

No term is used - - and abused - - among traditionalist people more often than the term "INVALID" and the resulting term "UNCANONICAL". One hears endless discussions about the "validity" or the "invalidity" of this or that priest's ordination, or of this or that bishop's consecration, or this or that liturgical function, or administration (and the use of language) of the Sacraments. Is this not in itself a clear indication that something is very wrong? and that in most traditionalist centers a critical analysis of traditionalist points of view is necessary? Unfortunately, the existence of this problem is seldom admitted. Everyone simply claims the fulness of "validity" (or "canonicity") for his own position and proceeds to strut his "validity" in his own precinct (very much like a Guppy fish in a quart jar) and, in the name of his own sometimes manufactured position, condemns and denounces as "invalid" the existence, the status, and the operations of all other traditionalist centers. Any one is amazed by the low level and the cynicism of these "invalidity" fights in which any insinuation, any accusation, any distortion is permitted as long as it harms the "enemy".

The concern in most cases is not for TRUTH, but for victories over all other "invalid" and "uncanonical" traditional groups. Has it not been noticed that if one belongs to any particular traditionalist grouping of individuals, all other traditionalist groupings hate that individual, and oftentimes refuse Holy Communion to him should he happen to visit any of their chapels? And this is all done in the name of "valid catholicity" and of TRUTH and zeal for the house of God. But it oftentimes happens that it does not matter that the same bishop or priest or self-proclaimed "pope" or grouping of people was condemning yesterday what today it praised as canonical and valid. A very close look at things will show that the real motivations behind all these transfers of opinions have seldom anything to do with real canonical convictions or honest concerns about validity, or any clear understanding or reasons for the use of the Latin Language, or whatever, - - WHAT MATTERS IS VICTORY!! We live in a poisoned atmosphere of anathemas and excommunications, dubious consecrations of dubious bishops by dubious bishops, dubious ordinations of priests by dubious bishops, wholesale conditional administration of Sacraments, hatred, calumny, lies, dubious celebrations of Mass liturgies, dubious administration of the Sacraments, dubious everything, but EVERYTHING is carefully - - very carefully - - - "Checked out" by people whose own catholic credentials and traditional moorings are dubious!!

This overzealous attitude on the part of some has become an obsession and has in great measure wounded the position of really valid priests and bishops, and seriously imperiled the credibility that any right thinking person might continue to have for the entire Traditional Roman Catholic effort. It is imperative that all traditionally minded Roman Catholics must learn how to think together, teach together, work together, and PRAY together. Unless and until all traditionally minded Roman Catholics come to that conclusion - in humility - it is vain to think that the Roman Catholic Religious continuity of the ages can or will survive!!

Might we ask the traditionalist zealots if they have any thought about the irreparable moral damage their religious frenzy has caused our people? How can anyone be expected to find the atmosphere of prayer in all of this mess? And in all of this low grade activity, are we not encouraging conscientious and well intentioned people to consider all norms, all regulations, all rules - all everything - as purely relative and dependent on the present moment's personal preferences of somebody? One has to wonder whether our traditionalist priests, and bishops and self-proclaimers "popes" (there are several) realize the scandal of this situation, and the horrendous damage they have caused to the original purpose of the Traditional Roman Catholic Church: the preservation of THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS! One has to wonder, also, whether these self-appointed protectors of the traditional sanctuary ever think about the cynicism all of this burlesque provokes and feeds in the hearts and minds of truly wonderful and innocent people ((especially the younger generation) in search of a peaceful place conducive of humble prayer to their God! One wonders whether these molders of catholic traditional thinking, all filled with zeal for the house of God, ever take notice of the splits, the sub splits, the sub-sub splits, the sub-sub-sub- splits in many of our traditionalist centers of worship! The former cardinal of Chicago was once asked what he planned to do about the traditionalist effort. He said: "Nothing! Why should I? I don't need to do anything. The entire movement will soon destroy itself by its own efforts!" One has to wonder if this is not prophecy - - and coming from such a one!!

ARE WE ACTING ACCORDING TO THE WAY OF OUR BLESSED LORD, JESUS?

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