

If the boy, now a young man, still felt a calling after the minor saminary, he would begin his theological study at the major seminary. Here he would begin his the real trek to the Holy Priesthood; he became immersed in the Faith: philosophy, Sacred Scripture, moral and dogmatic theology, chant, liturgy, metaphysics, ethics, Church history, Canon Law, etc. The atmosphere was conducive for the cultivation of great piety and humility. The young man passed through first tonsure, the minor orders, and the subdiaconate and diaconate. He belonged to heaven, not this world! After four years he was finally ordained to the Holy Priesthood. What joy! What honor! From that moment through all eternity, he was a priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

One day this priest awoke to find himself in a different Church. All that was familiar to him, all he had been taught to love and revere as a seminarian was gone -- altars, images, rosaries, scapulars, chant, catechisms, etc. His Mass, the Mass of Ages, had been replaced with a new Rite in the vernacular. Then his classmates began removing the cassocks, the holy garb in which they were invested at first tonsure, a symbol of their death to this world. Our young priest inquired, "Why are you removing your soutane?" He was stunned by the reply: Vatican II says we must accommodate the world. Was this the religion into which he had been baptized and confirmed: was this the religion to which he pledged his entire being at ordination? At the seminary he had been taught to renounce the world. The world must come to Christ, never the other way. Soon this young priest found his life miserable. Everywhere he was confronted by new theologies, new rituals, a new religion. Where had his Church gone? Eventually this man, who once dreamt of celebrating his own Mass, could no longer survive as a priest. Disillusioned and heartbroken, he left the priesthood.

Think now of the young girl who entered a community of holy sisters at age eighteen. She was so excited; she had always longed to emulate the pious sisters who had instructed and guided her throughout grammar and high school. What a privilege to be accepted into their community! This young girl studied diligently and progressed through her postulant year and novitiate with little difficulty. She took her first vows in 1965, the year the Council closed. Soon she found herself in an alian, hostile Church just like the young priest. Priests preached conferences to the sisters on the spirituality of Vatican II. Soon her order dropped the beautiful habit which had been the garb of the community for centuries. It was replaced by a faddish outfit called a "modified habit." The next year the community abandoned religious clothing entirely. The sisters began experimenting with novel liturgies: Mass around a park bench, clown Masses, and modern dances performed in the sanctuary during the Canon. There were numerous priests willing to help in these "liberating" experiences. Girls began to leave the order--some to marry, others just to get away from the confusion. Seeing no alternative, the young girl, confused and angered by what had become of her beloved community, left the sisterhood.

Lastly, think of the parent who has raised his children in these years since the Council. He enrolled his children in the local parish school presuming they would receive the same education he had been given. He knew that the newly ordained priest who had been assigned to their parish had some funny ideas about Catholicism, but he dismissed it as immaturity. Just give the new Father a few years... This father took his family to Mass each week, instilling in them a reverence for the Blessed Sacrament and the priesthood. He was not too comfortable with the new way Mass was celebrated, but he didn't complain. Soon his oldest was ready to receive First Communion. Asking his child simple questions about God, the Church, and the Holy Eucharist, he received only blank stares in reply. Then it dawned on him, his daughter was making First Communion without First Confession. He went to his daughter's teacher for an explanation. She (a laywoman as there were no more sisters left to staff the school) told him that all those old doctrines were done away with by the Second Vatican Council. What matters now is that everyone love each other.