



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
* Knights of Malta *

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Chancellor's Update

Holy Father – We Thank You Again

We ask our members and readers to go to our website and enter the blue footer of this page and open the Update for September 2007. In the September Update of 2007, we explained one particular form of our work on behalf of our fellow Catholics. We have been working for the proper implementation of Vatican II and in that process have been informing the Holy See of what we deemed important for the Church in general and for the English speaking world in particular.

As we informed Pope John Paul II in a letter sent by courier about the state of affairs in the English speaking world and thanked him later for his Holy Thursday Letter, *Dominicae Cenaе*, of February 24, 1980, we again thank His Holiness Benedict XVI for his *Motu Proprio, Summorum Pontificum* and in particular for the Reform of the Reform that started under his predecessor and just now completed for implementation in the Advent Season of 2011. This final Reform of the Reform correcting the translations of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) now sets the tone and the sacramental life of the Church for rebuilding the infrastructure of the Church in the English speaking world.

As three of our four requests have been addressed and are in the process of being implemented, we await the fourth request, namely, Mariology, the spreading of her devotion to come to completion with the “release to mankind” of the third secret of Fatima.

We can see from the Presidential Address given by Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, at the 2011 Fall Meeting of the USCCB, that the Holy See is preparing an agenda for this century to revitalize and re-evangelize the English speaking world. In this very well prepared address presented by the archbishop, one sees that the successors of the Apostles in the English-speaking world finally realize after fifty years the condition of the Church today. For example, the archbishop states: **“Because, as the chilling statistics we cannot ignore tell us, fewer and fewer of our beloved people -- to say nothing about those outside the household of the faith -- are convinced that Jesus and His Church are one. As Father Ronald Rolheiser wonders, we may be living in a *post-ecclesial era*, as people seem to prefer a King but not the kingdom, a shepherd with no flock, to believe without belonging, a spiritual family with God as my father, as long as I'm the only child,**

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**"spirituality" without religion
faith without the faithful
Christ without His Church.**

So they drift from her, get mad at the Church, grow lax, join another, or just give it all up.

If this does not cause us pastors to shudder, I do not know what will.

The reasons are multiple and well-rehearsed, and we need to take them seriously.”

If you study this speech carefully, you will see that the wording is so designed to reach traditional and baby boom generations as well as the “x” and “y” generations. The next generation will see a **New Evangelization**, set by the pope as these bishops go to Rome for their annual *ad limina* visits. It is apparent from the document that the Pope has an agenda he wishes his fellow brothers in the episcopacy to follow and more importantly to implement. For archbishop Dolan continues, **“Our urgent task to reclaim “love of Jesus and His Church as the passion of our lives” summons us not into ourselves but to Our Lord. Jesus prefers prophets, not programs; saints, not solutions; conversion of hearts, not calls to action; prayer, not protests: *Verbum Dei* (the Word of God) rather than our verbiage.”**

Isn't it sad that in over two hundred years of Catholicism in America, we have only produced one Bishop Fulton J. Sheen?

In a moment of reflection, the archbishop continues, **“One big difference: we who believe in Jesus Christ and His one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church interpret the sinfulness of her members *not* as a reason to dismiss the Church or her eternal truths, but to embrace her all the more! The sinfulness of the members of the Church reminds us precisely how much we need the Church. The sinfulness of her members is never an excuse, but a plea, to place ourselves at His wounded side on Calvary from which flows the sacramental life of the Church.**

Like Him, she, too, has wounds. Instead of running from them, or hiding them, or denying them, she may be best showing them, like He did that first Easter night.

One thing both sides of the Catholic ideological spectrum at last agree upon is the answer to this question: who's to blame for people getting mad at or leaving the Church? Their unanimous answer? . . . nice to meet you! We're the cause, they never tire of telling us.”

Your Holiness, the laity will not be at these *ad limina* visits, but if they were, they might say with the angels at Mount Olivet, **“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up to heaven...” “Go forth and teach all nations...”**

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