

On Bishops, Priests, Validity, Legality, and Our Altar

Date: 5/15/2007

From: FL

To: RJMI

It's been a little while since I conversed with you. I had a chance to listen to and download some of your sermons, and there is one in particular which sparks my curiosity, and that is your Ars 51, the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. In it you stress the importance of knowing that the Church is a Divine Institution and being so, does not require any one person to keep it alive.

You also say that you know of no known Catholic Priests or Bishops in the world. Could you clarify that statement for me? Is it because all the known valid Priests adhere to one or more heresies or are apostates who hence have excommunicated themselves and therefore they, as you described them, are non-Catholic?

Do you subscribe to the fact, as some do, that these valid Priests/Bishops even if they are Catholic cannot, according to the canons, make Bishops without a mandate from a Pope?

Is a Catholic allowed to be consecrated a Bishop or ordained a Priest by a Bishop who he knows is a notorious heretic or schismatic, as long as the candidate does not believe in the Bishop's heresy or schism and is Catholic, meaning he does not believe in or practice any heresy or schism.

The one question that comes to my mind of your group is, Let's say one of these "valid" Priests was to be given the grace to see all his errors and was to Abjure, would you then accept that Priest into your group and would you and your group be going to his Masses and his confessions? Where would this Catholic Priest get the authority to absolve sins without permission and jurisdiction from a Bishop with ordinary jurisdiction?

Along those lines, I heard you mention that your group has an altar. Could you explain what the significance of having an altar is if there is no one to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Just asking.

The sermons themselves are very enlightening. I especially was perked by your dream of a certain Priest who passed away recently.

Please respond.

Prayerfully,

FL

Date: 5/23/2007
From: RJMI
To: FL

May 23, 2007
Within the Octave of the Ascension

Dear FL,

When I say there are no Catholic bishops and Catholic priests, I do not mean there are no valid bishops and valid priests. There are many valid bishops and valid priests, but they are not Catholic because they are heretics who have been automatically excommunicated from the Catholic Church and hence are illegal.

If a valid bishop or valid priest abjures and enters the Catholic Church, then he can function as a Catholic bishop or a Catholic priest, even before the Church has a pope, by the principle of epikeia (that is, by being exempt from certain disciplinary laws) by which the Church directly supplies him with jurisdiction to make his religious acts valid and legal. Epikeia would make Catholic priests' confessions valid and legal in these days of the Great Apostasy when there is no pope and no bishop with ordinary jurisdiction. Hence our Catholic group would attend the Masses of and go to confession to any valid bishop or valid priest who abjures and becomes Catholic and then confesses his sins and has done sufficient penance. (See my book *Exceptions to the Law: ... Epikeia and the Sacrament of Confession.*)

Catholic bishops did not always need a papal mandate to make Catholic bishops. The need of a papal mandate is a current disciplinary law that hence is subject to epikeia. Therefore, in these days when there is no pope, a Catholic bishop can make Catholic bishops without a papal mandate. However, it is of the faith that a Catholic bishop cannot legally make a bishop contrary to the expressed will of the pope. If he does, he commits a mortal sin of schism, is automatically excommunicated as a schismatic, the consecration is illegal, and the bishop he consecrates is likewise illegal and schismatic. (See my book *Exceptions to the Law: ...5. The Consecration and Ordination of Catholic Bishops and Priests.*)

A Catholic is forbidden to get ordained a priest or consecrated a bishop from a bishop who is a notorious heretic or schismatic even if the Catholic does not believe in the bishop's heresy or schism. If a so-called Catholic gets ordained a priest or consecrated a bishop from a bishop that he knows or has good reason to suspect is a notorious heretic or schismatic, then his ordination or consecration is illegal, he gets automatically suspended and hence his religious acts are illegal and confessions are invalid, and he shares equally in the mortal guilt of the sins of heresy or schism of the heretical or schismatic bishop who ordained or consecrated him. (See my book *Against the Thucites: 2. Catholics cannot legally receive Orders from notorious apostate, heretic, or schismatic bishops.*)

It is important to note that epikeia can never be used by non-Catholics except for catechumens when they enter the Catholic Church. (See my book *Exceptions to the Law: ...Only Catholics and Penitent non-Catholics who abjure can be justified by epikeia.*)

We set up an Altar to keep us in remembrance of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We wait patiently for God to send us a Catholic priest to offer Mass upon it. As of now, we do not have the Real Presence of Christ on our Altar but understand and accept that this is a punishment from God that we must endure because of the many sacrilegious sins of fallen-away Catholics who have put the Mass before the Faith for hundreds of years. However, my Catholic brothers and I testify to the very powerful presence of God among us because of this great sacrifice we are making and most of all because we have put the Catholic Faith before the Catholic Mass. No one—I say **no one**—who attends Mass these days will ever have the true God help him in anything other than to convert him because he is attending Mass at a non-Catholic church presided over by a notorious heretic priest and hence is committing several mortal sins every time he attends Mass—in short, because he has put the Mass before the Faith. All the consolations he gets are from Satan. (See my book *Faith Before the Mass: False consolations and unworthy receptions of Holy Communion.*)

Soli Deo Gloria
RJMI
To Jesus through Mary

Mary's Little Remnant
302 East Joffre St.
TorC, NM 87901-2878
Website: www.JohnTheBaptist.us
(Send for a free catalog)