

A Window on Europe

By Richard Bennett

I wish to contrast my visit to Europe and in April/ May 2003, with my many visits to Europe as a Catholic priest. When I visited to Europe in my twenty-two years as a Catholic priest, I did so as part of that institution. I was always guaranteed a place to stay and necessary meals. What was understood however was that we as priests among ourselves did not to talk shop. We did not discuss spiritual things because that was our work and was not part of our social life. I was usually on vacation when I visited Europe as a priest, and whatever ministry I did, was simply in administering the Mass. My visit to Europe as a bible believer was however to proclaim the Gospel, and to joyfully and freely share with fellow believers the things of the Lord.

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give a light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”¹ The glory of the Lord was truly proclaimed in Poland, London and Ireland in my outreach, in answer to the prayers of our own local church and many others. I was refreshed and greatly ministered to as an earthen vessel in the hand of the Lord. I see much more clearly the need to reach out in kindness and love to precious Catholics who, which sometimes in deep agony regarding their religion, are intent to get answers.

The great majority of Catholics that I saw across Europe were not interested either in Catholicism or in Biblical Christianity, but were, for the most part, consumed with advancing in all the usual worldly ways. But there were, right before my eyes, some who may be of the Lord’s remnant, seeking to know the truth. Some of the Catholics were beginning to see, by the grace of the Lord, the glory of the finished work of Christ in His perfect life and perfect sacrifice. A wonderful aspect of God’s gracious favor to us is that it is multi-faceted. I was being ministered to, as well as the people. I understand far better now than ever before how Christ wept over Jerusalem, the very religious people who tried to establish their own righteousness, and who put their tradition on an equal level with the written word of God.

Poland

The outreach in Poland began on April the 18th, when I met a group of ardent believers at the home of Mike and Peggy Wolski. With the exception of a very few, all of these were former Catholics, now saved by God’s grace, possessed of a great love and joy to share the Gospel with others. The following day, I saw a recent convert, burning with a mixture of conviction and love for the Lord, proclaiming on the streets of Warsaw a clear Gospel message. About nine others reached out with tracts. On our way to downtown Warsaw, I saw a middle-aged man with a small wicker basket in his hand. I asked what he was doing. I was told that he was bringing eggs to the Catholic Church for them to be blessed by the priest. It was what the Catholics call “Glorious Saturday”, the day before the Resurrection of the Lord is celebrated. Then I realized that many more families were carrying eggs to church. This symbolized what I was to see so often in my remaining time in Poland: the huge, traditional churches loaded with many images of Mary and of the saints, and everywhere perpetuating the traditions that so heavily weigh down

¹ II Corinthians 4:6-7

these precious people. Poland is a nation that was barely touched by the Reformation, and it is quite different from other nations that began with Biblical faith, such as Ireland, and other nations where the Reformation made deep inroads by the power of the Gospel.

On Sunday, April 20th, I was asked to share at the church of Pastor Tolwinski. I was deeply edified by the prayers after my presentation, the substance of which was translated for me. People were praying fervently that they might more effectively reach out to their Catholic neighbors and friends in the truth and love of the Lord. This deeply edified me, as I saw the heart cry, as it were, of this wonderful, Bible-believing church. On Monday, April 21st, I was in the small city of Olsztyn. There I had a conference of three presentations, the first in which I gave my testimony, and did the first side of our chart, “Thy Word Is Truth”. About seventy Catholics were present. It did seem as if the Lord was melting hearts and opening minds. As I talked afterwards with some of these, many more talked to other believers, and we had great joy that the Lord was truly in our midst. In the evening as I did the second side of the same chart, the old question of idolatry in the Evangelical camp came up. I was amazed that some pastors, who called themselves Biblical, were indeed upholding the Roman Catholic teaching that images are acceptable if they are used to mediate Christ. Under this philosophy, some pastors were trying to justify the use of pictures of Christ and the current Jesus video. I was able to lay out for them the points of our newsletter “Idolatry in the Evangelical Camp”.² It appears that the Lord was opening hearts and minds, not only of Catholics, but also of Evangelicals, who, before then, were under the rationale that it is not wrong to have Christ hanging on a crucifix if it is on a video, although they would never allow such a an image on a wall. I thank the Lord for confounding these earthly ways.

Back in Warsaw, April the 24th through 26th, we gave presentations down town in a conference center. An average of fifty-five people attended each session. The interest was heightened as the Word of God went forth. There were some brothers who dealt directly with the Catholic people and others who wrestled with the true Gospel that justification is by God’s grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Jesus alone, with all praise and glory to God alone. One extra special blessing was the number of people who came to show me the book that we had published, *Far from Rome, Near to God: The Testimonies of Fifty Former Catholic Priests*, in Polish. Most of them had the book covered so that it would keep clean. Some told of how it is loaned out on a regular basis. The testimonies of how the Lord has used our book in Polish were most encouraging to me. Later, in England, I recounted to Martin Buckingham these heart-rending testimonies to the grace of God in how He has used this book.

The last session in Poland was on Sunday the 27th at a church that is forming in Warsaw, and later at the home of one of the elders, a missionary from the USA like Mike Wolski. The question and answer session went on for over an hour and a quarter. I was deeply edified by the longing that the former Catholics have to reach out to those who are still in Catholicism. Many are men who had been under the control of drink, and many women, equally trapped, had struggled as they tried to hold their families together. Now to see the zeal and compassion of these former Catholics ministered to me in a way that is beyond my words to describe.

² On our website: www.bereanbeacon.org

London

On Monday, April 28th, I arrived at the home of Michael and Donna De Semlyen outside London. They fortified me both spiritually and with wonderful food, as I was to begin work with Peter Radcliff and Andrew Price in two talks to be given in Victoria and Reading, in London. The Bible believers, still standing amidst the materialism and immorality of London, are doing so in a very strong way. I had the privilege of addressing false ecumenism in both of these venues, and I was amazed at the interest of those present. False ecumenism was exposed, and our true unity in Christ, for which the Lord prayed in John 17:21, is something already realized because it is the Lord who prayed it, and His prayer is always answered before the all-holy God. The true ecumenism of believers in London ministered to me at the deepest level. These meetings represented the Church of England Continuing, that is, those Anglican churches continuing in the solid Thirty-nine Articles of the Reformation. Most edifying for me, and quite humbling, was the two-hour meeting that I had with Dr. Peter Masters, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London. Peter Masters stands where Surgeon had preached in the Metropolitan Tabernacle. The Word of God goes forth so splendidly in this place where approximately a thousand people are gathered each Lord's Day. His work goes out each day on the Internet www.metropolitantabernacle.org/

Ireland

From May 5th to the 9th, I had a gracious time of sharing with my own family in Dublin. I was deeply heartened, and most encouraged, to see the Lord's working there. It was again that refreshing for which our home church and others had prayed, that in the midst of all the outreach I would know the refreshment from the Lord that is His wonderful gift as His sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

After leaving my family and traveling to Newtownabbey, in County Antrim on Saturday May 10th, I began with Reformation Ireland (RI) in outreach over what was to be more than eight hundred miles across Ireland, sharing the joy of the Lord and the truth of the Gospel. Raymond Stewart of Reformation Ireland organized the whole trip. May 11th I ministered in Carrickfergus Congregational Church and in the evening, in Ballyclare Reformed Presbyterian Church. On Monday, May 12th, I had the joy and privilege of speaking at a Baptist "pastors fraternal" in Crumlin Baptist Church.

On Wednesday, May 14th, Mark Fitzpatrick joined Raymond Stewart and me for the remainder of the tour. Mark and Raymond ministered to me in their zeal for the truth, and in their compassion and care. There was hardly a town that we stopped in that we were not busy giving the Word to Catholics and others that we met, plus distributing tracts. As Mark drove the van, we were refreshed by hearing Scripture audio tapes or by engaging in edifying conversation, one of the joys that Christ brings to believers. Reformation Ireland is an outreach to restore the true Gospel to the island that was once called "the land of saints and scholars". I would urge you to see the message of the Gospel as it is proclaimed on their WebPage, www.reformationireland.com. Across Ireland, from the smallest of these meetings in Ballinteer, in south Dublin where some sixteen were present, and in the town of Mullingar, where eighteen were present, to the largest in Donaghney, County Tyrone, where over 240 were present, the glory of the Lord's grace was magnified and the Gospel went forth in strength.

One of the extra special times was with the fourteen Catholics who came to a home meeting in west Belfast where thirty-three people were present. The convictions of one Catholic who made a strong defense for ecumenism appeared to lessen as the meeting finished. Some of the Catholics were groaning, as it were, under the conviction of the Lord, and seemed truly to be ministered to.

On May 17th, I had the opportunity to give my testimony in my own Dublin. We had two excellent meetings in the Irish Church Missions center.

Way out in the west of Ireland, in Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon, more than forty people came from as far away as Athlone, and Ballybunion, County Kerry, one of whom was dear Peggy O'Neill. She is a very sprightly and lively eighty-two year old former nun saved by the grace of God. At the very end of more than two hours of sharing, Peggy got up to give her testimony. At that, hearts seemed to be truly opened, and it was a confirmation of the Lord of the message of Christ's righteousness alone, and salvation in Him alone. She finished with a wonderful presentation from the Word of God that had ministered to her as a nun, "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*"³ In her testimony the grace of God was magnified, as was salvation in Christ Jesus alone. The following morning in the same town, Mark Fitzpatrick recorded on video an interview with Peggy O'Neil and myself. Peggy quite clearly gave her testimony. The introduction was given by Raymond Stewart, who explained the larger setting in Ireland. It was a real Irish presentation that I pray will be used on cable access in Texas, New York, Michigan, Arizona, and more widely as the opportunity arises.

We carried some three hundred pounds of books, CDs, and cassettes. It was a great joy to see people pick up these things. And what providence it was that just as we ran out of testimonies, there appeared the mailbag from Chapel Library in Florida with four hundred new copies of my testimony. The Lord's providence was shown through the generosity of Mt Zion Church in Florida, and the prayers of His people.

The Context: EU and Biblical faith

The Lord commands us in His Word to be both gentle as doves and wise as serpents. I have been reflecting on what I learned in Poland, London, and Ireland regarding the European Union (EU). There are many dangers ahead in the EU for true believers.

Under the proposed new EU constitution, which is to be unveiled on June 20th, *Corpus Juris* is the name of the legal system that is intended to prosecute financial crimes against the EU itself. It will set up a European Public Prosecutor, based on the continental Inquisitorial model. He will have over-riding jurisdiction throughout the EU to instruct national judges to issue arrest warrants against suspects, have these held in custody for indefinite periods pending investigation (or transported to other countries in Europe) with no obligation to produce prosecution evidence and no right to a public hearing during this time. The cases are then to be tried by special courts consisting of professional judges and "excluding simple jurors and lay magistrates". These judges will be empowered to hand down sentences of up to seven years. The United Kingdom's

³ II Corinthians 5:21

unique judicial system with its understanding that a man is innocent until proven guilty, its rights of *habeas corpus* and trial by jury are thereby to be overruled. It is the expressed intention of the EU Commission for this system to be an “embryo European criminal code”.⁴

Moreover, the present Pope is very keen on declaring the European Union as Christian in its roots.⁵ This idea would be imbedded presumably in the preamble to the new constitution now being worked out. Undoubtedly the Pope is aware that in so doing, it is the Roman Catholic Church that eventually will define for the EU what the term Christian means.

The Constitution for the European Union

On Friday, 13 June 2003 a final version of the draft constitution for an enlarged European Union was on agreed in Brussels.

Quoting from the London Telegraph, “To the strains of Beethoven's Ode To Joy, the Convention on the Future of Europe proclaimed agreement yesterday on a written constitution for a vast European Union of 450 million citizens bringing together East and West. Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the chair of the 105-strong body, held up a text that he said could be offered proudly to prime ministers next week as a permanent settlement for a free and democratic family of nations. ‘This result is imperfect but it is more than could have been hoped,’ he said, trembling with emotion. ‘We have sown a seed and I am sure that seed will grow and bring fruit. Europe's voice will be heard and respected on the international stage. Instead of a half-formed Europe, we have a Europe with a legal identity, with a single currency, common justice, a Europe which is about to have its own defence.’ There was no vote. M Giscard, famed for his autocratic style during 16 months of stormy debates, simply discerned consensus among the MPs, MEPs, and national envoys. Few were willing to spoil the party by crying foul.”⁶

The constitution gives the EU full “legal personality” and lays down that EU law will have primacy over the law of member states. It prohibits member states from legislating in most areas of national life - agriculture, justice, energy, social policy, economic cohesion, transport, the environment, and aspects of public health, unless Brussels chooses to waive its power.

Minority Report

Eight Convention members however from the Democracy Forum, a network of euro-realists, argue that the Constitution does not meet the requirements of the Laeken Declaration of December 2001. (Which voiced concern that the Constitution which should be based on principles of democracy, the rule of law, solidarity, subsidiarity and equality.) Opponents of the Constitution are refusing to give up, and continue to criticise the document. They point out that Constitution still allows the EU institutions to make non-transparent decisions and actions, and, as a result, create “a wider gap between the rulers and the ruled”,

A big part of the power of national Parliaments will be given to the Council and its permanent President

Some have warned that they will not sign the Constitution draft at the beginning of July unless Convention president Giscard d'Estaing keeps his promise and includes an annex of their

⁴ Torquil Dick-Erikson, as submitted to the House of Lords Committee, <http://www.eurosecp.dircon.co.uk/corpus3.htm>

⁵ Accessed 1/28/2003 http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0103/eu_christian.asp

⁶ www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/06/14/weu14.xml By Ambrose Evans-Pritchard 6/17/03

proposals, the so-called “Minority Report”, in the Constitution before the Thessaloniki summit June 20-21

Minority Report insists that the EU should not have a constitution. Instead, Europe should be organised on an interparliamentary basis by means of a Treaty on European Cooperation. This will create a Europe of Democracies (ED) in place of the existing EU. If the EU should have a new name it should be Europe of Democracies. It is most unlikely that this Minority Report will have any effect whatsoever on the direction that the EU is going

EU Supreme Power

The EU is no longer a treaty organization in which member states agree to lend power to Brussels for certain purposes, on the understanding that they can take it back again. The EU itself has become the fount of power, with its own legal personality.

The new order may also be irreversible. The terms of secession from the EU must be agreed by two thirds of the member states. In other words, one third can impose unbearable conditions.

An EU attorney-general will be able to prosecute “cross-border crime” in such as British court. , A catch-all term that gives Brussels wider jurisdiction than the US Justice Department currently enjoys after 200 years of encroachment on state power.

Quoting again from the London Telegraph. “There is to be a full-time European president, elected by prime ministers, and a foreign minister. The EU will acquire competence in ‘all areas of foreign policy, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy’, though major decisions must be unanimous.

The European Court, which acquires vast powers, will ensure that member states ‘actively and unreservedly support the EU's common foreign and security policy’.

M Giscard said the national veto is abolished in 50 new areas, including immigration and asylum. There is to be a European prosecutor to tackle cross-border crime.

The legislative powers of the European Parliament are doubled at a stroke, covering the EU budget and farm aid.”⁷

The Vatican the EU

Pope John XXIII in giving his vision for a new Europe called it ‘the greatest [Roman] Catholic superstate the world has ever known’. More recently, the Papal Nuncio in Brussels described the EU as ‘a Catholic confederation of States’. With concordats in position and Catholic law recognized in civil law in many of the nations of the European Union, many of the believers are becoming alarmed that the Holy Roman Empire of the past is being re-established in present day Europe. The new laws of the EU are quite similar to those within the Catholic Church. Some believers in Europe are apprehensive of joining the union. They feared that their nation becomes part of the EU eventually the European law would close down churches such as their own. It is not that the Church of Rome itself would come to their doors, but rather that the Police would close churches, designating them as a sect and not as a church. Equally concerned were some of the English who recognize that with the loss of their unique judicial system with its hard-won civil liberties will also come the loss of their religious freedom.

⁷ www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/06/14/weu14.xml By Ambrose Evans-Pritchard in Brussels 6/17/03

The EU Parliament's main base is Strasbourg France. However, one week in each month the Parliament holds committee meetings and a plenary session in Brussels.

In December 2000 Europe opened their new Parliament building in Strasbourg France. It cost 12 billion dollars to build and is patterned after a Dutch artist's famous painting of the Tower of Babel. In the old painting, the Tower is unfinished because it is still under construction. The new EU building is built to appear unfinished just like the Tower of Babel. It is also a tower with an open courtyard in the middle. Looking upward one can see the sky.

Strasbourg France symbolizes the dream of Franco-German integration that was the heart of the Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne. Charlemagne was determined to bring order to Europe. In 772 he launched a 30-year military campaign to accomplish his objective. By 800 Charlemagne was the undisputed ruler of Western Europe. His vast realm encompassed what are now France, Switzerland, Belgium, and The Netherlands. It included half of present-day Italy and Germany, and parts of Austria and Spain. By establishing a central government over Western Europe, Charlemagne restored much of the unity of the old Roman Empire. On Christmas Day in 800, while Charlemagne knelt in prayer in Saint Peter's in Rome, Pope Leo III placed a golden crown on the bowed head of the king. In our own days as far back as 1991, England's *Sunday Telegraph* commented, "If European federalism triumphs, the EC [now the EU] will indeed be an empire. It will lack an emperor: but it will have the Pope."⁸

The flag of the European Parliament, blue with 12 stars in a circle, from the twelve stars that in Catholic tradition is in the halo around the head of Mary. On the dome of the Parliament Building there is a colossal painting of the Woman riding the Beast. In the Parliamentary Offices building there is a huge painting of a Woman riding the Beast. The Woman and the Beast image has appeared on EU postage stamps, including the British one issued in 1984 to commemorate the second election to the European Parliament. The political purposes behind these signs are much debated, the Biblical significance however is revealing.

Papacy Power on the Seven Hills

In Scripture The Woman and the Beast are revealed in Revelation 17. She is the only one who is a city, a religious system, a civil state, that sits on the Seven Hills, and has drunk the blood of the saints, and whose colors are scarlet and purple.

The primal Papacy power was located on the Seven Hills, but she had power to multiply herself and to reproduce her own image. In history Europe came to be studded and covered with minor Papacies. Each kingdom was a distinct Papacy on a small scale. Rome wove together the temporal and spiritual jurisdictions. The Pope was the Vicar of God; the kings were the vice regents of the Pope. Thus the Popes succeeded in extending their power. They reduced the whole of Western Europe under the rule of the Papacy, by planting their system of government in each of Europe's kingdoms. The blending of things civil and sacred was how the Vatican acted and continues to operate.

How could the mutual liaison of the political and spiritual powers deception of the Papacy be better represented than in God's Word in Revelation 17? We know her by the throne on which

⁸ *Sunday Telegraph*, 25th August 1991

she sits, by her seven hills, by the beast she rides, by the garments she wears, by the cup she bears, by the name blazoned on her forehead, by her political lovers; by her shameless looks, by her polluted deeds. We know her by her proud conjectures, her prolonged and dreadful persecution of the saints, her massacres and horrendous Inquisition, the fires of that burnt believers for many hundreds of years. None other comes near her in the graphic details that the Lord paints of her in His Word. Her monarchy and priesthood in close disgraceful association rule and dictate. As the Word of God is fulfilled, and until the Lord Christ Jesus comes, it is the commission of believers to warn one another with that same clarity with which the Word of God sounds forth. To any who are His own trapped within the Roman religious system, other believers are to command them in His Name. In the light of God's truth, it is time once again for those who truly believe the Bible to clearly declare as it does, who is the Christ, and who is the Antichrist. Such was the faith of the believers of old and only by such honest and faithful testimony will the true gospel and freedom from the kingdom of the evil one come to those presently ensnared by the Papacy's lies.

Power through Civil Law

Control of civil law and law among European nations is what the Catholic Church thrived on through the Dark and the Middle Ages. This control was the primary underpinning of her power during the six hundred years of the Inquisition and in the growth of her religious power system generally throughout the centuries. Her ability to grow in strength and numbers is always in proportion to her legal agreements with any nation. In the nations where she has legal concordats with the civil governments, she succeeds both in holding down the Gospel and in simultaneously furthering her position as keeper of the ubiquitous, highly sensuous, and most effective sacramental system known to modern man. The latent control mechanisms in international law and control of the President and Parliament of what looks like being the forthcoming EU are precisely what enables Catholicism to thrive. In time past it was through legal agreements that Rome brought kings and princes to heel. Without the Gospel, Catholics through their fear of death were all their lifetime subject to her bondage, for RCC teaching both then and now is that there is no salvation outside the Church. Woe to the ruler who resisted the papal will! Subjects could be, were, and can still be released from their oaths of allegiance; whole states could be, and were placed under interdict. Since early in the 20th century under Pius XII, however, the legal strategy has become even more autocratic.

Power Refined in Concordats

A "concordat" is an international contract, which legally binds the nation involved, and the Vatican. It guarantees the Roman Catholic Church and Catholics the right of freedom of religion and worship. A concordat also secures rights such as that of defining doctrine, establishing Roman Catholic education, negotiating laws regarding property, appointing bishops, and recognizing Roman Catholic law regarding marriage and annulment. Such legal issues are agreed on in civil law between the "Holy See" (as she in her position as a sovereign state is legally called) and the other nation.

Prior to 1989, the Holy See signed international agreements primarily with European and Latin American countries. Vatican control can be seen very clearly in those nations where concordats have long been established as, for example, in Germany under the extant concordat worked out between under Pius XII and Hitler. The Vatican's desire to maintain civil relations

with other nations is now greater than ever. From 1950 to 1999, 128 concordats were signed between Rome and various states. In the course of nine years, 43 concordats were signed between the Holy See and other nations. Even nations of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa are entering juridical agreements with Rome. Moreover, the Church of Rome has much influence in national and international laws, particularly in the nations in which she has papal nuncios as ambassadors. At present she maintains diplomatic relations with 172 countries at embassy level. According to the *Catholic Almanac*, papal representatives “receive from the Roman Pontiff the charge of representing him in a fixed way in the various nations or regions of the world.” “An apostolic nuncio has the diplomatic rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Traditionally, because the diplomatic service of the Holy See has the longest uninterrupted history in the world, a nuncio has precedence among diplomats in the country to which he is accredited and serves as dean of the diplomatic corps on state occasions.”⁹

The Vatican, desiring to maintain official diplomatic intercourse with all nations, woos Libya, all the while maintaining relations with Israel. She has had uninterrupted relations with Cuba while having great difficulties with China, Korea, and Vietnam. Some Islamic countries have failed as yet to sign agreements with the Holy See, although some of their reluctance now may be swept the continued successful outreach to Islam. Through her many Roman Catholic representatives in government, her own direct influence as a civil power, and in particular through her concordats, Rome is now able to influence substantially civil rulers and civil policy in many nations.¹⁰ Should she gain control of the international criminal court, she would be again fulfilling the Scripture, “*And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*”¹¹

Effective legal structures

To establish legal structures effective to her purposes is the goal of Rome. Understanding this, the remarks of Archbishop Martino, Rome’s permanent observer to the United Nations, bear all the more weight, “As Pope John Paul has stated, ‘Within the international community the Holy See supports every effort to establish effective juridical structures....’”¹² This is how she operated in the Dark and Middle Ages, particularly during the Inquisition when the civil powers in the name of civil law prosecuted millions under her murderous church law. The structure of the Roman system makes her capable not only of gaining a predominant position but also capable of maintaining the upper hand so that in fact “Holy Mother” takes all into herself. For example, “Holy Mother Church” is only one of 154 sovereign states participating in the International Criminal Court; yet she is much more. Her citizenry, whose allegiance is first to the Roman Catholic Church¹³, dwells within each of these

⁹ *Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Almanac*, 2001, p. 277.

¹⁰ See *Ecclesiastical Megalomania: The Economic and Political Thought of the Roman Catholic Church* by John W. Robbins (USA: The Trinity Foundation, 1999) for in depth study. <http://www.trinityfoundation.org>

¹¹ Revelation 17:18.

¹² *Catholic International* August, 1998, Vol. 9, No. 8, p. 350.

¹³ Can. 752 “Although not an assent of faith, a religious submission of the intellect and will must be given to a doctrine which the Supreme Pontiff or the college of bishops declares concerning faith or morals when they exercise the authentic magisterium, even if they do not intend to proclaim it by definitive act; therefore, the Christian faithful are to take care to avoid those things which do not agree with it.” Can. 333, Sec. 3 “No appeal or recourse is permitted against a sentence or decree of the Roman Pontiff.” *Code of Canon Law*, Latin Eng. ed., New English Tr. (Wash. DC 20064: Canon Law Society of America, 1988) #882 “...the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius

nations. Many of her citizens have access to positions in the ruling structure of that nation where, as Roman Catholics, they are enjoined by the Roman Catholic Church to use their influence and position to bring that nation into line with papal desires on any issue. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994) is very clear on the issue,

#899 The initiative of lay Christians is necessary especially when the matter involves discovering or inventing the means for permeating social, political, and economic realities with the demands of Christian [i.e., Roman Catholic] doctrine and life. This initiative is a normal element of the life of the Church: Lay believers are in the front line of Church life; for them the Church is the animating principle of human society. Therefore, they in particular ought to have an ever clearer consciousness not only of belonging to the Church, but of being the Church, that is to say, the community of the faithful on earth **under the leadership of the Pope....**

Due to the totalitarian nature of the Roman Catholic Church, however, none of the non Catholic citizens of other nations have positions of power within her ruling structure. Thus, although the Holy See has formal diplomatic ties with the various states, Catholic power can be brought to bear covertly against that nation which refuses to defer to her views, particularly those regarding matters of faith and morals. So it is that such power over individuals, held in place by concordats that legally guarantee the Roman Catholic teaching can eventually hinder the freedom of religion and worship of those the Holy See deems to be false churches.

“Absolute power corrupts absolutely”

The Emperor Justinian in the sixth century was the main architect who established the foundation for Rome’s ability to impose external unity.¹⁴ The famous Hildebrand Pope Gregory VII nailed down the legal power base of papal canon law so that it became incorporated into Western civilization in the legal system of nations in the eleventh century. All this made possible the Inquisition from 1203 A.D. (in person of Pope Innocent III) until its dissolution in Spain and Portugal in 1808. The Vatican’s persecution of believers they deemed heretics, was done by legal civil means. It involved incarceration, confiscation of property, torture, internment without trial, and death. The present Pope, by means of the decree on infallibility of Vatican Council I, the 1917 adoption of the *Code of Canon Law*, and the revision of the *Code* under his authority in 1983, is able to work no less autocratically than Pope Pius XII¹⁵. Although kept in bounds presently by other forces, papal power now has become so consolidated that it is able to surpass what Hildebrand Pope Gregory VII did in his day. Then the known world was much smaller and the only international system was Rome herself and the Holy Roman Empire. Now the stage is set for a one world government. Perplexingly, many Christians simply want to escape. While some Christians are well informed and aware of the seriousness of the present move to a world religion, nonetheless, most of what is published falls in within the norms of political correctness in which Roman Catholicism is not mentioned. Many present day Evangelicals seem totally ignorant of the laws still standing in the Roman Catholic dogma. For example the statement,

“The Church is to be separated from the state, and the state from the Church.”
was condemned as an error by “His Holiness, our Lord Pope Pius XI” and still is.¹⁶

Press, 1994). Also, #937 and elsewhere.

¹⁴ LeRoy Edwin Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers* (Hagerstown, MD 21740: Review and Herald, 1950) Vol. I, pp. 505, 506.

¹⁵ John Cornwell, *Hitler’s Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII* (NY 10014: Viking, 1999) pp. 348, 361, 371.

The extent to which Rome claims a right to judge and impose chastening has not changed since the days of the Inquisition. In present day canon law she states, Canon 1405 (Sect.1) “It is the right of the Roman Pontiff himself alone to judge in cases mentioned in Can. 1401: 1. those who hold the highest civil office in a state...” Not for nothing, then, is the interest with which the Church of Rome involves herself in promoting the International Criminal Court and like measures.

The power structure behind globalization

The structure of the Roman Catholic Church is a totalitarian hierarchy. It must never be forgotten that the Roman Papacy is an absolute, unlimited, tyrannical monarchy, a worldly, secular government. It has its territorial dominions; it had its court, ambassadors, detective force, legislature, jurisprudence, advocates, prison, taxes, bank, concordats, ambitious plans and policy, is more widely spread than any secular nation and entrenched in many countries. Nonetheless, the Roman Catholic Church is also very different from other secular powers. Her spiritual commerce goes hand in hand with her civil power, claiming infallibility and international recognition.¹⁷

Today many are accepting Roman Catholicism as a valid Christian denomination. Acceptance of the Woman who sits on the seven hills is growing at an enormous rate. The thrust behind this ecumenism is well financed, expertly organized, and orchestrated with all the expertise of Hollywood and Madison Avenue. Against this avalanche of ecumenical stupidity and willful blindness, deep calls to deep, and the graphic portrait of Revelation 17 is caught up and echoed by the experience of generations. The voice of the Lord come back in thunder from the course of ages and reverberates throughout the world. “*Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*”¹⁸ The Woman sitting upon the scarlet-colored beast will continue and wax strong and draw to her bosom multitudes, and nations and power and glory of the world, as the Lord said she would. However the final condemnation of her and those within her is already written, “*and a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.*”¹⁹

The Glory of God and True Revival

While all of these things may appear to be frightening to the believer, the Lord’s word to His people is that He would be with them until He comes again. The Lord has His faithful remnant in England, Ireland, and across Europe. We pray that He would send revival for His own glory. In Him the plenitude of the Spirit abides the same, He ‘*hath the seven Spirits of God*’ and it is He who has said, ‘*How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*’” It looks as if the Church of Rome is ready to assume, if she has not already assumed, the leading role through civil power in the European Union. The Vatican has diplomats in most countries. It also has special representatives at the EU and at the United Nations. In addition,

¹⁶ *The Sources of Catholic Dogma*, Tr. By Roy J. Deferrari from the Thirtieth Edition of Henry Denzinger’s *Enchiridion Symbolorum*, revised by Karl Rahner, S. J., published in 1954 by Herder & Co, Friburg (St. Louis 2, MO: B. Herder Book Co., 1957) # 1755 title “His Holiness, our Lord Pope Pius XI”, p. 435.

¹⁷ Revelation 18:3.

¹⁸ Revelation. 18:4

¹⁹ Revelation 18:21

Catholic clergy and Catholic citizens, through such groups as Opus Dei, influence greatly the nation states of the EU.

However, the Lord is Sovereign and we pray that He would show His guiding hand as His people fervently pray and move to live lives in obedience to Him. Things were worse, both spiritually and politically, for the believers at the time of the Reformation. Yet at that time the Lord brought in true revival by His Spirit. We pray in our own day that on the authority of Scripture alone, that many would be saved before the all-Holy God by His grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone, and all glory and praise is to God alone. ♦

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