

In a recent address in Austria, before members of European doctrinal commissions, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger acknowledged that the Church is confronted by a deep crisis of faith among many of her members. His Eminence spoke of "The almost complete disappearance of the doctrine on creation from theology" and its replacement by a secularized "philosophy of evolution" with a resultant "decline of metaphysics." While Cardinal Ratzinger's scholarly assessment may seem somewhat abstract, the consequences of the devaluements which he details are certainly painfully real.

Belief in objective moral norms, in the divinity of Christ and in the Paschal Mystery which comes down to us in the TRANSUBSTANTIATION, are all casualties of this "modern" thinking. And Cardinal Ratzinger further declares: "It is obvious that with such a basic reinterpretation, all the rest of Christianity is likewise altered - - the understanding of what the Church is, the liturgy, spirituality, etc."

Even as the effects of this crisis of Faith pervade practically every local Catholic parish, Catholic Religious Houses & Convents and Monastic institutes, the GOVERNANCE OF THE CHURCH ITSELF SEEMS TO LACK ASSURANCE AND FAITH. At a time when a courageous and prophetic exercise of authority is called for, indecision and weakness by local bishops and oftentimes by the Holy See and the Pope himself seem to characterize the Church's rule.