



Confraternity of Catholic Clergy

Sanctitas. Fidelitas. Fraternitas.

“Increase your zeal. Read the signs of the times.”

~St. Ignatius of Antioch to Polycarp

April 1, 2023

Dear Brother Priests and Deacons,

In his insightful poem, “The Second Coming”, William Butler Yeats wrote lines that are eerily prophetic of what we are seeing in American culture right now:

*Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*

Despite its mournful tone, the poem ends on a hopeful note. A humble beast of burden carries the Virgin to Bethlehem where the Savior of sinful humanity will be born. Our hope is in *Him* alone, and we shall never hope in vain.

As clergy, we are ministers of hope to a sinful world, particularly *this week* when the very mysteries we celebrate convey that eternal message of hope.

Let us never cease to be lights in the darkness of our culture and like Christ Himself, stalwart witnesses of hope to the world.

In Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. John Trigilio, PhD, ThD

Confraternity President, and Director of Pastoral Formation, Formation Advisor, Spiritual Director, faculty at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary.

PS – Feel free to contact me through the email at the bottom of this newsletter or offer **feedback on any issue of concern** by hitting reply to this email. As always, *Ad multos annos!*



Check out the Confraternity's Website

Update on Card. Burke's c. 915 Book

Just before Ash Wednesday this year, **Thomas McKenna's Catholic Action** for Faith & Family sent the book to 41,000 clergy in the US, and he conducted numerous media interviews to give exposure to the campaign.

I'd like to update you on the response to the campaign (which came in written and electronic form). Initially, Catholic Action received:

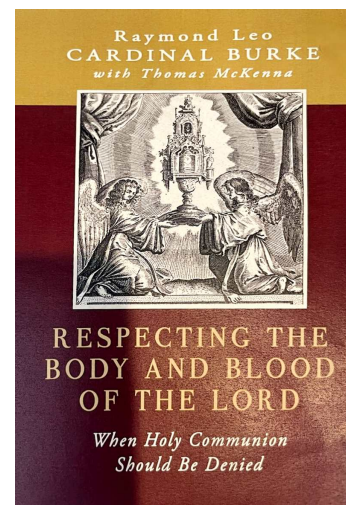
- Over **150 mail-in responses**, majority favorable, but believe it or not close to 1/3 were unfavorable (*One even condemned H.E. and all who support this campaign to a place where no one wants to go...if you know what I mean.*)
- Half of those responding **wanted more books** and more than 100 clergy order copies via email, some were international.
- A priest in Kentucky even ordered 500 copies **to give out to all of his parishioners** on Easter Sunday – thank you Father!

A heartfelt thank you to all of you faithful priests for your support of this work of charity. But the campaign is not finished.

Thomas also wanted me to inform you of an **upcoming version of Cardinal Burke's book for the laity**. It features all the Cardinal's material with an added commentary after each chapter by Mr. McKenna, applying the insights from a lay person's perspective. Here is the title:

Respecting the Body and Blood of the Lord: When Holy Communion Should Be Denied

Look for this edition from **Sophia Institute Press** in the next few months.



From the Web

We keep our website updated on a regular basis. Most of the front page is news of interest to clergy, but please note that we especially **welcome any contributions from priests** for our Blog. Here are a few of the recent highlights:

(Click on the underlined Titles below to go directly to the individual sections of the site where you can find links to all these articles:)

[Burning Issues & Perspectives](#)

Featured: Pelosi's ongoing obscenity | US and German Cardinals call for removal | USCCB condemns modern horrors | New book on vocational discernment | More nonsense from the Synodality crowd

[Shepherd's Voices](#)

Featured: Bishop Perry on Dying with Dignity | Bishop Alvarez arrested in Nicaragua | Bishop Strickland on Heterodoxy and Cdl. Roche

[Clergy Online](#)

Featured: Fr. Longenecker | Fr. Jenkins | Fr. Gough (UK) | Fr. McTiegue | Fr. Keyes | Fr. Sullivan | Fr. Perricone | and other priests.

You may also wish to check out our feature pages:

[Priests in Action](#)

[Priest Bloggers](#)

[Priest Books](#)

Domus Dei

The Collegiate Church of Salzburg, Austria

This amazingly beautiful church was **built between 1694 and 1707** at the behest of the Bishop of Salzburg, Johann Ernst von Thun, who wanted to make Salzburg into a Baroque city. Bishop Thun was a man of his times.

On December 8th, 1707, the city consecrated its precious new temple of our Lord Jesus Christ to the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **under the title of the Immaculate Conception**. Now you can understand why the walls are *perfectly white!*



Here, the **Baroque architecture itself *is* the artwork**, although artists through the ages very effectively added splashes of color in certain aspects of the setting: high altar, side altars, floor, balcony railings, and organ. The church has a sort of modern “minimalist” feel to it.

Salzburg is also the birthplace of Mozart (1756-1791). An interesting fact: the Collegiate Church commissioned the **12-year-old Mozart** in 1768 to compose the *Missa Brevis in D Minor* for the Church. Amazing!



But it's not been all glory for this church. Napoleon dissolved the Salzburg University in 1803 and **used this pristine church as a storage facility** and a garrison for his troops. Imagine.

Today the church is both a center of university life and a parish church, and its pure white interior continues to enthrall worshipers with beauty and with the idea that **purity is actually a virtue**. Yes, *imagine*.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us!

PS — Please forward this email to any other priests or deacons who may wish to join our team.

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