

## Feedback concerns

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From Elias [REDACTED]

To [REDACTED]@stmariecathedral.org, [REDACTED]

CC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date Saturday, 23 March 2024 at 00:57

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Parish Pastoral Council *Family*,

1. I trust that this message will be forwarded to all of those to whom it is addressed, namely Eileen, Niall, Onesmus, Candida, Mark and Josip. A copy is also forwarded to Frs. Chris and Clement.

Fr. Chris and Fr. Clement have probably had enough of me. But it is important that they be informed about my message, sharing my concerns which were ***explicitly and repetitively requested by the PPC over the past month***. I write to you therefore under obligation of my conscience, with the hope of awakening your consciences.

2. Many of the older generations reaching the ends of their earthly lives today, were raised and taught under solid theological instruction. This is the reason why they remained faithful to the church, persevered in their well founded faith and raised their children in the church. Sadly, the same is not true for many of their grandchildren, who were raised in theologically lax environments, and who have become so starved from truth to the point that many have almost lost recognition of their identities as men and women children of God. This is no hidden truth, I am only expressing statistical numbers in words. Just look at the modest numbers of baptisms and priestly vocations previously released by the PPC itself.

3. One of the important factors contributing to this moral decline is, in my opinion, that the speech and evangelisation of the church have become almost crippled. I refer to a few problems, Satanic attacks on the church, that are shared by all of us, laypeople and priests. Each member of the church has a responsibility to "resist Satan" and act on them from his and her own position in society. I will list these problems under three categories:

### **A. Our unsubstantiated fear from making judgements:**

- I have often heard from others: "I do not like to make judgements", quoting our Lord's command: "Judge not, that you be not judged", and supposing that the Lord asks us to abstain from making judgements. If the verse is read *in context*, we find the Lord saying afterwards: "first take the log out of your own eye" (Matthew 7:5). Meaning that the Lord is asking us to avoid judging others for shortcomings that we ourselves have not mastered. He never asked us to abstain from making ***temporal***

judgements, on the contrary, he commanded us: "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement" (John 7:24). The PPC itself in the recent survey has asked countless people in our parish to make a judgement about the condition of the church. Christ himself, for good reasons, rebuked others and called them "hypocrites" in their faces. Did they feel offended? There is no doubt about it. But did he do it because he despised them? Far from it, he did it out of genuine love and concern for their eternal salvation and he said what was necessary to awaken them and help lead them to repentance. Therefore being so relativist so as to abstain from making *temporal* judgements altogether, especially ones that necessary for the eternal salvation of others, is Satanic deception that is meant to dim our light in the world. This leads us straight to the second problem.

## **B. Relativism and political correctness:**

- Any serious relationship between two people, must be based first and foremost on honesty. And if we desired to have a genuine intimacy with God, we must be willing to be honest and truthful with Him. Here comes the importance of submitting ourselves to the truth. Pope Benedict XVI spent his whole pontificate warning us, and at the same time arming us against the present and coming danger of relativism. People go to church to hear the word of truth, to have an encounter with Him who says: *"I am the truth"*. They do not go to church to hear and practise politics. The church is not a political party that seeks to please the desires of its followers and earn their approval. We are all sinners, hearing the word of truth is not only important but necessary for our enlightenment, repentance and salvation. "Walking" with each other means helping each other to face this truth, to have an encounter with it, not to assist each other in fleeing from it! Walking means guiding each other towards Heaven, not towards Hell! In fleeing from facing the truth in our lives, the one thing we flee from is God Himself. Is this the shallow relationship we aspire to have with our heavenly Father? Certainly not. Therefore the importance of speaking the word of truth especially in the church, regardless of the feelings and emotions of others.

## **C. Mercy:**

- God is infinitely loving and infinitely merciful. This is absolutely true. But it is only half the truth. Because even though God's love is unconditional, God's mercy is conditional to our repentance. Our Lord's exhortations are explicit: "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish"! (Luke 13:3) God is a loving Father, yes, but he is

also a just and impartial judge, a "devouring fire" who despises sin and who will one day judge good people to heaven, and evil doers to Hell fire.

4. The church must not lose its "saltiness". So let us not be afraid nor "shy" of proclaiming the truth "with love" (Ephesians 4:15), certainly so.

Amen.

Elias.

«If you believe what you like in the Gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.»

(St. Augustine)

«Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, that is, letting oneself be "tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine", seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times. We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognise anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's ego and desires.»

(Pope Benedict XVI, Homily during Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff, 18 April 2005)