

ONE MORE SOUL

Winter Newsletter—December 2016

Just Look

During his final year as Archbishop of NYC, Edward Cardinal Egan penned “Just Look” wherein he invited the reader to ‘just look’ at . . . “a being that has been within its mother for 20 weeks” and answer three simple questions:



- *Have you any doubt that it is a human being?*
- *If you do not have any such doubt, have you any doubt that it is an innocent human being?*
- *If you have*

no doubt about this either, have you any doubt that the authorities in a civilized society are duty-bound to protect this innocent human being if anyone were to wish to kill it?

A few more Cardinal Egan quotes:
“It [abortion] is wrong, and it cannot—must not—be tolerated.”

“It is high time to stop pretending that we do not know what this nation of ours is allowing—and approving—with the killing each year of more than 1,600,000 [2008] innocent human beings within their mothers.”

“There is nothing at all complicated about the utter wrongness of abortion, and making it all seem complicated mitigates that wrongness not at all.”

“I looked, and I know what I saw.”

THE Election

I presume you join me in being grateful to Almighty God for the pro-life election victory. It could not have happened without God’s mercy and love for us.

The election of pro-life President Donald Trump, VP Mike Pence and securing of Republican majorities in the US House and Senate, as well as numerous state offices, defines America’s strong mandate to end abortion in the USA. The very hard work of the pro-life movement and the unprecedented support of Catholic and other Christian clergy cooperated with God’s grace to achieve the slim margin of victory that spared us from 4 more years of extreme promotion of abortion, contraception and sterilization—here and abroad.

AND surely Our Blessed Mother Mary had her hand in this victory—much like when she deflected the assassin’s bullet that was headed for Pope John Paul II’s heart.

Perhaps she is anticipating the American Bishops processing her statue as *Our Lady of America* into the *Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*—a request she made 60 years ago.

Is she releasing the graces she promised—graces that would exceed those from Fatima and Lourdes and would flood America when this happened?

Please pray that her “loyal sons” will do as she wishes. Pray that Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Houston-Galveston, newly elected President of the USCCB, will accomplish this soon.

Please consider ordering 100 “Just Look” pamphlets (\$25 sug donation) for your parish, staff, family and friends.

WHO Did It?

Because of the slim victory margin in several states, many groups and leaders can rightly claim that their effort consolidated the victory. Without a doubt, the coalition of pro-life individuals and organizations played a critical role.

Some of the most notable leaders were:

- Father Frank Pavone and *Priests For Life* really led the pro-life movement with clear reasoning for voting, and voting with the Church for life.
- Catholic clergy and Catholic organizations spoke more clearly than in any previous election, changing the 2008 and 2012 Catholic vote from death to life.
- Reports indicate that 80% of Evangelical Christians voted for Trump.
- **40 Days for Life Prayer and Presence in over 150 cities (all states) kept a local focus on killing centers without directly seeking an election influence.**
- ***Created Equal*’s** flying banners, JumboTron trucks and graphic posters of aborted children toured contested states showing abortion reality to hundreds of 1000nds.
- **Susan B Anthony Fund staffers and volunteers visited over one million homes in swing states encouraging votes for life.**

What is preventing America from being great?

- Killing children in the womb, Petri dishes, fertility clinics and stem cell labs.
- Killing old people by euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.
- Killing people with brain trauma for vital organs.
- Ignoring women dying during abortion and due to cancer caused by abortion, hormonal birth control and hormone replacement therapies.
- Sterilization and birth control that disable healthy procreative systems in women, men and girls.

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Could President Donald Trump Quickly Close Our Child-Killing Abortion Centers?

His Campaign Promises

He promised to pick Supreme Court justices who are "really great legal scholars," opposed to abortion and fans of the Second Amendment.

He promised to select a replacement for Justice Antonin Scalia from a list of more than 20 contenders that has already been released.

He promised to defund Planned Parenthood and reallocate their funding to community health centers.

He promised to sign into law the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks, the point at which anti-abortion activists say a fetus can feel pain.

He promised to make the Hyde Amendment permanent. Since 1976, Congress has annually passed the Hyde Amendment, banning the use of federal dollars—in particular, Medicaid funds—for abortion, except in the case of rape, incest or a threat to the mother's life.

Donald Trump's appointments to his Cabinet and other offices have exceptional pro-life records. His pro-life commitment is now very, very, deep!

Nazi Germany and Planned Parenthood/DNC America

God did not bless the German people with a leader that would stop the killing of Jews, homosexuals and Christians during the *10 year Nazi holocaust*. I believe that God has given America that grace by the election of President Trump.

What can President Trump do to stop the *44 year American holocaust*?

What must we do?

- Encourage President Trump to use the Executive Powers of his office to declare on the basis of irrefutable biological/medical evidence that human life begins at conception and these human beings must be—and will be—protected in the United States of America.
- Suggest to the President that he review the history of Executive Office actions that sought justice and restored order for ideas that could be employed to close all child killing facilities in the United States and its territories.
- Urge President Trump to have his new Surgeon General present the visual and medical evidence of human development from conception to birth as part of his announcement to the American people of the action being taken to close our killing centers.

Why NOW?

Two generations of pro-life individuals (and the organizations they have supported) have considered reversal of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe vs Wade* and *Doe vs Bolton* decisions to be the only means for stopping the killing of American children in their mother's womb. Those decisions were based on:

Claimed ignorance of when life begins.

A "right to privacy" that did not exist then and still does not exist in the US Constitution.

Some supernatural authority to kill children.

The Roe and Doe decisions that legalized this mass murder in effect created an unjust law that was not passed by the Legislative Branch of government, but in fact claimed to nullify the anti-abortion laws in all 50 states.

No unjust law need be respected or obeyed.

What Have Past Presidents Done To Seek Justice, Establish Order, and Protect Life, Liberty and Happiness?

George Washington—Led the Revolutionary War to separate American Colonies from British tyranny.

Abraham Lincoln—Confronted the injustice of slavery and saved the nation.

Franklin Roosevelt—Declared war on Japan in response to the destruction and murder at Pearl Harbor.

Harry Truman—Ordered the use of nuclear bombs to force Japanese surrender.

Dwight Eisenhower—Ordered the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock to enforce high school integration and federalized the entire 10,000-member Arkansas National Guard, taking it out of the hands of Governor Faubus.

John Kennedy—Mobilized the National Guard and sent federal troops to the University of Mississippi to register African American USAF Veteran James Meredith.

—Sent several thousand troops to an Alabama air base to quell racial demonstrations in Birmingham.

—Stood firm against Khrushchev to resolve the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Lyndon Johnson—Activated the Alabama National Guard to protect the Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights Marchers.

Ronald Reagan—Convinced Gorbachev to take down the Berlin Wall (supported by John Paul II and Margaret Thatcher).

George H W Bush—Sent troops to restore order during the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Donald J Trump— (fill in the blanks)

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Justice Byron White on Roe and Doe

Justice White was joined by Justice Rehnquist in dissenting from the 7-2 Roe vs Wade and Doe vs Bolton 1973 decisions that removed all legal protection for pre-born human life from abortion throughout the United States.

Byron White was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court as Associate Justice in 1962, and served on the Court until he retired in 1993. He died in 2002.

Justice White not only dissented from the 1973 decisions but later made repeated attempts to overrule them despite he being supposedly ambivalent on abortion.

Raw Judicial Power

Byron White pulled no punches when criticizing the Roe and Doe decisions. His referral to these decisions as an exercise of *raw judicial power* has been often quoted from his dissent:

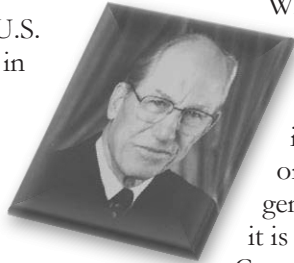
I find nothing in the language or history of the Constitution to support the Court's judgment. The Court simply fashions and announces a new constitutional right for pregnant mothers [410 U.S. 222] and, with scarcely any reason or authority for its action, invests that right with sufficient substance to override most existing state abortion statutes. . . . As *an exercise of raw judicial power*, the Court perhaps has authority to do what it does today; but, in my view, its judgment is an improvident and extravagant exercise of the power of judicial review that the Constitution extends to this Court. [Emphasis added.]

"An illegitimate decision was entitled to no respect."

This was a view he adhered to throughout his time on the Court. He later told a friend that Roe was the only illegitimate decision the Court had made during his tenure: "In every other case, there was something in the Constitution you could point to for support. There, nothing." White dissented in many other cases, of course, but Roe clearly stood out in his mind as completely unjustifiable. Nearly twenty years later, in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, he voted to overturn Roe despite the fact that the decision was by then a long-standing precedent. An illegitimate decision was entitled to no respect.

Justice White did not hesitate to challenge the legitimacy of Roe and Doe

"In my view," says White, "the time has come to recognize that Roe v. Wade departs from a proper understanding of the Constitution, and to overrule it."



White argues this by first noting that there is clearly nothing in the text of the Constitution itself that refers to abortion or even to reproduction generally speaking; moreover, it is "highly doubtful" that the Constitution's authors intended to protect a right to abortion.

In Roe the Court had acknowledged as much, but claimed that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment (which forbids the deprivation of life, liberty or property without due process of the law) protected individuals from state laws that infringed on their liberties in certain circumstances. It ruled that abortion was a fundamental liberty that states could not restrict without a compelling interest.

White finds this ruling flawed. While individual liberty is indeed protected under the Due Process Clause, this protection is generally very limited:

state laws can usually restrict liberty as long as they are rational. [For instance, my liberty to drive on the left side of the road is restricted by state laws across the nation; these traffic laws certainly do not violate the Due Process Clause.]

Only when fundamental rights are at issue is a stricter standard applied:

states may not infringe on fundamental rights without a truly compelling reason. In White's opinion, contrary to the Court's in Roe, the liberty to abort is not fundamental; therefore states can restrict abortion.

[Most of these two articles were excerpted from

<http://endroe.org/dissents/white.aspx> rom]

For additional Byron White wisdom see Dennis Hutchinson, *The Man Who Once Was Whizzer White* (New York: The Free Press, 1998).

Summary Comments

Bold leadership will be required for *America To Be Great Again.*

Leadership is necessary from three groups:

The Federal Government, especially from the Executive Office of the President. All indications are pointing toward that leadership being in place at Noon on January 20, 2017.

The Health Care Profession must find its roots. Killing and mutilating people never were—and never can be—part of an authentic health care profession. STOP IT! Greed and public demand be damned. Do what is right and adjust to that standard. The players are many:

Health care professionals across the board, their professional societies and publications, FDA and HHS, ethicists and theologians, for sure.

The Catholic Church too must find its roots and its voice—no more laryngitis, please! We need to, want to, hear and see the Truth proclaimed with Love, you know, like Jesus did—fearlessly—*be not afraid*, He said!

Go to the fundamentals:

Commandments, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Encyclicals on life and family, Vatican Council II documents. Be wary of what has not been time-tested.

History has placed us in this unique time, about to be led by an audaciously bold president, saved at the brink of disaster by the pro-life movement, the Catholic Church, evangelicals and others too numerous to list.

Let us go forward in prayer, confident that God will continue to bless America, well aware that we are God's boots on the Earth, seeking Mary's support as Our Lady of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, Good Help and America.

Donald Trump wants to make America great again. I pray that he wants that ASAP—ahead of schedule and under budget—as if he were building a great NYC skyscraper.

Ob, Mr Trump, while you're shutting killing centers, please shut the internet porn industry that glorifies the abuse of women, men and children!

Thanks!

What did OMS do to impact and educate voters for the election?

- We created and distributed hundreds of "*How Should a Catholic Vote*" booklets.
- We partnered with Radio Maria on "the Quest for a Culture of Life in America" with four programs on election guidance from Fathers Michael Orsi, John Lankeit and Frank Pavone.
- We sent many email blasts of articles, homilies, and news to 10,000 friends to educate voters on the enormous importance of this election for the Church, nation and families for generations to come.

For America To Be Great, American Health Care Must Be Great!

The American healing profession has been corrupted by ideology, social engineering, and economics. Consider the various ways that our health care providers are legally killing us:

- Killing children in the womb
- Killing very small people in Petri dishes, IVF centers and stem cell labs.
- Killing by abortifacient drugs masquerading as contraceptives.
- Killing by refusing to provide oxygen, water and food to patients needing assistance with these ordinary necessities for life.
- Killing by physician assisted suicide.
- Killing people to "harvest" their vital organs.

Add the following additional gravely immoral practices that a true health care professional should abhor:

- Mutilation of men, women and girls by sterilization and contraception.
- Mutilation with hormones and surgery attempting to reverse one's birth gender.
- Refusing to provide mental health care for those with gender dysphoria.

Cancer Treatments as analogy for Closing Child-Killing Centers

The two most common protocols for attacking cancer—chemo and surgery (radiation is similar to surgery)—are analogous to attacking abortion in our country. Chemo reminds me of the incremental approach that has reduced abortion rates and killing centers over the past several decades. No surgical approach has been available. HOWEVER, the election of Donald Trump presents the opportunity to surgically (quickly) remove the child-killing centers. AUL's Clarke Forsythe estimates that the already 43 years of the incremental/chemo approach may require another 10 years after Roe & Doe are reversed.

I'm praying that President Trump will do surgery!

Director's Column

Dear Friends of One More Soul,

The election of Donald Trump and the potential for radical cultural change that he envisions gives me great joy. I firmly believe that God has blessed America in a very unique way. I praise Him in the Trinity—Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. And I so appreciate that our common Mother Mary pled for the mercy that provides us the opportunity to skewer the *Culture of Death* and raise up a resurgent *Culture of Life*.

With this end-of-year One More Soul Newsletter, we are inviting, encouraging and begging for a unification of Church, State and Healthcare in a *common goal of doing what is right*. What is right, you may ask. The answer is found in the Our Father that Jesus taught us many years ago—

Thy will be done.

Embrace opportunities to explain Truth with Love—the Truth of the Commandments and the Love Jesus has for everyone.

Let us be as bold and courageous as President-Elect Trump was when he decided to run for President without any prior experience inside government, and then pursue that unlikely dream through mountains of media ridicule, ferocious attack from opponents left and right, his own weaknesses and obvious mistakes.

WE TOO MUST BE BOLD in following God's will!

I believe that in writing this OMS Newsletter I am following God's will with a broad focus on the *Quest for a Culture of Life in America*—the title of my Tuesday Noon ET Radio Maria USA Program, which I invite you to join by tuning to **radiomaria.us**.

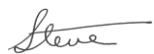
Please rest assured that One More Soul's fundamental mission remains to convince everyone that:

- a) children are a blessing—the supreme blessing to marriage and all the world, and
- b) contraception is the root cause for abortion, and marital unhappiness that often leads to divorce.

Please help us financially with a one-time gift of \$30, \$60, \$100 or \$_____.

OR, a monthly gift of any amount \$____/month.

Thank you for your generosity. May God continue to bless America and each of us!



Steve Koob, Director

PS Please pray for Darlene, Maureen, Julia, Diane, Vince, Lili, Daniel and me, *and* this critical One More Soul apostolate!

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The devil never sleeps; neither can we!

LITURGY MATTERS

Why and how to make the Liturgy great!

Why must the Liturgy be GREAT for America to be Great?

For America to be Great, the Catholic Church must be Great because the Catholic Church is the greatest moral authority in the universe. The Church must exhibit its moral authority by proclaiming the moral truths that are in the Ten Commandments, in the Natural Law and written on everyone's heart.

The Ten Commandments are encapsulated in the two Great Commandments—Love God and Love Your Neighbor, the great LOVE connection!

Love God and love neighbor—the two shan't be separated. The government exists to help the Church in its 'love of neighbor' responsibility. For both to be maximally effective, both must be great.

It is my opinion that for priests to courageously preach and teach Catholic Church doctrine on the moral evils of abortion, contraception, and sterilization (that violate the 5th and 6th Commandments) they will need great Grace that can only come from the Source and Summit of the Christian Life—the Liturgy.

Furthermore, I think that this infinite source of Grace can only be tapped to a degree commensurate with the holiness of the Mass being offered, which depends on many factors.

Look now to Catholic Church authorities for answers:

- Cardinal (later Pope Benedict XVI) Joseph Ratzinger, considered the greatest liturgist of our time;
- Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments; and
- Cardinal Raymond Burke, very well-known and respected for his defense of Catholic orthodoxy.

What does Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger say about Ad Orientem?

"On the other hand, a common turning to the east during the Eucharistic Prayer remains essential. This is not a case of something accidental, but of what is essential. Looking at the priest has no importance. What matters is looking together at the Lord. It is not now a question of dialogue but of common worship, of setting off toward the One who is to come. What corresponds to the reality of what is happening is not the closed circle but the common movement forward, expressed in a common direction for prayer."

—Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, p81



Pope Emeritus Benedict reiterates call for priests to 'face east'

By Jan Bentz, Oct 24, 2016

October 24, 2016 ([LifeSiteNews](http://www.lifesitenews.com)) — Pope Benedict XVI endorsed the reorientation of the priest toward the East in Mass as an ecumenical instrument, saying: "In the liturgy's orientation to the East, we see that Christians, together with the Lord, want to progress toward the salvation of creation in its entirety."

These words were in a [reflection letter](http://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/travel-companions) [http://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/travel-companions] published by the *L'Osservatore*

Romano on October 12 as a tribute to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, for the upcoming 25th anniversary of his election.

The letter is part of a new book, prefaced by Pope Francis, called: "[Bartholomew: Apostle and Visionary, 25 Years of Guiding the Christian East.](#)"

Pope Emeritus Benedict went on to explain the solar meaning of the orientation of the priest in the liturgy: "Christ, the crucified and risen Lord, is at the same time also the 'sun' that illuminates the world. Faith is also always directed toward the totality of creation. Therefore, Patriarch Bartholomew fulfills an essential aspect of his priestly mission precisely with his commitment to creation."

With these words, he effectively underlines the potential unifying element of the liturgical traditions of the East and West were orientation toward the East universalized in the Latin rite. Orientation also serves a symbolic purpose, as he explains: "A shepherd of the flock of Jesus Christ is never oriented merely to the circle of his own faithful. The community of the Church is universal also in the sense that it includes all of reality." Facing towards the rising sun is fundamentally turning towards the whole world, not just to an enclosed circle: "It is on the way toward the redemption of all creation."

Read the complete Life Site News article at <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/benedict-sees-priest-facing-east-at-mass-as-a-unifying-force-between-east-and-west> or Inside the Vatican, Nov 2016, p 19.

Vatican Liturgy Chief asks all priests and bishops to face east for Mass, faithful to kneel for Communion

By John-Henry Westen, Jul 5, 2016

LONDON, July 5, 2016 ([LifeSiteNews](#)) – Speaking at a conference on the liturgy in London yesterday, Cardinal Robert Sarah, the highest authority on the topic in the Catholic Church under Pope Francis, asked all bishops and priests to adopt the ancient posture in the Mass where the priest faces the tabernacle along with the congregation, rather than facing the people. He asked that the posture be adopted by Advent of this year, which begins November 27. During the same talk, Cardinal Sarah encouraged all Catholics to receive Communion kneeling. During the talk, the Vatican's liturgy chief revealed that Pope Francis had asked him to "continue the liturgical work Pope Benedict began."

The announcement was immediately recognized by [Catholic Herald](#) deputy editor [Dan Hitchens](#) as "the biggest liturgical announcement since Benedict XVI's 2007 *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum* gave greater freedom for priests to celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass."

Vatican watchers are particularly stunned that Pope Francis, who is regarded by many as a liberal, has encouraged a more traditional approach to liturgy. Yet Cardinal Sarah said, "Our Holy Father Pope Francis has the greatest respect for the liturgical vision and measures of Pope Benedict."

French Bishop Dominique Rey, who was present at the conference, took up Cardinal Sarah's request without hesitation, vowing to at least begin to implement the change in his diocese by Advent. Rey, the Bishop of Fréjus-Toulon, addressed Cardinal Sarah at the conference, saying: "In response to your appeal I wish to announce now, that certainly on the last Sunday of Advent of this year in my celebration of the Holy Eucharist at my cathedral, and on other occasions as appropriate, I shall celebrate *ad orientem*—towards the Lord who comes." Bishop Rey added, "Before Advent I shall address a letter to my priests and people on this question to explain my action. I shall encourage them to follow my example."

Cardinal Sarah gave thanks for the many celebrations of the liturgy that are devout and give glory to God, but he also lamented the many abuses of the liturgy in the Church. "In recent decades," he observed, "we have seen many liturgical celebrations where people, personalities and human achievements have been too prominent, almost to the exclusion of God."

Cardinal Sarah used his African heritage to drive home the point. "I am an African," he said. "Let me say clearly: the liturgy is not the place to promote my culture. Rather, it is the place where my culture is baptized, where my culture is taken up into the divine."

Sarah suggested that the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council intended liturgical reform to bring more of the faithful to the Mass, yet for the most part the effort has failed. "My brothers and sisters, where are the faithful of whom the Council Fathers spoke?" he asked.

The cardinal continued:

Many of the faithful are now unfaithful: they do not come to the liturgy at all. To use the words of St John Paul II: many Christians are living in a state of "silent apostasy;" they "live as if God does not exist" (*Apostolic Exhortation, Ecclesia in Europa*, 28 June 2003, 9). Where is the unity the Council hoped to achieve? We have not yet reached it. Have we made real progress in calling the whole of mankind into the household of the Church? I do not think so. And yet we have done very much to the liturgy!

He expressed "profound grief" at the "many distortions of the liturgy throughout the Church today," and proposed that the "Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate ambiguity and depreciation."

One such abuse he mentioned was when priests "step aside to allow extraordinary ministers distribute Holy Communion" which for many priests was thought to be a way of allowing lay people to participate in the Mass in a substantial way. Rather, said Cardinal Sarah, "This is wrong, it

is a denial of the priestly ministry as well as a clericalisation of the laity." "When this happens it is a sign that formation has gone very wrong, and that it needs to be corrected," he added.

He encouraged a generous reception of the traditional Latin Mass and also encouraged traditional practices Pope Benedict proposed previously, including the use of Latin in the new Mass, kneeling for Holy Communion, as well as Gregorian chant. "We must sing sacred liturgical music not merely religious music, or worse, profane songs," he said. "The Council never intended that the Roman rite be exclusively celebrated in the vernacular. But it did intend to allow its increased use, particularly for the readings."

Speaking of kneeling for Holy Communion, the Vatican liturgy chief reminded priests that they are forbidden from denying Communion to the faithful for kneeling for reception of the Sacrament. Moreover, he encouraged all to receive while kneeling where possible. "Kneeling at the consecration (unless I am sick) is essential. In the West this is an act of bodily adoration that humbles us before our Lord and God. It is itself an act

of prayer. Where kneeling and genuflection have disappeared from the liturgy, they need to be restored, in particular for our reception of our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion."

A lengthy section of his talk was devoted to calling priests and bishops to celebrate Mass facing "*ad orientem*" or with the people facing Our Lord. Here are the key excerpts:

Even though I serve as the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, I do so in all humility as a priest and a bishop in the hope that they will promote mature reflection and scholarship and good liturgical practice throughout the Church.

I want to make an appeal to all priests... I believe that it is very important that we return as soon as possible to a

common orientation, of priests and the faithful turned together in the same direction—Eastwards or at least towards the apse—to the Lord who comes, in those parts of the liturgical rites when we are addressing God... I think it is a very important step in ensuring that in our celebrations the Lord is truly at the center.

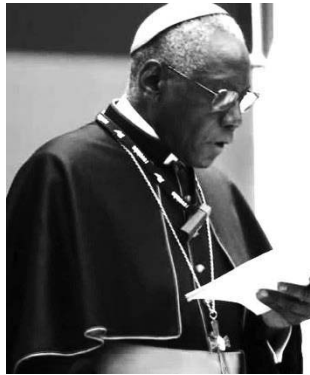
And so, dear Fathers, I ask you to implement this practice wherever possible, with prudence and with the necessary catechesis, certainly, but also with a pastor's confidence that this is something good for the Church, something good for our people.

Your own pastoral judgement will determine how and when this is possible, but perhaps beginning this on the first Sunday of Advent this year... may be a very good time to do this. Dear Fathers, we should listen again to the lament of God proclaimed by the prophet Jeremiah: "they have turned their back to me" (2:27). Let us turn again towards the Lord!

I would like to appeal also to my brother bishops: please lead your priests and people towards the Lord in this way, particularly at large celebrations in your dioceses and in your cathedral. Please form your seminarians in the reality that we are not called to the priesthood to be at the center of liturgical worship ourselves, but to lead Christ's faithful to him as fellow worshippers. Please facilitate this simple but profound reform in your dioceses, your cathedrals, your parishes and your seminaries.

Throughout the talk, Cardinal Sarah stressed the grave responsibility of priests regarding the Eucharist. "We priests, we bishops bear a great responsibility," he said. "How our good example builds up good liturgical practice; how our carelessness or wrongdoing harms the Church and her Sacred Liturgy!"

He warned his fellow priests, "Let us beware of the temptation of liturgical sloth, because it is a temptation of the devil."



Part of the Final Transcript – Tele-press conference with Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke

SPEAKERS: Lisa Wheeler, Father Joseph Fessio and Cardinal Burke

PRESENTATION

Operator: Welcome to the Cardinal Burke *Hope for the World* Tele-Press Conference.

Operator: Thank you. And our next question comes from Steve Koob from *One More Soul*. Steve, your line is open.

Steve: Good morning, Your Eminence. It's a pleasure to be with you.

Cardinal Burke: Thank you.

Steve: I know you spoke about liturgy in your book. Could you tell us about what does the liturgy have to do with our culture of death? Is there a connection between the changes that were made after Vatican Council II in the liturgy and the change in the culture that we've experienced over the last at least 50 years?

Cardinal Burke: Well, there's a fundamental connection. The Sacred Liturgy is the highest and most perfect expression of our Catholic faith, and the Sacred Liturgy, when it's celebrated correctly and with great dignity, we see the order of creation and we approach God himself with worship, and we receive from him not only the truth, which he teaches us through the scriptures and through the homily of the priest, but also we receive truth itself in the sacraments and in direct encounter with Christ.

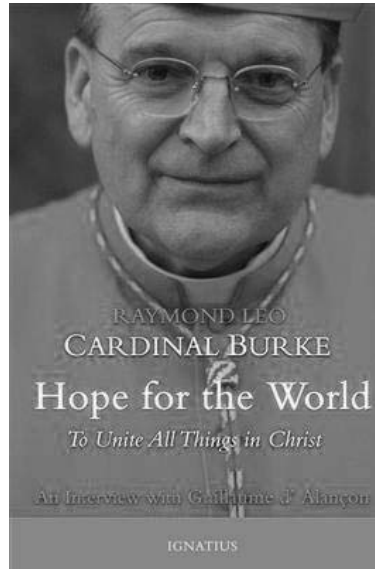
And so what happened, sadly, after the council, and it certainly was not part of the teaching of the council, was there was a tremendously man-centered approach to the Sacred Liturgy, to the extent that the idea that this was worship offered to God according to God's commandment was completely lost, and the liturgy became something we created, and I remember people saying well, we have to make the Sacred Liturgy interesting and it was all of this experimentation. But all of it completely blurred the essential encounter between heaven and earth, which is the liturgy, the essential encounter between eternity and time. And so, first of all, many people when the Sacred Liturgy, especially

the Holy Mass was reduced in this way, stopped attending Holy Mass. They didn't find anything there that they couldn't find in other human activities. And those that were coming were not being nourished with the truth, or were not seeing in the Sacred Liturgy this wonderful, what we call the mystery of faith, God's plan for our salvation. And so it strikes me that there's an exact correlation between the abuses in the Sacred Liturgy and the breakdown of the moral life, and especially in these very serious questions regarding the protection and nurture owed to every human life from the moment of its conception to the moment of natural death.

Steve: Cardinal Sarah gave a talk at the Sacred Liturgy 2016 Conference in London, where he encouraged some changes in the liturgy, including ad orientem even for the Novus Ordo Mass. Would you agree with that lecture that he gave and [his] recommendations?

Cardinal Burke: I agree with him completely. And I believe that many of the comments which were made afterwards are not well informed and are not fair. His fundamental point, and the question of the position of the priest in the assembly, if we want to call it, in the congregation which was coming for worship is key because the priest is at the head of the congregation, he's acting in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, offering this worship to God, and so all of us are facing the Lord. He's not turning his back on anybody, this is often times what people say, well, now, the priest turned his back on us, not at all, the priest, as our spiritual father, is leading us in this worship to lift our minds and hearts to God.

There's nothing in the documents of the Second Vatican Council which would demand or even suggest that Mass should now suddenly be celebrated with the priest facing the people. This is a discipline which was introduced afterwards and I think was part of the false liturgical reform. And what happens when the priest is facing the people, it doesn't mean that the priest can't offer the Mass very reverently and with the true spirit of the liturgy in the sense of offering worship to God facing them, but there's the great temptation when the priest is facing the people to see him as some kind of a performer that suddenly now instead of the priest together with the people relating to God, somehow now it becomes an interaction between the priest and the people, and that the priest is the protagonist and it's no longer our Lord Jesus Christ. And this is a very



fundamental gross error that has to be addressed.

And so, Cardinal Sarah, I couldn't agree more with him, and I trust that with time people will recognize that the criticism which was lodged against him is completely unjustified. And it's also not very sincere because he wrote the same thing on June 12th in 2015 in the *Osservatore Romano*, he expressed the same strong convictions, and nobody reacted then and this was the official newspaper of the Holy See, and now suddenly in this context there's this reaction. I don't understand it.

Steve: I guess its like, is it better to turn your back on the people or turn your back on God?

Cardinal Burke: Well, I don't think—

Steve: So, that's a simple way.

Cardinal Burke: Well, I suppose that would be a simple way of putting it, except I absolutely refuse to have, when I celebrate Mass *ad orientem*, as we say, or facing the Lord, I absolutely object to someone saying that I've turned my back on the people. No, it's the greatest act of love for the people to be at their head and to offer for them the Holy Mass, because the Eucharist can only be offered by Christ himself and it's the priest who sacramentally is Christ offering the Holy Mass, so let's all just face the Lord as we should.

Steve: If I can ask another question. I hope I'm not being selfish here. Contraception has been accepted by 85% of Catholics supposedly by polls, and it seems to me like it's a foundation for the culture of death. I don't know if you would agree with that and say that, but so many of our immoral activities that we accept in our country, in vitro fertilization, now physician-assisted suicide, so many of these things are violations of the moral law, but yet they're sanctioned by our government and by the medical community. It seems like the medical community has been industrialized and has been taken over by those who are doing whatever they do for money and not for principle, and yet I don't see our church addressing any of these issues from the pulpit, or from any other direction. Is that your perception, and if it is, how do we correct it?

Cardinal Burke: Well, it's clear that the whole reaction against the *Encyclical Humanae Vitae* of Pope Paul VI, in which he set forth what the church has always taught about contraception, had a devastating effect, and at that time many rebelled against the teaching of the church and the error became widespread.

I think it's essential for us now, as Pope St. John Paul II helped us to do in a brilliant way through his pontificate, the first four years of his pontificate he

devoted to a very careful catechesis on human life and its origin and the conjugal union. The fundamental point is that the conjugal act is by its very nature procreative. It doesn't mean that every time the conjugal act takes place that there's a conception of a child, no, of course, only if it happens to be during the time when the woman is ready to conceive and so forth. But it does mean that in every conjugal act there is this openness to human life and a desire for it, and great love for the crown of marriage, which is procreation.

Now, if you posit otherwise, which the contraceptive mentality does, they say well, the conjugal act can be an act of love between a man and a woman, while at the same time artificially, through some device or through some chemical, eliminating this essential aspect of it which is the potential of procreation. Well, that then, the conjugal act is not integral and it's not fully an act of love because one or both of the parties is withholding the total gift of himself or herself, and so the conjugal act becomes manipulated in some way contrary to its nature.

And then what happens in people's thinking is they begin to justify all kinds of sexual activity as supposedly an expression of love even though it can't be life-giving, for instance, genital activity between two persons of the same sex, or solitary acts. Now people begin to argue that these are all things that are good. Well, the sexual act belongs in marriage by its very nature, its whole; all we have to do is study the act itself to see that it's meant to make a man and a woman who are joined in marriage one flesh. And so we certainly do need to teach much more effectively and much more consistently the truth about the conjugal union, and the truth about contraception, especially in a society which in terms of sexual morals has gone completely insane.

Now, when you think about this whole gender theory and even the loss of fundamental modesty with regard to use of restrooms, the encouragement of young people to experiment with all kinds of just sordid sexual activity, this is ultimately completely destructive. So, we have to help people once again to respect themselves as a man or as a woman and respect themselves therefore in their sexual identity and where it finds its fullest expression, that is in the conjugal union, or for those who are called to renounce the good of marriage and to live a celibate or virginal life, that nevertheless is done with the fullest respect for the nature of the conjugal union.

Steve: Thank you, Your Eminence.

Cardinal Burke: You're welcome.