

The Virtue of Fortitude



St. Pius X spoke the following words at the beatification of St. Joan of Arc:

“In our time more than ever before the greatest asset of the evilly disposed is the cowardice and weakness of good men and women. All the vigor of Satan’s reign is due to the easygoing weakness of Catholics. Oh, if I might ask the Divine Savior as the prophet Zachary did in spirit, ‘what are those wounds in the midst of your hands?’ the answer would not be doubtful. ‘With these I was wounded in the house of those who loved me. I was wounded by my friends who did nothing to defend me and who on every occasion made themselves the accomplices of my adversaries.’”

This reproach can be leveled at the weak and timid Catholics of all countries today. It seems to be an inferiority complex. As a matter of fact Bishop Whalen said the reason Catholics are joining fundamentalism is that they have lost their sense of identity.

More than a century ago John Henry Cardinal Newman, with the vision of a prophet, predicted the desolation in the Church that has come to pass today. “Surely there is at this day a confederacy of evil, marshalling its hosts from all parts of the world, organizing itself, taking its measures, and enclosing the Church of Christ in a net and preparing the way for a general apostasy from it.” Newman said that eventually the religion of reason would get inside the Catholic Church, and compete with the religion of revelation and people would fall for the religion of reason.

The fundamental evil of the day is that man has abandoned faith in God and love for Christ and His Church. In both east and west atheistic humanism has become the state religion. Everywhere in the most powerful and civilized nations there is a supreme effort to govern and dominate the world without God. There is an already accepted and spreading dogma that nations should have nothing to do with the religion of Christianity. Religion is seen as a mere private matter; an affair of the individual conscience. Moreover there is a united powerful movement to crush the Church, to strip her of her power and place, and there is a mania to get religion out of the public activity, out of the schools, from mass media, and from social transactions and political affairs. Societies today are built upon the principle of utility, not on the principle of truth and justice. Experience, not truth or justice, is accepted as the end and rule of all state activity, and even enactments of law are included in this. Pluralism has become more important than truth and relativism both in truth and morals is rampant.

Even the Bible is given so many meanings over and against its obvious ones that it is reduced to having so many contradictory statements that it becomes meaningless for life. (The historical/critical method of interpreting Scripture, while have its proper use and place, has done more to destroy the supernatural character of Sacred Scripture more than anything else). In the end religion and God are denied any objectivity, historical value or reality such as is displayed in the life of Christ, in the written dogmas of the Church, in the sacred ordinances and in the sacraments of the Church. Rather religion is confined to each person’s inner feelings, their own private conscience, experiences and psychological reactions. Therefore cast into the dark world of variable, prominent, and volatile feelings, religion is discredited in the minds of many when, in fact, if it is not already abandoned.

One would have to admit that the conflict between children of the new humanism and the faithful is escalating in ferociousness, especially during 2012. The offspring of this secularized ideology are agnostics, atheists, apostates, lovers of this world, like the hedonists and the progressives. They are immersed in materialism directed by liberal theologians and their hearts are riveted in the vagaries of time. They are molded by the vanities of fleeting pleasures. They exhibit a hearty contempt of the Church, contempt for her authority, her ministers, her sacraments, her devotions and her lowly faithful. Modern Gnostics have a lust for rank and station. They have ambition for the splendor and fashions of the world and affectation for refinement. They are dependent upon their powers of reason and habitual superiority complex and finally they have an utter insensibility to the heinousness of sin they are committing against God and their fellowman.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said “there is a decline in courage in the West which may be the most striking feature which an outsider observes in the West in our days. We have lost our moral fiber. Cont’d next week.

