. But what did the faithless, coward John O'Connor do? Effectively nothing! I do not even know if he actively participated in the weak protest in front of the cathedral where a few people gathered and feebly protested this abominable double crime of public immorality and blasphemy.

And what is the result of weak protests like these against public acts of immorality and blasphemy that pass through Catholic neighborhoods? Instead of just passing through the Catholic neighborhoods, it stops and enters them. The very immorality and blasphemy enters and infects the Catholic neighborhoods and the Catholics in them. Because so-called Catholics do not properly stand up for and defend God—which proves that they do not really love him—God does not protect nor defend these so-called Catholics and their Catholic neighborhoods and allows the Devil free reign over them.

Indeed, just observe how many so-called Catholic priests and laymen are homosexuals or have some other mortally sinful vice. Just look at all the other sins of immorality and blasphemy that so-called Catholics are infected with in so-called Catholic neighborhoods. The sins of so-called Catholics equal or even excel those of pagans. And once this happens, so-called Catholics no longer desire to properly protest against these sins that they themselves have come to love or at least be indifferent toward, which is the first stage of coming to love them. As a result, when public acts of immorality or blasphemy pass through these so-called Catholic neighborhoods, some of these so-called Catholics actively participate in the public acts of immorality or blasphemy and others remain silent and others weakly protest. For instance, Rudolph Guiliani, the then mayor of New York City, not only did not protest against these homosexual parades but actually participated in one of them that passed by St. Patrick's Cathedral. He marched in it and hence gave his approval and participated in the blasphemy against God, the Catholic Church, and the Catholic faith. And by being a partner in the crime of justifying homosexuality, he gave his approval to the mortal sin of homosexuality and to homosexuals and hence shares equally in the mortal guilt of this sin and these sinners.

A proper Catholic protest against homosexual parades

What would good cardinals and bishops of the Catholic Church have done to protest and fight against homosexual parades in the USA, such as the homosexual parades in New York City? They would have commanded all the parish priests in the United States to read a decree from the pulpit during Mass commanding the laymen to send letters and emails of protest to the main organizers and defenders of the parade and to the local, state, and federal rulers. The decree would have also asked the laymen that can travel to New York City to be there by the day of the parade to meet at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Most of the laymen within a 240-mile radius of New York City would have no problem showing up, thus placing millions of Catholics in New York City on the day of the parade to protest against it. About three hours before the parade, the cardinal would lead the Holy Rosary and then say Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and then pray the Litany of the Saints and a general exorcism prayer with the Catholics gathered inside and outside the cathedral. Catholic bishops and priests in nearby churches would do the same. Catholics would be instructed to protest on the sidelines of the parade in areas where it does not pass through Catholic neighborhoods or by Catholic churches. But as soon as the parade attempts to pass through a Catholic neighborhood or by a Catholic church, the protestors are to go out into the street and block the parade, even if they must fight and be arrested. The cardinal would guard St. Patrick's Cathedral with the main bulk of Catholics behind him. And the cardinal, with his crook and miter, would be the first one to step into the street to block the protest if it tried to pass by the cathedral. Right behind him would be the bishops, priests, altar boys, and laymen, all ready to fight unto death if they must to prevent the parade from passing by the cathedral and blaspheming God.

Such a protest would prevent any future parades from passing through Catholic neighborhoods and by Catholic churches, most of all because God would see to it because his people stood up bravely for him and his commandments against the world seated in wickedness. And these protests may even prevent future homosexual parades from occurring in the non-Catholic areas of the non-Catholic nation in which Catholics live.

One can easily imagine the impact such a protest would make around the world, the message it would send out to the whole world. Instead of the parade justifying homosexuality in the eyes of children and adults throughout the world, the protest would have defeated it by showing what the one true God, the Catholic God, and his one true Church, the Catholic Church, thinks about homosexuality and blasphemy and sacrilege. It would show the world in the most emphatic manner that homosexuality is an abomination in the eyes of God:

"If any one lie with a man as with a woman, both have committed an abomination." (Lev. 20:13)

"Their foolish heart was darkened. For, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... Wherefore, God gave them up to the desires of their heart, unto uncleanness: to dishonour their own bodies among themselves. Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause, God delivered them up to shameful affections. For their women have changed the natural use into that use which is against nature. And, in like manner, the men also, leaving the natural use of the women, have burned in their lusts, one towards another: <u>men with men, working that which is filthy</u> and receiving in themselves the recompense which was due to their error. And as they liked not to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them up to a reprobate sense to do those things which are not convenient.... Who, having known the justice of God, did not understand that they who do such things, are worthy of death: and not only they that do them, but they also that consent to them that do them." (Rom. 1:21-32)

Hence, a good Catholic protest, like this one, would prevent children and adults from being indoctrinated and corrupted by the homosexuals who seek to justify their mortal sin in the eyes of the world. Instead, it would make them aware of God's external commandment and the law upon their heart that condemn homosexuality. They would see how very evil and abhorrent homosexuality and homosexuals are. Such a protest would show the world that the one true God and his Catholic Church condemn homosexuality and abhor homosexuals, just as they condemn any mortal sin and abhor any mortal sinner. God says, "*I abhor the wicked*." (Ex. 23:7) And hence "*The just abhor the wicked man.*" (Prv. 29:27) Just because God abhors homosexuals and other mortal sinners does not mean he does not love them and want them to repent. He still does!¹² Another good fruit of such a protest, then, is that it could cause homosexuals to repent of their sin. By awakening their dead conscience, such a protest would be the only hope for many homosexuals to see just how very evil their sin is. It would remind them that this sin, the sin of Sodom, cries out to God for vengeance and is what caused God to destroy Sodom by fire:

"They have proclaimed abroad their sin as Sodom, and they have not hid it: woe to their souls, for evils are rendered to them." (Isa. 3:9) "And the Lord said: The cry of Sodom and Gomorrha is multiplied, and their sin is become exceedingly grievous." (Gen. 18:20) "And the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrha brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven." (Gen. 19:24)

And lastly, and most importantly, such a protest as this is what it takes to make proper reparation to God for blasphemy against him. Prayer alone when action is demanded does not make reparation nor appease God but only inflames his wrath.

Reparation by praying, sacrificing, and fighting when one must

Reparation is the most powerful weapon Catholics have to fight against blasphemy and immorality. Reparation consists of praying, sacrificing, and fighting in the temporal realm, as mentioned above. For reparation to be true reparation, a Catholic must do all these things. For instance, if a Catholic only makes reparation by prayers and sacrifices but does not fight in the temporal realm when he should and could, then his reparation is false. A Catholic's prayers and sacrifices are calculated to give him the grace and hence the courage and fortitude to fight against blasphemy and immorality. Therefore if a socalled Catholic does not fight when he should, his prayers and sacrifices are false because they are not offered with a sincere heart:

"This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain do they worship me." (Mk. 7:6-7)

"They profess that they know God: but in their works they deny him; being abominable, and incredulous, and to every good work reprobate." (Titus 1:16)

Catholics may not always be able to do the good work of fighting in the temporal realm against blasphemy and immorality, but they always have the spiritual weapons of prayer, sacrifice, and mortification, which are the most necessary and powerful weapons, without which all else fails. These most powerful weapons cannot be taken away. When Jesus went into the desert to be tempted by and to combat the Devil, he taught by his example that a good Catholic's life in this world is a warfare against the Devil, bad Catholics, and non-Catholics: *"Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert, to be tempted by the devil."* (Mt. 4:1) Jesus' example also taught us that the most necessary and powerful weapons in this warfare are the spiritual weapons of prayer, sacrifice, mortification, and separation from the world:

¹² See my books Anger, Rebuke, Hatred, and Curses and God Did Not Create Homosexuals.

Catholic Commentary, on Mt. 4:1: "Jesus Christ was led by the Holy Ghost, immediately after his baptism, into the desert, to prepare, by fasting and prayer, for his public ministry, and to merit for us by his victory over the enemy of our salvation... By this conduct, he teaches all...how they are to retire into solitude, in order to converse with God in prayer, and draw down the blessing of heaven upon themselves and their undertaking. What treasures of grace might we expect, if...we were to retire within ourselves, and shut out, for a time, the world and its cares. Then should we come prepared to withstand temptation, and should experience the divine assistance in every difficulty through life. The life of man is a warfare on earth. It was not given us, says St. Hilary, to spend it in indolence, but to wage a continual war against our spiritual enemies. In the greatest sanctity there are often the greatest and most incessant trials; for Satan wishes nothing so much as the fall of the saints. -By these trials, we learn the strength we have received from above, we are preserved from self-complacency and pride in the gifts of heaven; we confirm the renunciation we made in baptism of the devil, and all his works and pomps; we become stronger, and better prepared for future attacks, and are feelingly convinced of the dignity to which we have been raised, and of which the enemy of souls endeavours all he can to deprive us. St. Chrysostom hom. xiii. Both St. John the Baptist and our divine Master, by retiring into the wilderness for contemplation, prayer, fasting and suffering, have given a sanction and an example...against the dangers of the world."

Even though Pius XI was an apostate antipope, he teaches the truth in this regard. He echoes what Jesus teaches us about the primary importance of prayer and sacrifice:

Apostate Antipope Pius XI, "On the Sacred Heart" (*Caritate Christi Compulsi*), 1932: "28. Prayer, then, and penance are the two potent inspirations sent to us at this time by God, that we may lead back to him mankind that has gone astray and wanders about without a guide: they are the inspirations that will dispel and remedy the first and principal cause of every form of disturbance and rebellion, the revolt of man against God."

The weapons of prayer and penance always succeed and cannot be taken away from Catholics. The most powerful prayers to fight against blasphemy are prayers of reparation. Prayers of reparation produce the following good fruits: They make amends to God for the sins of blasphemy and immorality; they glorify God; they appease God's wrath and hence aid the conversion of the blasphemous and immoral sinners; and because prayers of reparation also call for an end to blasphemy and immorality, they call down God's wrath upon the obstinate blasphemous and immoral sinners to punish or destroy them.

Act of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

One of the most powerful prayers of reparation is the "Act of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus" composed by apostate Antipope Pius XI in 1928 in his encyclical "On Reparation to the Sacred Heart" (*Miserentissimus Redemptor*):

"O Sweet Jesus, whose overflowing charity for men is requited by so much forgetfulness, negligence, and contempt, behold us prostrate before Thy altar eager to repair by a special act of homage the cruel indifference and injuries to which Thy loving Heart is everywhere subject.

"Mindful alas that we ourselves have had a share in such great indignities, which we now deplore from the depths of our hearts, we humbly ask Thy pardon and declare our readiness to atone by voluntary expiation not only for our personal offences, but also for the sins of those who, straying far from the path of salvation, refuse in their obstinate infidelity to follow Thee, their Shepherd and Leader, or, renouncing the vows of their baptism, have cast off the sweet yoke of Thy law.

"We are now resolved to expiate each and every deplorable outrage committed against Thee; we are determined to make amends for the manifold offences against Christian modesty in unbecoming dress and behavior, for all the foul seductions laid to ensure the feet of the innocent, for the frequent violation of Sundays and holydays, and the shocking blasphemies uttered against Thee and Thy saints.

We wish also to make amends for the insults to which Thy Vicar on earth¹³ and Thy priests are subjected, for the profanation by conscious neglect or terrible acts of sacrilege of the very Sacrament of Thy divine love, and lastly for the public crimes of nations who resist the rights and the teaching authority of the Church which Thou hast founded.

"Would, O divine Jesus, we were able to wash away such abominations with our blood. We now offer, in reparation for these violations of Thy divine honour, the satisfaction Thou didst once make on the Cross to Thy eternal Father and which Thou dost continue to renew daily on our altars; we offer it in union with the acts of atonement of Thy Virgin Mother and all the saints and of the pious faithful on earth; and we sincerely promise to make recompense, as far as we can with the help of Thy grace, for all the neglect of Thy great love and for the sins we and others have committed in the past. Henceforth we will live a life of unwavering faith, of purity of conduct, of perfect observance of the precepts of the gospel and especially that of charity. We promise to the best of our power to prevent others from offending Thee and to bring as many as possible to follow Thee.

"O loving Jesus, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our model in reparation, deign to receive the voluntary offering we make of this act of expiation; and by the crowning gift of perseverance, keep us faithful unto death in our duty and the allegiance we owe to Thee so that we may all one day come to that happy home, where Thou with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest God, world without end. Amen."

This prayer of reparation is contained in the Holy Hour devotion, one of the most effective devotions for making reparation. All Catholics should make this Holy Hour on the first Friday of every month. And if you cannot pray it on the First Friday, then pray it some other day during the month.

Must defend just causes

Catholics must also defend just causes, if possible, in the non-Catholic nations in which they live. For instance, they must fight against unfair wages; unjust tax and labor laws; inadequate medical care, food distribution, and housing; and incompetent or corrupt rulers and other law enforcers:

Apostate Antipope Pius XI, *Nos Es Muy Conocida*, 1937: "5) The clergy and Catholic Action... must contribute to the prosperity of the nation, especially encouraging the union of those social initiatives which are not opposed to dogma or to the laws of Christian morals."

¹³ When the Holy See is vacant, replace the words "Thy Vicar on earth" with "the Papacy."