

Brief against the Society of St. Pius X

by RJMI

Bishop Marcel Lefebvre, who was a heretic and schismatic, founded the *Society of St. Pius X* (SSPX), which, like its founder, is also heretical and schismatic.

1) The SSPX is guilty of the notorious crimes of the apostate antipopes of the Vatican II Church and the apostate Second Vatican Council that it does not correctly condemn. It does not condemn the crimes at all or diminishes their true nature. It does not condemn heresy as heresy, idolatry as idolatry, blasphemy as blasphemy, and apostasy as apostasy. Instead, it uses words that diminish the gravity of the crimes, words like “errors,” “deviations from the faith,” and “scandalous activities.” The crimes are much more than that.

1a) Consequently, it is also guilty for not denouncing the apostate antipopes as notorious heretics, idolaters, blasphemers, and apostates.

1b) And because it knows the Church law that a notorious heretic cannot be the pope, it is guilty for referring to the apostate antipopes as popes instead of denouncing them as apostate antipopes.

2) It denies the Salvation Dogma. It believes certain men who die worshipping false gods and practicing false religions can be saved. It got this heresy from its heretical founder, Bishop Lefebvre:

Bishop Lefebvre, 1973: “...God knows all souls and, for that reason, knows that in Protestant communions, in Moslem communions, in Buddhist communions, in all humanity, there are souls of good will. And by the very fact that they do seek to do His holy will, they have the implicit baptism of desire.” (From a lecture given in Paris during May)

Bishop Lefebvre, 1974: “...Those souls, whether Protestant, Buddhist or Moslem, who have implicitly this sincere desire to do the will of God, may have the desire for Baptism and so receive supernatural grace, the Grace of eternal life...” (From a lecture in Tourcoing on January 30)

Bishop Lefebvre, 1976: “...No doubt, the graces of God are distributed outside the Catholic Church; but those who are saved, even outside the Catholic Church, are saved by the *Catholic Church*, by Our Lord Jesus Christ, even if they do not know it, even if they are not aware of it . . .” (From his sermon preached at the first Mass of one of his newly ordained priests in Geneva)

Bishop Lefebvre, 1986: “‘Outside the Catholic Church there is no salvation’ ...Does that mean that no Protestant, no Muslim, no Buddhist or animist will be saved? No, it would be a second error to think that. ...The doctrine of the Church also recognizes *implicit*—baptism of desire. This consists in doing the will of God. God knows all men and He knows that amongst

Protestants, Muslims, Buddhists and in the whole of humanity there are men of good will. They receive the grace of baptism without knowing it, but in an effective way. In this way they become part of the Church.” (From his book *Open Letter to Confused Catholics*, 1986, Chapter X, Ecumenism, p. 73-4.)

3) It teaches that the contraceptive practice of Natural Family Planning, also known as the Rhythm Method, is not contraception, which is heresy for denying an infallible dogma of morals. (See my book *Natural Family Planning Is Contraception*.)

4) Bishop Lefebvre signed the heretical Vatican II documents; therefore, by consenting to these heretical documents, he became guilty of the heresies in them. If he were not already automatically excommunicated for heresy before the apostate Second Vatican Council, this act alone would have automatically excommunicated him and caused him to automatically lose his office. There is no record that he abjured from his signing the Vatican II documents.

5) In 1986, Bishop Lefebvre committed the crime of schism by consecrating bishops contrary to the expressed will of a man he believed was the pope, John Paul II. A bishop does not always need a papal mandate to make bishops, but he can never make bishops contrary to the expressed will of the pope, which is an act of schism at all times and in all places. As a result of this crime, in principle, he, the bishops he consecrated, and the members of the SSPX were rightly excommunicated:

Excommunication of the Society of St. Pius X: His Grace Marcel Lefebvre, Archbishop-Bishop Emeritus of Tulle, notwithstanding the formal canonical warning of 17 June last and the repeated appeals to desist from his intention, has performed a schismatical act by the Episcopal consecration of four priests, without a pontifical mandate and contrary to the will of the Supreme Pontiff, and has therefore incurred the penalty envisaged by can. 1364 par. 1 and can. 1382 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

Having taken account of all the juridical effects, I declare that the above mentioned Archbishop **Marcel Lefebvre**, and **Bernard Fellay**, **Bernard Tissier de Mallerais**, **Richard Williamson**, and **Alfonso de Galarreta** have incurred *ipso facto* excommunication *latae sententiae* reserved to the Apostolic See...

The priests and faithful are warned not to support the schism of Archbishop Lefebvre, otherwise they shall incur *ipso facto* the very grave penalty of excommunication. (From the Office of the Congregation for Bishops, July 1, 1988. Bernardinus Cardinal Gantin, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.)

5a) After his illegal consecrations, Bishop Lefebvre set up a parallel hierarchy of bishops in opposition to John Paul II and his bishops that he believed were the legitimate hierarchy, which is another crime of schism at all times and all places. This act completely severed him and his SSPX from the discipline and government of what he believed was the Catholic hierarchy and set up another government ruled by his bishops. Since the

death of Lefebvre, the SSPX perpetuates this crime. Even though the Vatican Council of 1870 was invalid, it nevertheless rightly condemns Bishop Lefebvre and his SSPX as schismatics:

Invalid *Vatican Council*, 1870: “2. Wherefore we teach and declare that, by divine ordinance, the Roman Church possesses a pre-eminence of ordinary power over every other church, and that this jurisdictional power of the Roman pontiff is both Episcopal and immediate. Both clergy and faithful, of whatever rite and dignity, both singly and collectively, are bound to submit to this power by the duty of hierarchical subordination and true obedience, and this not only in matters concerning faith and morals, but also in those which regard the discipline and government of the Church throughout the world.”¹

While professing allegiance to the papacy and a man it believes is the pope and to his bishops, it does not render obedience where obedience is due:

Apostate Antipope Pius IX,² *Quae in Patriarchatu*, 1876: “What good is it to proclaim the dogma of the supremacy of St. Peter and his successors? What good is it to repeat over and over the declarations of faith in the Catholic Church and of obedience to the Apostolic See when actions give the lie to these fine words? Moreover, is not rebellion rendered all the more inexcusable by the fact that obedience is regarded as a duty? Again, does not the authority of the Holy See extend, as a sanction, to the measures which We have been obliged to take, or is it enough to be in communion of faith with this See without adding the submission of obedience, - a thing which cannot be maintained without damaging the Catholic Faith? In fact, Venerable Brothers and beloved Sons, it is a question of recognizing the power (of this See), even over your churches, not merely in what pertains to faith, but also in what concerns discipline. He who would deny this is a heretic, he who recognizes this and obstinately refuses to obey is worthy of anathema.”

In certain cases disobedience to a pope and his bishops is just and necessary. But this does not apply to the above schismatic crimes of Lefebvre and his SSPX. Saints have disobeyed popes and bishops, but they never consecrated bishops contrary to the expressed will of the pope and set up a parallel hierarchy of bishops in opposition to the pope and his bishops.

6) One may ask, “Because John Paul II was a non-Catholic antipope, how could the Society of St. Pius X be schismatic for disobeying a man who was not the pope?” The SSPX is in schism, even though John Paul II was not the pope, because it believed he was the pope. While believing he was the pope, it disobeyed him where obedience would be due to a pope.

Bishop Lefebvre and those he consecrated violated the law, both subjectively, because in their hearts they believe John Paul II was a pope, and objectively, because they publicly profess that he was the pope, and

thus they objectively practice and teach others that a Catholic bishop can consecrate bishops contrary to the expressed will of the pope and set up a parallel hierarchy in opposition to a pope and his legitimate hierarchy. That is what they believe in their heart and also objectively teach and practice.

7) Even though it thinks it is Catholic, the SSPX is not Catholic. It is a schismatic and heretical sect:

Apostate Antipope Pius IX, *Quartus Supra*, January 6, 1873: “4. We have indeed left no means untried in order to free you from this great evil. ... Our wishes [have] been hindered by those men who call themselves Catholics, but are the enemies of the Cross of Christ... 6. The chief deceit used to conceal the new schism is the name of "Catholic." The originators and adherents of the schism presumptuously lay claim to this name despite their condemnation by Our authority and judgment. It has always been the custom of heretics and schismatics to call themselves Catholics and to proclaim their many excellences in order to lead peoples and princes into error. St. Jerome, presbyter, referred to these men, among others, when he said: ‘The heretics are accustomed to say to their king or to Pharaoh, “We are the sons of wise men who have handed down to us from the beginning the Apostolic teaching; we are the sons of ancient kings who are called kings of the philosophers; and we possess the knowledge of the scriptures in addition to the wisdom of the world.”’”

Hence anyone, infants include, who adheres to the SSPX or attends its Masses is on the road to hell because the crimes of the Vatican II Church and its apostate antipopes are notorious and manifest to all. It is a dogma that the infants are outside the Catholic Church for the sin of schism. (See RJMI book *Baptized Non-Catholic Infants and Children*.)

(See RJMI refutations *Against the Society of St. Pius X Supplement* and *My Trip, the CMRI, and the SSPX*.)

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¹ Invalid *Vatican Council*, 1870, Sess. IV, cap 3, on power and primacy of the papacy.

² Pius IX never had the papal office because he was an apostate when elected to it. First, for the glorification of idolatry and philosophy. And he also denied the salvation dogma and held other heresies.