

Christ Conquers Confusion & Corruption

and, with Him, WE CONQUER the Devil's malice in today's Church & World

"We must suffer with Christ in order that to be glorified with Him" (Romans 8:17)

DEFEATING "DEFEATISM"

AN EARLIER *Handouts* n. 58, 'Shonky', aimed to cheer-up lay apostles who were *dismayed* by the many defects in churchmen, bureaucracies and faithful, of false doctrine and false morals, and even immorality.

However, Satan is now extending his conquests. *Dismay sinks into gloom*. He tempts new victims to new sorts of sins against Faith, Hope and Charity.

Those who live in gloom are failing to look with the eyes of the Lord Jesus, to think what He thinks, and to do what He wills us to do about it.

THIS *Handouts* is a sequel to n. 58. We must not get embittered, nor weaken the work of Christ, by stepping into see the new **snare**s of the **Enemy** — Father of Lies and Prince of Darkness.

The sign of a "gloomer" is living in gloom, radiating gloom and doom. They are depressed, even despairing. **But a Christian cannot be a pessimist.**

The "gloomers" are forgetting:-

- the triumphs of God Who does nothing in vain;
- the glory of His creation filling heaven and earth;
- the glory of the Incarnation of the Son of God;
- His Public Ministry: tutoring the apostles;
- His Passion and Death, a glory veiled at the time;
- His triumphant Resurrection, "they saw His glory";
- His sending the Holy Spirit from the Father;
- that His Holy Catholic Church is a miracle, despite all things to the contrary in her wayward members.

FURTHER, in dealing with those ignorant of the problems, some are **failing to see** they must be as "subtle as serpents and gentle as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

We must make prudential judgement. We must learn *the discernment of spirits*. We must not **miss opportunities** nor the right way to mend the mess.

CHRIST wants, wishes, wills for us a **WIN-WIN** outcome, here-and-now, and hereafter.

SATAN has a counter plan: a **LOSE-LOSE-LOST** strategy of darkness, difficulties, doubt and despair.

His detailed tactics are to:-

Deceive

- by half-truths, hence half-lies;
- by prompting us to forget what God is doing: concealment;
- by trading on those weaknesses we should be remedying.

Demoralize

- weaken our Faith & Hope;
- destroy our inner peace;
- prompt us to spread his malevolence of gloom.

Immobilize

- enlisting us to spread self-fulfilling rumours of defeat;
- by destroying apostolic action to build Christ's Kingdom;
- by weakening our Charity and Contrition.

CHRIST CONQUERS!

Christ's Gospel agenda is still the same. What is more, it really works! **He has not failed**, it has not failed, **nor must we**. We must live and work to carry out the plan of our Lord Jesus Christ for us:-

- Contrition
- Faith
- Hope
- Charity

The Kingdom of God is at hand:
repent and believe in the Gospel.

Mark 1:15

CHRIST'S MYSTERIES BECOME OURS

1. In **meditative prayer**, e.g. the Rosary (see over).
2. In **Holy Mass**, the Sacramental Sacrifice.
3. In all the **Sacraments**.
4. In a **weekly cycle** of Sunday plus six days work.
5. In the **Liturgical Year**, a cycle of seasons and feasts.
6. In **daily life** by an intention to live in God's Presence.
7. **Morning Offering**: prayers, works, joys, sufferings.
8. **Almsgiving** (mercy as needed), **Prayer**, **Fasting**.

INSPIRATION from coded LOGO or MOTTO

Coded Mottoes in Latin and English

UIOGD, *Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus*:

"in order that in everything God may be glorified"

1 Peter 4:11

which St Benedict took as his motto.

AMDG, *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*

"To the greater glory of God"

popularly presented as,

"All My Deeds for God."

Coded Monograms (letters all on top of each other)

IHS = **IHS**. The Greek 'H' is our E, so in English it is **JES**, short for Jesus. It's called the Divine Monogram, and popularized in Latin as, *Iesus Hominum Salvator*, "Jesus, Saviour of men."

IXΘΥΣ is 'fish', in our letters *I-Ch-Th-U-S*. This can be code for a short creed, *Iesus CHristos THEou Uios Soter*, "Jesus Christ (is) God's Son (the) Saviour" — hence the stylized fish on car windows.

XP are the first letters of Christ in Greek where **X** (*chi*) is our 'Ch' and Greek **P** (*rho*) is our 'R', hence a monogram for the Holy Name Society.

Piety in English

JMJ Jesus, Mary, Joseph

SAG St Anthony guard.

NECESSARY & SUFFICIENT...

All we have to do to please God is to practise faith, hope and charity according to our state in life. It's a **simple** recipe, **hard** to do, but **it works**.

ENTHUSE & ENCOURAGE

- those DEFEATED by gloom;
- and NEVER SPREAD GLOOM yourself!
- and HELP others cope with evil in high places
- and to WORK OUT salvation in fear & trembling:

... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

Philippians 2:12-15

WHO REALLY "NEEDS TO KNOW"?

A security agency only shares knowledge on a need-to-known basis. So —

- Be wary in sharing details of wickedness;
- DON'T engloom others!
- especially those who just CANNOT COPE with it, or
- WON'T BECOME MORE VIRTUOUS for knowing it.

Beware of DETRACTION. It is a sin against Hope. *DON'T reveal the faults of others without necessity.*

Beware of bad company, of listening to talk that does not help us work for God with zeal; i.e. any talk, reading, viewing, which tend to make us 'give up': "...no cowards in the Kingdom, (Apocalypse 21:8).

FRANK SHEED, great Australian apologist

Christ in the Classroom, FJ Sheed, Sheed & Ward 1973(!) — section IV, What the World can do to the Faith; last subheading, The Church, pp 93-94:

THE CHURCH as we meet it can be a trial to the Faith, especially to the faith of one not rightly or deeply grounded in it. Ecclesiastics from highest to lowest can strike us as arrogant, power-loving, money-loving. To take a single instance: in place after place we see the rich sought out and honoured by the Church authorities as never by Christ. All this is true, but to be shaken in Faith by it means not to have understood what Christ had in mind when He entrusted his gifts of Truth and Life to the Apostles. By that choice of His, healing is brought to us through men who themselves need it; we are helped in the saving of our souls by men who have no guarantee that they will save their own; we ask absolution in confession from men who themselves ask absolution in confession. For us and for them, Jesus is the whole point.

To complain that ecclesiastics are defective in intelligence or idealism is naive. It was Jesus' decision to work upon humanity from within it, not some special humanity made for this purpose, but humanity as it actually is: and His working in it is as real as the humanity in which He works. Just after the Transfiguration and just before giving the Apostles the commission to teach all nations till the end of time [Editor: "He upbraided them for their unbelief ..." Mark 16:14], He cried out to a group of them: "How long can I bear with you!" He had said that even when they had done all that was commanded, they should still see themselves as "unprofitable servants" (Luke 17:10). Earlier in that same chapter He had said: "Scandals are sure to come, but woe to him by whom they come."

My own feeling is that students should be prepared in school for the unattractive elements they are liable to meet in the Church. It is for schools to decide how much should be taught and at what age. In my own teaching of unbelievers in parks and on street corners, I never talk about the Papacy without telling of some of our less admirable popes. So my

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hearers understand why I insist that nothing a pope could do or say would make me think of leaving the Church. I entered it by baptism in Christ (not in the Pope), I remain in it in order to be in Christ's companionship (not the Pope's), a member of His Body (not the Pope's). If a given pope behaved badly, I should sympathize with Christ, whose work among men the pope's ill-behaviour was damaging (which is an unhappy reminder of how often our own behaviour has dimmed the face of Christ for those who know us). Meanwhile, whether I agree or disagree with Papal or Conciliar policy, I know that in the Church I have the possibility of union with Christ, and so with Father, Son and Holy Spirit and ultimately with my fellow-men, to the very limit of my own willingness.

WHAT TO DO

- Wake up to myself! The psalmist was inspired to say:

All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all the day long I have been stricken, and chastened every morning.

If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have been untrue to the generation of Thy children.¹

But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end.

1. in Grail version, "betray the faith of your people";
in Vulgate, translated, "betray the generation of Thy sons".
Psalm 73 [72]:13-17; see also Psalm 74 [73]:1-12.

- Read Jesus Christ's words: 5 chapters, John 13-17;
- Read St Peter, St Paul, St John — and holy Job: to build up resolve and never languish in gloom.
- Don't feed on internet reports inducing gloom.
- Teach Creed, Catechism, Commandments, Prayer.
- Not even sinful churchmen can wreck the Church..
- An intercession list pleases God and improves ourselves.
- Lift up your hearts! Let us give thanks...
- CHRIST IS RISEN! And He's already sent the Holy Spirit — but would anyone see that in me?

ROSARY

The Rosary is "Meditating on these [Christ's] Mysteries" in the 20 decades, usually 5 a day, in Mary's company, for He declared her our mother, and she lifts us up in Hope:-

JOYFUL	LUMINOUS	SORROWFUL	GLORIOUS
Annunciation	Jordan Baptism	Agony	Resurrection
Visitation	Cana Wedding	Scourging	Ascension
Birth ¹	Kingdom/Repent	Crown Thorns	Descent of Spirit
Presentation	Transfiguration	Carrying Cross	Assumption
Finding	Holy Eucharist	Death on Cross	Coronation

1: some add, "and the Epiphany" (for the Wise Men as well as Shepherds).

Saying the Ten Hail, Mary's for each mystery:-

1. Minimal requirement: announce each Mystery.
2. Say the 10 Hail, Mary's in honour of that event.
3. See each Mystery through Mary's eyes.
4. Look at a picture for each (cf. Stations of the Cross).
5. Have Cross & 2 Candles (or 5 lit progressively).
6. Make a mental picture of events within the decade.
7. Silently recall a Bible text or just a word for each.
8. If others all agree, read a text aloud for each Hail, Mary.

Soon I hope to list 200 Bible snippets, or just a key word, for mn. 7 & 8, for some future Handouts.

Father James Tierney