

Sermon for the 1st Sunday in Advent, November 30, 2025

– Religion “à la carte”

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

My dearly beloved in Our Lord,

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Lk 21:33) With the same words Our Lord has ended his discourse about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world last Sunday (cf. Mt 24:35).

This definitive statement is found in many other places in Holy Scripture, particularly in the writings of St John. There is no place in the divinely revealed content for **evolutionism**. The dogmatic sentences and expressions of Holy Church are as unchangeable as the Word of God itself. A development only exists in as far as the truths contained in divine revelation, are taught more and more explicitly, according to the requirements of times. “For amen I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot, or one tittle shall not pass of the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Mt 5:18)

Unfortunately, many by their ignorance mistake this legitimate and necessary development for some kind of qualitative evolution. The modernists are using this pretended *evolution of dogma* as a battering ram in their ongoing attempt to subvert and overthrow the Church.

Just as unfortunate is it that even among the well-meaning conservatives and even the traditionally minded Catholics, there is a strong and clear tendency to make up one’s own religion! Again and again as a priest, one is confronted with people who hold the strangest ideas. While this is very unfortunate, it is easy to explain: The absence of the jurisdictional hierarchy of the Church since at least December 1965, the end of Vatican2 exactly 60 years ago, makes it that the truth has not been taught for well over two generations. For not only the governing power of the Church belongs to the jurisdictional sphere, but also the teaching power! The magisterium, the teaching authority, is even the primary power with which Christ endowed the Church: “Going therefore, **teach ye all nations**,” Our Lord commands the Apostles before he continues: “**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.” (Mt 28:19-20) There is a clear logical and theological order: teaching – baptizing – governing; teaching power – sacramental power – governing power. The first and last constitute the jurisdictional aspect of the Church, the second the sacramental aspect.

Now most traditionally minded Catholics, even clergy, do not clearly make this distinction. There are the likes of the Fraternity of St Pius X who pretend they can replace “Rome”, that is the authority of the Church, or at least work their way around the obvious problems they see with what is being done and said by the post-Vatican2 popes – the occupants of the papal see – and those united with them. No! No one can replace the God-given authority. Our Lord has deprived us of the teaching and the governing authority, for a time which we find quite long, and which many find too long. This is one of the main reasons why so many come and go at our chapels... They become wary of the combat that carries on and on and on. Our position seems untenable because it is difficult to hold. Thus they turn to something else.

We must never “play Church” by pretending that we have to, or even, can solve the problem with which we are confronted. As we say with Bp Guérard des Lauriers: the Church is not “in order”, meaning that the order maintained in the individual mind through the teaching, and in the social sphere through the government of the Church, is not functioning. But we cannot do much about changing the situation because the solution must come through a true Pope; and a true Pope is made by the Holy Ghost, even if he must be designated by legally competent electors.

I say this because at present there are again some members of the clergy who attempt to make a conclave. Some persons got together and “elected a pope”, not far from here, in Vienna, two years ago... Such conclaves of “the remaining Catholics”, preferably bishops, shall designate a pope. Many are enthralled and seduced by such a project, mainly because they find that the wait for things to “go back to normal” has already been too long. - At the end of the day this is the same logic as that of a suicidal person. He convinces himself that his problems are too great and too many; or that his suffering is unbearable and too long. **Only** he overlooks the fact that he has no competence, neither to judge about how much is too much, nor about ending his life. In the same way the “conclavists” overlook the fact that none of them is competent to designate or elect the Pope.

So please keep a cool head if you are confronted with the vicissitudes of life, your life or the life of the Church. One day this whole spook will be over. Then we, or those living at that time, will look back with amazement and say: "That was it? That was all?" It has happened over and over again in history:

Adam and Eve sinned. God delayed the death sentence with which He had threatened them. What must have been their thoughts over the several centuries during which they did penance, and ultimately saved their souls?

Abraham had received God's promise that he would have many descendants, from his own son. God made him to wait... and to wait... and to wait. So he took things into his own hands and procreated a son, Ismael, from his wife's maid, Agar. God told him to reject this son together with the mother, which this champion of Faith did, as St Paul explains on the 4th Sunday in Lent. Then, when all human hope had died long since, in their old age Abraham and Sarah received the son of the promise, Isaac.

Later the chosen people were taken away from their land into captivity in Babylon, the greatest punishment they could have imagined. It lasted for three generations, 70 years, and most had lost their faith, while some great saints and prophets were granted them by God during these times. Then they were made to come back once again into the Promised Land.

The Church has seen bad and strange days! Think of the Popes residing in Avignon between 1309 and 1376, again about 70 years. This gave rise not only to a very desolate situation in Rome, but also to a loss of respect for the Papacy, and the heresy of Conciliarism – the opinion that a general Council of the Church is higher in rank than the Pope. And it was followed to no great surprise by the Great Western Schism with two and later three lines of Popes (1378-1417), a situation which God's Providence chose to resolve by the courageous efforts of the Roman Emperor Sigismund and the Council of Constance. For you this is just an episode of history. But imagine what it has been like for Catholics living at that time. No one could be absolutely certain about who was the true Pope. There have even been Saints on either side!

Today the liturgical season of Advent begins. It reminds us of God's incredible patience with mankind. For over 4,000 years He prepared the human race for the coming of His Son through the Incarnation. He worked our Redemption. Since then we have the Church founded by Our Lord Jesus Christ – and just about no one seems to care. On the contrary, scores of souls have always convinced themselves that "the Church is full of sinners" and may or must therefore be despised. Among those who seemingly take the Church seriously for what she is, the unique and divinely established ark of salvation for our souls, the greater number has no particular inclination to know the divinely revealed truth. Even asking them to study the Catechism from cover to cover, is like asking them to go around the world backward, on horseback. How can we expect to reform our mind, our thinking, our entire life according to the image of the Son of God if we cannot even wrap our head around the necessity of starting at the beginning? How can anyone love what he does not know? How can they expect to go to Heaven?

You find my language too harsh, too coarse? Open Holy Scripture and see how the Prophets have addressed the people in their time. It is true, most of them have been killed for having spoken frankly their mind, or rather, God's mind! Look at how St John the Baptist talked to the people, preparing them for Christ's appearance! "He said to them: Ye brood of vipers, who hath shewed you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruit worthy of penance. And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham for our father. For I tell you that God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham. For now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree therefore that doth not yield good fruit, shall be cut down, and cast into the fire." (Mt 3:7-10) Why on earth would you expect the Catholic priest to use soft and lenient language? ...in times when we see all the horrible and unpalatable fruits of softness and leniency brought about by modernism?

The Catholic religion, the only true religion, is objective, unchangeable and unchanging. It is the exact opposite of the liberal subjectivist, naturalistic and evolutionist rot of the human mind. It is the only way to Heaven, for outside the Church there is no salvation. Adhering to the Church is not an option, it is an absolute necessity.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Mt 3:3)! For us, sinners and children of a perverted age, making straight Our Lord's path into our soul means employing heavy machinery: prayer and penance, fast and abstinence not only when prescribed by the Church, but also at other times, voluntarily. And accepting the Cross in the form of doing our daily duty. In this manner we can bend and straighten our twisted mind and will. Thus we will become capable again, and ever better, to serve God as He deserves to be loved, served and honored.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.