

## **FROM THE SERVANT GENERAL**

### **A TIME OF TRANSITION (Part 11)**

#### **THE FOURTH STAGE**

Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

October 7, 2020

Today's reading: Galatians 2:1-14

One year ago today, we changed our name to Missionary Families of Christ (MFC).<sup>1</sup> Then we took on a new byline, which is "Defending Faith, Family and Life."<sup>2</sup> From November 2018, we had already changed our consecration to Mary from Mary Mediatrix of all Grace to Our Lady of the Rosary (a.k.a. Our Lady of Victory). Today, with our Church, we celebrate the decisive victory of Christian forces over the Ottoman Turks at Lepanto in 1571, and it was in celebration of this that the Feast of Our Lady of Victory was instituted by Pope Pius V.<sup>3</sup>

So we are now one year under the name MFC. While our 39 years as a community is a continuing revelation of God's call to us, there have been distinct phases or stages we have gone through.

1981 – Establishment of CFC

1993 – Re-founding of CFC<sup>4</sup>

2007 – Establishment of CFC-FFL

2019 – Transition to MFC

In relation to our Church, these stages have had significant aspects.

1981-1993 (12 years) – We were a trans-parochial community, having nothing much to do with the institutional Church.<sup>5</sup>

1993-2007 (14 years) – We moved into the institutional Church, taking on bishops as our spiritual directors, but still ran parallel to the Church, like railway tracks, going in the same direction but not really intersecting.

2007-2019 (12 years) – In 2007 we proclaimed ourselves to be a servant to the Church, deliberately seeking to serve our Church through the parishes. In 2011, with the Live

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<sup>1</sup> Read again From the SG, A Time of Transition (Part 1).

<sup>2</sup> Read again From the SG, A Time of Transition (Part 3).

<sup>3</sup> Read about all this in my booklet "Army of Mary."

<sup>4</sup> And establishment of the Family Ministries.

<sup>5</sup> Though of course we were serving the interests of our Church, especially in the aspects of family renewal and evangelization.

Christ, Share Christ (LCSC) mission, we became a servant *of* the Church, doing generic evangelization in the name of the parishes.

So from outside the Church<sup>6</sup> to moving inside the Church to doing work for and on behalf of the Church, the trajectory moving deeper into the heart of our Church has been happening. In our work of evangelization, the first stage was under an ecumenical mindset, while the second and third stages have been focused on re-evangelization within the Church, especially of lapsed Catholics.

Now we are MFC, since last year, and we are in the fourth stage. As we have moved deeper into the heart of our Church, we have discovered a shocking reality: there is deep rot in our Church,<sup>7 8</sup> and the enemy is within. There are many homosexual predators among our clergy. Religious orders have become liberal and supportive of the culture of DEATH. Catholic institutions of learning have welcomed atheists and homosexuals as professors to form the young minds of Catholics, and have allowed LGBT into Catholic campuses. Seminaries have not been strictly orthodox in teaching and formation.

But not only is there rot in our Church, but the enemy is already within. There are forces within our Church that seek to steer her leftward to liberalism and modernism.<sup>9</sup> And that is a sure way to weaken the Church, as has already happened. Liberalism has brought freedom from tradition and the age-old teachings of our Church. Modernism has brought a greater focus on the well-being of man but often at the expense of the righteousness of God.

In today's reading, Paul confronts Cephas, the first Pope. Paul writes, "And when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he clearly was wrong." (Gal 2:11). What was Peter's error? Peter used to eat with the Gentiles, but when confronted, he stopped doing so. The rest of the Jewish Christians did likewise, and Paul said they acted hypocritically (Gal 2:13). Paul said "that they were not on the right road in line with the truth of the gospel" (Gal 2:14). Today the truth is being overturned, with right considered wrong and wrong considered right. This is done even by some clerics. Today, there is more emphasis by some on pleasing men rather than standing for the truth of the gospel. This is what Modernism is about.

So Paul said, there are "false brothers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, that they might enslave us" (Gal 2:4). Those who do not proclaim the authentic gospel of Jesus, or who distort the authentic teaching of our Church, are false brothers, false teachers and false prophets. And what is the proper response to this? Just

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<sup>6</sup> In a manner of speaking, because we had always been overtly Catholic from the start.

<sup>7</sup> I am generalizing, and the situation of our Church in different countries would also be different. There are indeed many faithful clerics and religious. But as a universal Church, we must be concerned about all.

<sup>8</sup> There of course are always rotten apples in any bunch, as with all other institutions, but what has been shocking is how widespread this rot in our Church has become, and how deeply entrenched it already is.

<sup>9</sup> I have written and spoken about these quite often and in greater detail. For example, see my From the SG article on Our Theme for 2020 (Part 78) last October 5. Or watch my podcasts on "World War Z" last September 23 and on "The Modernist Gospel" last September 2.

as Paul said, “to them we did not submit even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain intact for you.” (Gal 2:5).

We as MFC are “of Christ.” We are called to defend the faith. We proclaim the authentic gospel, not a distorted or modernist one. All these years we have been resisting and assaulting the evil one, the enemy without. Now we also look to the enemy that is already within. And they are among our fellow Catholics, even among those who have been entrusted with the care of the flock. We must resist them as well. We must speak boldly and prophetically about such rot in our Church.

So we continue with the basic aspects of our mission—evangelization, family renewal, work with the poor.<sup>10</sup> We have been defending and renewing the family. We have fought for the culture of life. We must also defend the integrity of our faith. We are now in the fourth stage.

In our prayer of consecration to Our Lady of the Rosary, we say, “Your holy warriors stand before you, dear Mother Mary. .... We commit to do battle against all evil forces.” Both without and within.

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<sup>10</sup> “Only, we were to be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do.” (Gal 2:10).