

3rd September, 2023

Handouts n. 217

“Clear, Brief and Easily Assimilated by all”

Open Letter to the Australian Successors of the Apostles

Dear Friend, you need to know what is being sent to bishops

CONSECRATED CELIBACY is not the PROBLEM, but the SOLUTION given us by Jesus Christ as His *sacerdotes*, Bridegrooms with Him of His Church

OUR LORD set us His example of spiritual marriage to His Mystical Bride, the Church (Matthew 9:15; John 3:19) for total dedication to His Father's Will of (John 4:34) and to give encouragement to those receiving sacramental matrimony (Ephesians 5:21-33). and so we could more effectively inspire them.

We are eunuchs for the sake of the Kingdom – “Let him receive it who can” (Matthew 19:12). We virgins are “the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb,” (Apocalypse 14:4). See *Married to the Church*, Handouts n. 52)

“When things are in danger, someone has to give them up, lose them, so that others may keep them,” (Frodo's explanation for leaving Middle Earth. in Tolkein's *The Lord of the Rings*).

EXPERIENCE

My acceptance of consecrated celibacy 60 years ago at subdiaconate was actually the first sacrifice any priest must offer, namely himself.

My ministry as Christ's prophet, priest and shepherd would have been severely impaired if I had undertaken a second full-time ministry of husband to a wife, and father to five or six children, and reduced Christ's sacred ministry to secular office hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week, A priest is not just a professional functionary. Better not to have divided loyalties... (cf. Matthew 6:24).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The divorce rate among the clergy of the Separated Brethren is high. Their remarriages have disbarred a number of applicants for priesthood in the Ordinariate for ex-Anglicans, and those who do get ordained as married Catholic priests are usually too old to have any dependent children.

All Christians are meant to live the supernatural life of sanctifying grace, yet the unique character of Holy Orders demands much more of a priest's spirituality. Can you imagine married Catholic bishops? Yet they will be the next target if married men can be ordained to the priesthood.

Please turn over for the evils of **A Synodal Church** as the context for this defence of celibacy.

Perhaps consult the stakeholders, your priests and laity, not to deprive them of a voice in what so intimately concerns them. They might vote 'NO' to married priests and bishops.

Begging your episcopal blessing, and with my prayers. I remain,

Yours sincerely and obediently in our Lord,

James Tierney

Born 1935; Convert 1955; Priest 1964; originally A/diocese Sydney, now Broken Bay; retirement apostolate as in letterhead

A “Synodal” Church ?

He will be a true soldier of the blessed Apostle Peter, if, in litigation where the interest of the apostle is at stake, he shall defend the truth alone without distinction of persons, even if it was the person of the apostle himself. St Gregory the Great, *Journal* 1102

THE SYNODAL CHURCH proposed to us in the agenda for October’s 2023 Roman Synod of Bishops, and its forerunners in the long drawn-out German Synod and our own Fifth Plenary Council, is a **man-made** nightmare linked with Adam’s rebellious Fall from grace.

It is not the **God-made** “One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church” given us by Divine Revelation from the Incarnation of the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Its **agenda** is quite different.

Over and over again, its agenda contradicts Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium, the early Fathers, all canonized saints, and, in particular, the Councils of Trent in 16th century, Vatican I in 1870, and Vatican II, 1962-1965.

It systematically contradicts Popes St-John-Paul and Benedict XVI to undo their work.

It contradicts *The Code of Canon Law* of 1983 on the relationship of the laity to the life-giving hierarchy, as based on the faith and morals taught in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* of 1992/97 and the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 2005.

It accommodates much of the ‘woke’ narrative of our modern pagan governments, governments which defend abortion, euthanasia, abolition of matrimony, upholding divorce, contraception, sodomy, gender-swapping (yet unable to define a woman) and ruthlessly overriding Divine Revelation on Faith and morals. The consequence of such sins are a life of misery, without hope. And Satan will make sure that sin will multiply itself.

The Synodal Church rejects the warnings of St Paul to Galatians, cited opposite. Some see those in a Synodal Church as “You have abandoned the love you had at first” (Apocalypse 2:5). or even a “Synagogue of Satan” (Apocalypse 2:9). Also, “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it, (Psalm 126[127]:1). It ignores forgiveness of sins, sanctifying grace, any quest for sanctity by Confession. It substitutes the novelty of the “itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3) for God’s Good News for a shipwrecked world.

THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH is, and was, and ever will be, **APOSTOLIC:**

There are some who rest their divine mission on their own unsupported assertion; others who rest it on their popularity; others on their success; and others on their temporal distinctions. I fear we have neglected the real ground on which our authority is built – OUR APOSTOLICAL DESCENT. (J.H. Newman, 1833)

See *Handouts* n. 211, “Say NO to a Synodal Church.”

CHRIST’S CHURCH calls on all synodalists to REPENT & BELIEVE:

The kingdom of God is here. Repent and believe the GOOD NEWS (Mark 1:15).

Resist Satan’s infiltration by espionage, subversion and sabotage:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that; the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world; (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Don’t confuse Synodals’ changing human opinions with Development of Doctrine:

“Fight for the faith once for all delivered to the saints, (Jude 3).

“If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed,” (Galatians 1:9; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:4).

Development of doctrine is not a mutation or a change to the opposite> Rather it is meditating on the mysteries and “relating one to another and with t;h;e ultimate end of man;” (See *Handouts* nn. 167/2, 176 on Vatican I and St Vincent de Lerins).

Consulting the laity over matters of doctrine is not seeking an **opinion** but rather a **memory** of what was handed down to them.

The real work of the Synod of Bishops is to PROCLAIM the KINGDOM, CALL to REPENTENCE:

God made us – made in His image, our **dignity** –
to know, love and serve Him
here on earth – our **duty** –
and to see and enjoy Him
for ever ;in Heaven – our **destiny**.

cf. Deuteronomy 10:12

I suggest the Peace Prayer of St Francis.

James Tierney