



*By Padchi*



## PRAYERS BY PROXY

The Rev L. T. Osborn an American missionary is doing good business in Britain. He organised the Osborn Foundation in Birmingham and then announced that since most people now a days had no time for prayers, they could for two pounds a month, instruct the Foundation to say their prayers for them. For these prayers, the proxy the Osborn Foundation received more than £ 100,000 last year. The nett income after the expenses on the "prayer service" and publicity was upwards of £15,000. A fine idea to collect donation by the Christian Brothers.

## CHEAT AND PRAY

A news item says that the Principal of a college has obtained master's degrees, in business management and Religious studies, a fine combination to cheat and pray.

"Blessed are you when man revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you **falsely** on my account" Matt 5:11.

WATCH FOR MY NEXT PUBLICATION "YE BROOD OF VIPERS"  
IN TAMIL AND SINGHALA.

# THE HOLY HUMBUGS

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To  
**Late Mr. C. E. PHILIPS**  
of  
**Trincomalie**

*whose friendship it had been  
my privilege to enjoy for a  
quarter of a century, this book  
is affectionately dedicated.*

# In Witnessing Christ

Although I had been strictly brought up to imitate the disposition of 'the boy who stood on the burning deck', my association with the Brothers of Christian Schools has made me to realize that the first law of life is hypocrisy and not honesty. The lack of successful adaptation of this fact has compelled me to run away from the Catholic Church, though not from true Christian belief.

The path of Christ is a thorny one, which has steep slippery steps. I was walking on the path step by step. The hard way; but at every step I experienced harsh obstacles and received no encouragement or a helping hand.

From my childhood I was very regular in my religious duties. I delighted in assisting the priest at Mass. The deep inner satisfaction I derived from such worship implanted in my heart a fervent religious consciousness. As a student my favourite subject was Religious knowledge. Although I desired to serve Christ in a ministerial capacity I did not succeed on account of my independent temperament.

I entered the teaching profession. I took a very keen delight in educating children, and I loved my pupils much without discriminating any of them. But I detested being sat upon by unsympathetic authorities and could not refrain from challenging cruel exploitation.

Circumstances force one to depend on another. The Church considers educating children as one of its prime ministries and promotes education by establishing schools and by founding teaching Religious Orders of men and women. The external image of a priest is that he is a father, of a monk is that he is a brother and of a nun is that she is a mother or sister. But actually very few of them possess the characteristics of a father, brother mother or sister. Generally employer-employee, relationship only prevails. They take advantage of their strength, power or authority and oppress the weak dependants. As a liberated Christian I revolted against the atrocities of these holy humbugs. It was a device to break through the entrenched vested interest. Though it was dangerous and imprudent, a true Christian has no other irreducible minimum for survival in circumstances controlled by powerful vested interests.

Nowadays it is the members of the clergy who are directly responsible for the actual persecution as its sycophants and stooges who with the hope of gaining heaven make the earth a hell for others. A thought always questioned me. "Is this Christian Charity?"

As an adult matured in knowledge of Religion and its practices I am at a loss to understand the distinct difference in the Mystical Body of Christ whose 'ego' is Christ himself. The Bishop or his agents while kicking a poor lay teacher who is not very important to them and has not the strength to retaliate, lick the boots of Religious men and women even though they are notorious bigots. The clergy as managers and principals of schools pay scanty regard to poor lay teachers. They cherish an unchristian code of power-privilege as their Bible and relegate the sacred truths of Holy Bible to the dump-heap. A loop-hole in the secular code of education is quite enough to get over the salutary principles of the scriptures. They treat the honest teachers with such contempt that the managers not even care to read the complaints of a teacher. They do not bother even to consider the plight of lay teachers who have often to suffer long and hard in order that the managers may enjoy the pomp of all power. It does not concern them that the teacher has to feed clothe and shelter a wife and children, shiver in the bitter cold, hunger without food and so on. The Popes shout from the roof tops for social justice. Is there an iota of justice meted out to lay teachers?

If anyone examines my behaviour honestly and dispassionately he can easily understand the honesty and sincerity of my intention in witnessing for Christ. I do not know whether the hierarchy took any notice about my criticism on levying donations, but I know very well that this episode was made big and grave by some schemers in the persons of Bro. Victor and Mr. Gajanayake to fulfil their destructive ambition of ousting Bro. Calixtus from the principalship and enthroning Bro. Victor in his place.

I thought deeply over the matter. One moment I felt that Christ whom we all worship in the Blessed Eucharist disappearing from the bread. I saw only simple white host. I saw the beauty of the Holy Mother the Church becoming ugly, the holy sacrifice of the mass turning into a superstitious drama and the priests of God turning into primitive sorcerers. I had a very beautiful collection of images in my mind. They were presented to me from my child-hood by my parents, teachers and priests; also I gathered them from scriptures and other holy books. All of them have turned black, ugly and bitter.

In spite of these I tried to reconcile with my brothers who had been a scandalous influence on me. I am not a prodigal son to return to my father's house. If my shepherd and others think that I am a lost lamb it is their duty to rescue the lamb. I was taught that the Church was holy, but my encounter with the Church proves it otherwise. This book is meant to explain about my present attitude, to my brothers and sisters who really love me. Also it elucidates some real changes needed

in religious life. The repetition of some matters is inevitable. I ask the readers to excuse me for any flaws in my English composition. I am indebted to the magazine "Bible today" and Watch Tower publications for much of the contents. The Archbishop of Colombo was indifferent to his charge, the General Manager of R. C. schools was unrighteous and two Religious brothers were revengeful. This prompted me to christen the book "The Holy Humbugs". The comments are made with malice to none, my name is recorded in the baptismal register as Mary Joseph Vethanayagam.

Read the following pages and think it over.

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THOUGH the major part of the financial needs is supplied by the parents, the right of the parent to participate in the running of the school is not yet recognized. At the moment, the Minister has made it imperative that every school should have its P.T.A. But will the private Catholic schools conform? Genuine participation of the parents, including not only the right to state their views, but also the right of access by the facts of documents on which to base these judgements is a sound basis for a Christian Institution. The power is retained and confined to a small circle of bureaucrats immediately surrounding the bishop. The importance of a better understanding between the parents and the authorities cannot be overstated.

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THE CATHOLIC private schools generate many Judases among the priests and monks. Why do they not publish their accounts and allow the right of access to the books of accounts to the parents, teachers and well wishers. I doubt much, that they would agree to this. The authorities may be prepared to hand over the schools, but not the financial secrets, the source of their power and possessiveness.

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INDEPENDENCE of the private schools is limited. It is worth asking whether these schools, in any better way, have contributed to the general educational pattern of this country, how far are their achievements their experience, their educational method and out-look, of use and value to the national system? Are they dedicated to a purpose or to an ideal? Do they achieve the religious purposes to which they are, supposed to be dedicated?

## HETEROGENOUS THOUGHTS FROM MY LETTERS SEVERAL BLUFFS EXPOSED

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL.

Why do you want to run private schools entirely as a private enterprise? Is it in obedience to the commandments of Christ to go and teach all nations? Do you want to run these schools because in your heart there is love and therefore you are not concerned with your own fulfilment? Or is such a social work a means of escape to the monks, nuns and priests from themselves? Or is it an ideal of the Church or do you want to run these schools to find employment and thereby secure a livelihood to the members of the clergy? Is it your aim profit making and accumulation of wealth?

### EMPTY MEN AND WOMEN.

The happy man is the truly religious man, and his very living is education, But the majority of the clerics in the Catholic Church are empty hearted. They may give all their efforts to various social activities, bring marvellous reforms, acquire lands, build palatial buildings, achieve best results in examinations, gain victories in sports, resort to crooked methods in collecting money and vanquish their enemies, but as long as their heart is empty and mind full of theories, and in certain cases of intrigues, their life will be dull, dreary and without joy. Is it not necessary to educate the imposters in religious orders before you venture to educate or evangelize others.

### VOCATION IS NOT PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD.

To my knowledge many Brothers of the Christian schools enter the religious life without finding for themselves what they really want to do with their wholebeing, without examining whether they would be fitting and dedicated teachers. As they hold no vital interest in teaching, they must be miserable, that is why, they seek distraction and escape in easy idle administrative work. How can it be called devotion or dedication? How paradoxical was your editorial? Will you please investigate the behaviour of the members of the clergy as regard to teaching and honestly comment on it. (From a letter to an editor)

### TRUE PURPOSE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

The Church holds on to these schools not because of love, devotion or dedication. The Church does not want to reveal the real cause. The Church authorities wielded their power and position and controlled their flock by a network of schools until the school take over act was passed. The school take over act has hit hard the power hungry, autocratic prelates. They do not like to abandon completely the spirit of possessiveness and their power and prestige. They are clinging on to these schools merely to satisfy their vanity. All other reasons are absurd, idiotic and deceitful.



# Love of God

## THE TEACHING OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH A REAL BLUFF

A lawyer put a test question to Jesus. He asked what he should do to obtain eternal life. Jesus answered that the observance of the greatest commandment was the assured means of entering eternal life and being saved. Jesus reaffirmed the primacy of love of God from the beginning. "Love the Lord your God ....." Deuteronomy demanded total consecration of heart, soul, intelligence and strength. To love God with charity was to belong to him exclusively and without reserve.

The Christian's baptismal commitment makes him a slave bound irrevocably to his Lord. His consecration proves the seriousness of his religious spirit, for the beautiful homage he can offer God is his radical attachment to Him. The Pharisees, although they were perfectly exact in observing rubrics and paying the most insignificant tithes, their attachment was all to the good opinion of others. They were their great love, they had no feelings for 'agape' exclusive gift of the whole heart to God. Love of God dissolves all other attachments. One cannot be a Christian without rejecting everything that would impede fidelity to God. All consuming love of God deals death to self. To set aside some part of love and life for private use like a Pharisee hugging his little hoard of honour would be to corrupt the total gift that 'agape' demands.

These ideas illumine the pages of the scriptures. But it is surprising perhaps to realize that the vast majority of the clergy appear to be indifferent to their duty towards God. **As such all these beautiful images are mere empty words.** Christianity has become this in practice because of the pharisee like behaviour of the church's clergy.

The commandment demands total detachment from worldly goods and pleasures. The prophet Ezechiel lamented over the idolatry of Israel. If we read Ezechiel in the light of our own times we will find in his enduring message, facts which would be applicable to our own day.

Idolatry, for example, is a practice we think survives only among the most primitive people, and yet there is a sophisticated modern idolatry which Ezechiel would be as quick to condemn as the worship of Babylonian Gods. In the idolatry of the clergy there are no visible idols, but there are gods which they set up in place of God, as the ultimate

concern of their life. They range from the crude pursuit of wealth, comfort, pleasure, power or prestige to other more subtle forms, in which the idol is their personal 'ego'.

In all these idolatries, ancient and modern the search is for security and self sufficiency, through idols served in place of God. Because we want to be inwardly secure we are constantly seeking methods and means for this security. And thereby the clergy creates authority, power-the worship of power another form of idol which destroys love. They forget that love is the sole regulatory force of Christian procedure.

The problems of the world are so colossal and so very complex, war with its consequences of anxiety and fear is the great sign of warning to our age. Every dispute is another parable of the failure of reconciliation. Can we worship without bringing peace to a brother who is really wounded. Can we have liturgy when we have little concern about ending the Cain-Abel story. We pray with the psalmist "Give Peace O Lord". The verse calls upon the members of the Church irrespective of their calling to wish peace to one another.

The Church authorities comprising the Archbishop of Colombo, the Provincial Visitor of Christian Brothers, Bro. Director of St. Benedict's college and other leaders revenged me by discontinuing my services. The failure to bring out a reconciliation caused bitter strife resulting in the scandal of disunity. Our dispute can well be the warning finger of secular prophesy calling the Catholic community, particularly the leadership, to be more honest to their identity namely, the people of God. The Church leaders mentioned above pray "Give Peace O Lord", offer sacrifice of the mass, receive the communion, run to confession to gain forgiveness of their sins from God, but they wilfully refuse to confess their failings towards a fellow Christian or a neighbour and apologize or **accept the humble apology of another without any reserve.** Who can then blame the ordinary laymen for failing to recognize the elders of the Church. In the liturgy we are reminded of the peace given by Jesus in the prayer after the peace offering which is Christ's body. This is a beautiful image presented to us by the Church liturgy. Has this any meaning? I live in Kotahena and frequented the cathedral church for my worship. Bro. Victor seated near the altar responds to the various prayers of the Holy Mass. Can he honestly say "Amen" or "yes" to the short, beautiful and pregnant prayers with his heart full of hatred, jealousy and ill will.

Whether God loves man or not, is a debatable question to me in the light of the present circumstances. But according to my conditioning in the past I loved God with my whole being. I was trying to shape my whole family according to the ideas of the Holy Scriptures. Slowly I was developing a Biblical mentality. But according to Catholic idiom my history is a histroy of a lost soul. However I enjoy complete freedom, fearlessness and tranquility of the mind after rejecting the Catholic Church.

## LEVYING DONATIONS, CRITICISM, AND REACTIONS

In response to Divine Love, according to my conditioning and understanding, I began to consecrate each and every act of mine to God. One cannot be a Christian without rejecting everything, that would impede fidelity to God. "He who cares more for father or mother than for me is not worthy of me" (Mat 10:37). Levying donations in our Catholic schools, particularly at St. Benedict's College roused in me a sense of doubt concerning honesty. Was not that act an impediment to fidelity to God? I pondered over this matter very deeply and consulted various authorities and was told that the act of levying fees under false cover of donations was inevitable cheating. I discussed this matter with the principals of St. Benedict's College. Their only answer was 'How can we run the college without money'? I sent a letter to Cardinal Thomas Cooray. He did not even acknowledge it. As I had formed an image about love of God, to me love of God was supreme. The Bishop and his agents to my mind by their conduct, cast a shadow on the supremacy of this love and I could not care for them more. "By gaining life a man will lose it by losing his life for my sake he will gain it" (Mat 10:37) Human affections may have to be sacrificed and natural bonds broken. The matter may be interpreted as puerile, but it has to be opposed if there should be total consecration. If I had kept quiet I would have been counted as a coward in the eyes of God. With zeal worthy of the Lord's cause the criticism was made against the act of levying donations. Intense zeal forces the gates of the kingdom. To be faithful to God the courage to renounce oneself completely is essential. To set aside some part of love and life for private use like a Pharisee hugging his little hoard of honour or like the Bishop and the Brothers hugging for their power and prestige would be to corrupt the total gift that 'agape' demands.

Before attempting to analyze the reactions, let us consider about the love of neighbour as narrated in the Gospels.

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AN IMPORTANT factor which destroys the spirit of a family solidarity is the hierarchial structure of some schools. The supervisor system in these schools is apt to corrupt the holders of the office. Some teachers of mediocre type when promoted to this grade become swollen headed and treat their fellow teachers with an air of contempt. If any teacher fails to respect them such a teacher is on the path to doom. Recently in one of these schools mediocre teachers have been promoted to special posts and principalship.

## FAILURE OF THE CHURCH. (Hetrogenous Thoughts-Continuation)

Comparison of the state schools with the private schools is absolutely idiotic. The Church has really missed the opportunities she had, to build up a sound Christian model educational system, based on Scriptural principles. i.e. service. She was obstinately clinging to certain traditional ideas not based on love but based on power-craft and thereby has caused breeding antagonism, hatred and jealousy. Can she honestly and proudly declare that she has shaped a single true Christian from the thousands of children whom she had the privilege to meet in the schools administered by her? Has the Church not failed in her mission of teaching?

## FRUSTRATED PRIESTS.

The Parish priests or the ex-local managers of Catholic schools rarely identify themselves now with the education of the children of their parishes. It is true that they have lost the power, authority which they wielded over the poor teachers unsympathetically. Does not this prove that the priests were not concerned about real education? but worshiped their own power. Are the priests aliens? Their egoistic attitude, possessiveness and power blind their minds and make them incapable of thinking correctly. Still they can repair the parish schools with the funds of the parish and in several other ways be of service to the teachers and children in these schools. But do they?

## TEACHING RELIGION.

The Catholic Church maintained her schools with the primary purpose of teaching religion. But the fact is religion is not properly taught in some of the big Catholic schools. In the name of religion untruths and absurdities are taught to small children in their impressionable age. Absurdities like eternal hell and purgatory are the stuff taught in the name of religion in our schools. Celibate teachers as a rule are persistent homosexuals, can they achieve any real success by their teachings? Does the Church actually teach religion? She conditions or shapes children according to her beliefs. It is a sort of indoctrination. To find out what it is not and by weeding out these, come to the truth. In Catholic religion the structures of the Church have grown beyond all imaginable dimensions, it is a herculian task to distinguish the structures from the real Church or religion. There are fundamentally conflicting beliefs which separate one from the other. Our beliefs whether revealed or projected have nothing to do with religion. The teacher who teaches religion imprints upon the child's mind certain beliefs, fears and superstitions, which we call religion, but they have nothing to do with religion. So the 'Credo' is not religion, it is not religion, it is only the result of our conditioning, surely one's mind must be free of all these to find out what religion is. The demand to teach religion is another bluff.

# Love of Neighbour

The Gospels contain a major revelation. The importance of love of neighbour. According to St. Luke, the Charter of the Kingdom promulgated in the Sermon on the Mount, consists of a single precept endlessly applied: Love (Luke 6:27) That is why the second great commandment is assimilated to the first so basically that one word 'agape' describes both loves. Christian morality is a morality of love. The Christian is a man who loves.

It is surprising perhaps, to realize that the duty of loving one's neighbour seems to prevail over duty towards God. Fraternal love is more important than holocausts or sacrifices (Mark 12:33). It is indispensable to the acceptance of our gift that we make peace with any one who has a grievance against us before we offer it. The Lord will consider every kindness done to the humble persons he calls his brothers as done to himself. Christians love their neighbour because their love for God leads them to do what He commands, but also because they see Christ, the unique object of love in their brothers: "you did it to me".

'Agape' is an active and effective love operating with singular delicacy. It would never occur to some one who clings to his comfort, peace, honour or possessions in his care for an injured person. Such a person would never yield however indiscreet they might be to requests, even when the yielding might allow peace to triumph and gentleness to prevail over violence and injustice.

True love of neighbour requires as total a renouncement as does love of God. To love means to give, to give oneself, to belong to another to God in obedience and consecration, to neighbour in service and compassion; autonomy, authority and liberty are put aside for the sake of the beloved. Death to self accomplished by charity is ensured by the happiness in this life and in the eternal life. 'Agape' is a worship far surpassing burnt offerings and sacrifices.

The lord presented a man's enemies as the privileged object of his charity. To will good to enemies, to pray for them and to serve them is an act of perfectly free generosity because it in no way depends on any loveableness in its object. Charity is neither passion nor ordinary liking. It is a pure and spiritual desire for the good rooted deep in the heart.

In demanding love of enemies, Jesus radically distinguished charity from friendship. Friendship is founded on mutual liking, it springs from appreciation of another's qualities and gifts. It is by nature reciprocal. The charitable man on the other hand loves even the spiteful and the unresponsive. He does good to those who do evil to him. Spiritual love is its own motive. As light by nature illuminates, so fire warms, so charity manifests goodness in everflowing generosity. There is no point in looking for a reason when it is so by nature.

Another revelation of the Gospel is that everyone is to be loved because God loves everyone and in the way in which God loves everyone. Christians who are His sons resemble their Father in thought and heart and conduct. Their sonship explains their love.

In the final analysis, the morality of the Gospel rests on the principle that we are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Mat 5:48) merciful as he is merciful (Luke 6:36) This principle means not just loving, but loving perfectly, loving divinely according to God's example, with the same breadth in object, the same ingenuity in activity, the same purity in intention. To this goal, simple human love changes in nature and is transmuted into 'agape'. Here on earth everyone can discover its essential gratuitousness, generosity and universality, and everyone must tend to approach it as an ideal. Christians on earth can be truly transformed and transfigured into God. The resemblance will be so visible and exact that no one can mistake it.

This summary is sufficient to explain the love of neighbours for our present purpose.

## REACTION

As my love of God was Christ-centric and Church-centric, I saw no mistake in criticizing a structure in the Church that I felt was wrong and improper. But I am unable to understand the attitude of our elders both clerical and lay because these Catholics began to hate and harass me. The authorities who had power even revenged me by forceful discontinuance from my teaching service.

According to Scriptures love is at the core of Christian life. When I was avenged by Thomas, Cardinal Cooray my employer I was very much confused. The primary responsibility for the spiritual formation and guardianship of Christian people in given areas is confided to the local bishop; he is the shepherd, guardian and father. It is his concern and obligation to provide spiritual assistance abundantly for all, and lavish God's charity without reserve on all. I made several appeals, they were not heard. The parable of good Samaritan shows the love to be attentive and tender, truly compassionate. It is indispensable to the acceptance of our gift that we make peace with any one who has a grievance against us before we offer it. I had grievances against my shepherd and other christian employers who employed me as a teacher. Did

these eminent Catholics make any attempt to make peace with me. How is that they offer sacrifices? Does not the love of neighbour require the same total gift as the love of God. It implies real service and unlimited and untiring kindness. The parable of the good Samaritan shows charity's possible identification with mercy as spontaneous compassion and human emotion. Have the elders of my Church set aside some part of love and life for private use hugging their little hoard of honour, authority and prestige? Has the prayer "**Our Father**" any meaning without the sense of forgiveness? If my action was sinful or wicked the authorities could have easily pardoned me. It is in pardoning the love of God manifests. In punishing or revenging it is not the love but hatred that prevails.

These thoughts confused me very much and I had come to the point when I asked myself really, earnestly and profoundly if peace, happiness, Reality, Christ, God or what you will, could be given to me by some one else-Religious Teachers, Religious Organizations or any other structures. The Catholic Church in which I was a member from the date of my baptism is petty, jealous, vain and greedy — that is what the priest craft has done to it. Charity, love and 'agape' are mere images. They are found in holy scriptures, in the sermons of the priests, in the so called sacraments and liturgy. No doubt these images give one some temporary satisfaction, but, they do not help to wipe out the miseries in our lives. Is salvation or redemption or eternal life what you will, possible through such a corrupted, petty minded Church or religion?

As Catholics our organized Church headed by the Pope has almighty power over us. We remain in that organized Church crystallised and enclosed. We know a lot about our dogmas, doctrines and disciplines, but we do not know anything by ourselves. We do not have any direct experience. We do not have the slightest freedom to think, discuss or criticize. An amateur like myself is in conflict with authorities supposed to be learned and spiritually matured. What is salvation or eternal life? Is it not something which will endure everlastingly, which will gratify us permanently. In short we want permanent pleasure or permanent gratification. So long as I do not understand myself I have no basis for thought and all my search will be in vain. I am totally disappointed by the behaviour of the nominal Christians all over the world. The way and the life of any organized Church do not satisfy my quest.

In the past I believed in God and His love. According to the teachings of the Church I was seriously concerned about my religious life. Fellowship with Christ in the spirit is true christian life. It was my image and ideal. All Christians including Thomas Cardinal Cooray, Bros. Lawrence, Victor, Mr. Gajanayake and others are in the fellowship of Christ. All Christians must grow together sharing the same attitude of Christ. As God's children Christians must stand fast without self-seeking. But do we really adhere to this principle? Absolutely not. Although the Church claims many powers, I am definite that salvation, eternal life or heavenly bliss is unattainable through the Roman Catholic

Church. The Catholic leaders may revile me and call me with all sorts of names. That is the way of the Catholic Church!

### MY PROBLEM

This is my problem. However it is not an isolated individualistic problem. Surely all human beings are inter-related. So I have to consider my specific problem in the light of the many issues that confront each of us as human beings.

You know what is exactly happening in the Catholic Church; through out the Church there is a tremendous amount of violence, uncertainty and fear, a form of organized imperialism is flourishing. And all over the world man has lost faith, he no longer trusts anybody. In the same manner I have lost faith and no longer trust the priests, because they have created a monstrous Church in which there is no charity and forgiveness and therefore hatred and jealousy.

This religion has no meaning to me any more. And although the priests in all organized religions talk everlastingly about being kind, loving, charitable in the name of God, in the name of Christ, the fact remains there is a great deal of envy, hatred, greed, brutality, antagonism, revenge. When I perceived these characteristics in the Catholic community consisting of my shepherd and his assistants I began to realize that there was no one I could turn to no one to help me out of my misery. All my efforts in the past were so utterly empty and utterly futile, and I had to come back to myself. The Church through her propaganda has conditioned me to believe in God and in a Saviour. So through propaganda human beings are conditioned by various doctrines and beliefs. These divide the world religiously and destroy the fundamentals of religiousness.

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OUR SCHOOLS are still places of instruction, education is still a meaningless word. One goes to school in order to be told or shown, not in order to find out, under guidance, for oneself. The school should be an educational laboratory. Have the teaching orders of the catholic church in or abroad given any encouragement to teachers to explore new approaches in content and method in education.



# The Church

## THE IMAGE OF THE CHURCH DESTROYED

The image of the Church as Mystical Body of Christ had a strong hold in my mind. Naturally I conceived all the members of the Catholic Church as my brothers and sisters. I understood this mystery not figuratively, not intellectually but actually and completely. I respected them dutifully, I prayed for them with the universal Church. But, when I saw my brothers, some senior members of the Catholic community, in the persons of my shepherd, some priests, some Christian Brothers and some prominent lay Catholics despising me, the image of the Church became to be destroyed in my thought. It is absurd and idiotic; practically it has no meaning whatsoever. So doctrines have failed and religions have failed. Has the Church solved any human problem? Not a single one. She does not know how to live together as human beings though her ideology is universal brother-hood. She does not know how to cooperate with one another and find unity in relationship between man and man.

The apathetic attitude of the Catholic community shepherded by Thomas Cardinal Cooray in respect of my own problem is not a personal problem, as I said before it is a problem and inter related. concerns every baptized Catholic. I had no other alternative than rejecting the organized Catholic Church with her dogmas, rituals, priests and beliefs totally and absolutely. But how to live together peacefully as human beings with love with generosity and without violence is constantly to be pursued, in the very light of the Bible.

## DEFECTIVE ORGANIZED CHURCH

The organized Church has become so colossally selfish and self-centred it is organized to function arrogantly in chaos. This does not conform to the message of Christ as narrated in the Gospels. The message of Christ was peace. How far have we Christians succeeded to live peacefully? Peace in our daily life is necessary. There should not be competition or destructive ambition which separates the one from the other. Can Thomas Cardinal Cooray or Bro. Lawrence adduce any valid reason for withdrawing Bro. Calixtus, considerably an eminent educationist from the principalship of St. Benedict's College and appointing an insignificant, insufficiently educated, in the normal sense a third

rate teacher to the said principalship. This is a case of competition and destructive ambition. The monk who succeeded Bro. Calixtus was full of hatred, jealousy and envy. A lay teacher on the staff of St. Benedict's has been accustomed to interfere in every detail of the administration. With the connivance of this teacher plots were hatched, and they resulted in the sudden transfer of Bro. Calixtus. I was revenged and became an indirect victim of the ugly intrigues. Where is the love or charity the core of Christian life? Are there any distinct differences between Christianity and other religions as Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. The adherents of non-Christian religions without being organized conduct themselves much better than Christians particularly the Roman Catholics, The organized Church has always permitted wars as a way of life. How can we expect to live peacefully in such an organized Church? The organized Church is a gigantic conspiracy.

## LOSS OF FAITH IN ORGANIZATIONS

We are living in a period when man has actually lost faith and trust in everything organized in super structures. Catholic Church is one and we must totally reject her. The anti-Christian attitude of the Catholic leaders roused in me a sense of revolt against the structure of a society which breeds war, hatred and antagonism. I who have been so heavily conditioned for the last three scores of years by words and propaganda, had to free myself completely from the Church which has deteriorated through ambition, greed, envy and brutality of her leaders. This is the highest form of revolution, a revolution in the psyche itself. A total mutation of the mind.

First it is essential to understand the whole structure of society, how man has put it together, invented Gods and therefore has created a corrupt society divided into different religions nations and so on. A real revolutionary is the man who understands completely not intellectually this social order which is himself because he is part of that social order. That is why I said that my own problem was inter related.

## THE SPIRIT OF GOD AT WORK

To be a "Witness" of Christ in the strict sense of the word, one must satisfy the indispensable requirement of having personally seen the Lord Jesus, as the Apostles did (Acts 1:22). Their successors too are to be witnesses of Christ, although not in the same way. A contact with Christ through faith has to replace the sensible contact and create an enthusiasm similar to that which filled the Apostles in their direct contact with Jesus: "You love him (Jesus) though you have not seen him and yet you exult with unspeakable and heavenly joy" (Pet.1 1:8). St. Paul, writing to Timothy, reminds him of his chief duty: to "bear witness to our Lord" (2 Tim. 1:8).

The liturgical renewal of our times springs from the discovery of the Church as the Mystical Body, whose head is Christ and whose soul is the holy spirit. It is the holy spirit who unites us with Christ into

one body. From him, as the principal of life, all activity within this Body derives its special value and its proper direction.

In baptism the holy spirit has made us true members of Christ's Body. For, as Paul says, "in one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or gentiles, whether slaves or free; and we were all given to drink of one spirit" (1 Cor 12:13). Just as in our human body the different members receive their vital union into one living body through the life-giving influence of the soul, so in baptism and in the other sacraments it is the holy spirit who builds up the Body of Christ. It helps us to overcome the racial, cultural, and social barriers that may separate us.

The spirit gives charisms. Charism comes from a Greek word that means gift. The grace. Hence they constantly see grace in terms of gift and the utter freedom which God preserves in communicating Himself and His power to us. The best biblical citations of charisms are 1 Cor. 12:13 and Ephesians 4: 1-14, Paul lists the glorious talents he observes in the Church such as eloquent preaching, brilliant teaching, compassionate healing, competent administration and inspirational witness. Paul makes it clear that each of these talents is a charism-gift of the spirit: "And the spirit's gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets some evangelists, and some teachers" (Eph. 4:11).

The greatest charism of the spirit is love (I Cor 13:1-13). The Church is quickened into unity not so much by a vast chain of pastoral documents or of commands so much as the abiding and rushing river of the love that comes from the Spirit of God. Thus the Church, teaches the power of the holy spirit. It is the endower of many gifts. Surely he must have endowed Cardinal Thomas Cooray with the charism of love. One who possesses it abandons himself completely. The bishop may appear to be simple, but where is his inward beauty illumined by love? Why was it not expressed in my problem?

When I exercised my talent I was under the charismatic influence of the Spirit. What I did was not my own work. The Apostles' Creed describes the spirit as one "qui locutus est per prophetas" — who spoke through prophets. Being a prophet does not mean so much that one foretells the future. The prophet is one who is so attuned to the spirit within him that he is able to interpret the daily events of life in the lights of God or Christ. This was my faith. I had a total faith in the holy spirit. In essence the holy spirit cannot fail. I wonder whether the holy spirit is present in the Church of Rome which has been perpetuating a great fraud on the people.

## REVOLT OF THE MIND

We have been conditioned, encased and shaped to fit to the pattern of the Catholic Church. Thinking has already been established in us: It is true that the lay Catholics or a portion of the 'people of God' were

not allowed in the past to criticize their leaders. The Vatican council opened the closed window and allowed them at least to have a peep into the Church. With the spirit of the Vatican council I pointed out certain irregularities in an institution of the Church. When I was revenged I gave sufficient opportunity to settle the matter peacefully. The Church speaks of compensation in respect of theft and similar sins. My problem was a case of revenge. Let us leave the legal implication alone. Can Cardinal Cooray and others deny my allegation? Did they compensate me? They have wilfully revenged me. Is revenge not a sin? Are there dual rules one for the clergy and the other for the laity. The Church leaders are only concerned with bettering their own conditions at the expense of the laity. The Brothers at St. Benedict's College are leading a luxurious life from the levy they get from poor students. The congregation is definitely appropriating an amount more than the salaries of the Religious staff. Is this not a sin? I decided to break through the walls of tradition and authority and shake off the conditioning that holds the mind. I must be conscious of what I believe or do not believe. Unless I am aware of the pattern and break away from it, I am still a prisoner though I may think I am free. In the Church we have created a superior caste called the clergy, but the laity remains prisoners with the glorious epithet of 'The People of God' and there is no freedom in prison. Freedom lives outside the walls of the Church, outside the pattern of her dogmas, but to be free of that pattern I had to revolt against my own mind. It is the mind that has created the problem, this tradition bound culture. If I am free I will be fully aware of myself and my mind will become very sensitive and alert. Out of the understanding comes great love; which in turn will lead me to reality.

## CAN THE CHURCH MEET THE NEW CHALLENGE

The world needs a blessing change. It is in a terrible state. The Kingdom of God envisaged by Christ is absolutely absent in the Churches. The Catholic Church has failed to bring blessing on the world. The blessing can come only when we as individuals are not seeking power, when we are not trying to fulfil our personal petty ambitions, but have a clear understanding of the vast problems with which we are confronted. This demands great intelligence which means really a mind that does not think according to any particular pattern, but is free in itself and is therefore capable of seeing what is true and putting aside that which is false. These considerations urged me to free myself from the clutches of churchism. The leaders of the Church call us the people of God, but treat us worse than dogs. They build a beautiful image of the Church with the Pope, the Bishops and the Clergy. But actually they don't care to honour the images they have built.

The Church leaders are usually arrogant a character often found in bigots. The Church leaders who bring about certain results, who achieve some honour are full of themselves, puffed up with their results and achievements. In their own estimation they are very important. Read a

few of the prize-day speeches of our colleges, watch some of these people who call themselves priests and monks and you will see that in the very process of evangelization they are cultivating their own 'ego'; their mission however extensive they are still within a prison like structure, therefore they are destructive and ultimately bring more misery and conflict to man.

Is it not a great tragedy that the Catholic Church is insincere in her ecumenical movement, Such an attitude destroys whatever confidence whatever initiative others have. That is why it is important to understand the Church, however glorious her ethical and moral code may be. In the very process of understanding it was inevitable for me to break from it. Man is seeking a new response, a new approach to life, because the old ways are decaying. The Church with all her claims of divine revelation has no total response to that challenge, and incapable of responding to the challenge of the new. An organized Church is incapable to respond to this challenge.

## EQUALITY

I think we all ought to wash our minds completely clean. My mind is so heavily laden with the dust of many centuries, the dust what we call revelations, divine knowledge dogmas, grace and so on. If I would cleanse the mind, free it of past reminiscences I would then have a fresh mind capable of dealing with the many problems of life. The teaching of the Catholic Church describing her as the Mystical Body of Christ captivated my mind immensely. The idea of Catholicism and the conception of the mystical Body of Christ reveal equality. I am discussing equality in the sense that all people should be treated alike. In the Church for example the position of the Pope, Bishop, priests, and other clerics are merely job functions or ministerial functions; but with certain jobs or functions goes what is called status, and status is respected because it implies, power, prestige, it means being in a position to admit children into school, to tell parents off, to discontinue a teacher, to give jobs to favourites and to give several other orders. So with functions goes status; but if we could remove this whole idea of status of power, the functions of the members of the Mystical Body will have quite a different and simple meaning, would it not? Then whether people were popes, bishops, priests, principals or poor teachers they would all be treated with the same respect, because they are all performing, as in the case of the members of our body, a different but necessary function in the Church. In our body even the minutest cell performs a necessary function to build up the body. Do they vie for superiority or power?

Do you know what would happen in our schools if we could really remove from function the whole sense of power or of prestige? The feeling of prestige caused one brother to plot against another brother. The feeling "I am Head" "I am important" blinds one to act arrogantly. How can there be real charity? The teachings may be glorious. What is the use of them if they are not executed honestly. If catholicity or

equality was founded on Christian charity the Catholic Church would have been the pioneer to create a new world. The real kingdom of God. We would all be living in quite a different atmosphere, would we not? There would be no authority in the sense of the high and the low and therefore there would be freedom. The Church only relies on power, mystery and miracle. She has not discovered the Mystery of love, The Mystery of simplicity and the Mystery of self-surrender. The Church is running in vain. Christ washed the feet of his disciples to teach a lesson of humility-not pretended humility. The Church leaders are satisfied in washing the feet of some poor men on maundy Thursday. People who are not really humble only ridicule or mock Christ by this ceremony, which has lost its noble meaning by these power-seekers. Only if there is real Charity, there can be simplicity and humility — two chief components of Christianity.

### ORGANIZED CHURCH — A BLUFF

I was always very much inspired by the Gospel of John and the epistles of Paul. But today the life of the clergy-ordained priests, bishops, Religious Brothers and Sisters — inspires me not. They live a life quite opposed to the ideas and principles of the Scriptures. If they are Christians, definitely I am not; the scriptures still inspires me and arouse in me a passionate desire to share in the life of Christ. It may be due to my conditioning..... But I am definite that the clerics believe little what they preach and defer also little when they are opposed. I have challenged them on various points, I do not think that they dare face my challenge.

Institutional Christianity is in total disarray and decomposing, it has surrendered itself to scientific materialism, deceitfulness of this world, concupiscence and vanity. It no more cherishes the truth that to live it is necessary to die, that to be a Christian universal understanding and universal love are necessary. One of the most effective defensive systems against God's incursion has been organized religion. Churches had provided a refuge for fugitives from God. This defensive system has now changed into a sort of maginot line which is now easily crossed by priests in clerical attire.

Though crucifixion signifies the sublime mockery of all earthly things and power and ridicules all crowns, all robes and all kings, the Catholic Church is in constant pursuit of possessiveness, power and glory. Christian institutions are by no means true to the cross and what it signified. They worship power-the golden calf and happiness in the guise of sensual pleasures. Does not the cross propound the denunciation of the world and the things of the world?

Christ was revealed to many not in the guise of power of wealth or physical beauty but of weakness, obscurity and humility. Righteousness not power, justice not wickedness, truth not deceit, poverty not money or sensual pleasures should be man's pursuit. Christ did not

expect that man would be killing other men in his name, would be revenging another man in his name, and setting golden crowns on the heads of popes and kings to his greater glory. Christ spoke the truth which is intolerable to any forms of authority. **There is no earthly justice only the will of the strong over the weak.** Clerical Christianity is totally farsical. Christian Churches are fast becoming deteriorated, the Catholic Church is like NATO headquarters without armies. Our civilization and institutional christianity will soon flicker. Tolstoy one of the greatest Christians earned the relentless hostility of his country's Church and its hierarchy. Christ died to teach us of forgiveness, of brotherliness, of love of God, and of our neighbours. Contemporary cult ridicules them. I shall be very surprised if a decade or so from now anything remains of institutional Christianity, quite a number of Christians openly and ardently hope for its total annihilation. Institutions of the Church ardently pursue ends which they know to be worthless. How difficult, how desperately difficult to curb one's insistent 'ego' to put aside pride and vanity and follow the way of the cross.

I see Reality, Christ, Truth or whatever name you call it as a very bright light. To partake of the light of Reality, to keep it in one's eyes is heaven, to be cut off from the light is hell.

Present society is in pursuit of pleasure, money, eroticism, success etc. The clerics are greedy and vile as anybody. The Catholic Church with all its villanies and chicanery, has managed till now to keep the allegiance of the poor. Fear of the bishops and clergy will no longer strengthen the Christian brotherhood. There is a conscious and passionate awareness that the morally appalling and spiritually impoverished affluent Religious congregations in which the accent is constantly on possessiveness and sensual indulgence of every kind are no better than pigsties. Institutional Christianity is quietly but inexorably extinguishing itself. Money is invested with sanctity and regarded with veneration. All the worldly things like money and fame success and sensuality are the pursuit of monks and nuns. Things of the world have a larger dimension than our eyes can pick out. No moral proposition is worth propounding unless it is also expressed in terms of personal conduct.

If I say that all men are my brothers, the first thing I have to be sure of is that I do veritably feel them to be so and behave accordingly. If I don't, it's better not to say it and act on it. It would be very wicked to any man to say that he had completely achieved mastery of his fleshy appetites. When in truth, he hasn't even attempted. Very few clerics live the high standard of Christian life. One's ego' is indestructible. Sacrifice is a great joy and source of illumination. Oneness is possible only if we believe in the One.

The Catholic Church in which I was a member is neither divine nor true. The more passionate my Christian faith became the more the dignitaries of the Church loathed me. Salvation is attainable only if one dies in the flesh to be reborn in the spirit. Truth like love has no

nationality, but to love and see truth there must be no hate, no jealousy, no division, and no anger. So one has to die to all the things we call living only then one dies in the flesh, and only then is there the possibility of regeneration-rebirth in the spirit. I am concerned of a creator God and I believe in a transcendent Reality. To attain this reality organized religions will not anyway help me. All what go in the name of religions are mere shadows and projections. Religion in the true sense of the word does not bring about separation. Our beliefs separate us; Therefore our beliefs have nothing to do with religion. What we believe or disbelieve is determined by our conditioning. They have nothing to do with religion. Religion is something greater, much purer, vaster more expansive than anything conceived by the mind. So to discover what is true religion one must inquire deeply into all things and be free of fear.

### CATHOLIC RELIGION — A GIGANTIC FRAUD

The community of Christians is a social reality visibly present in the world. The Church is a social institution and it is subject to empirical investigation according to principles and methods of sociology. In discussing the Church what we need is a detached rigorously conducted sociological investigation; only then can we perceive the actual social reality and social function of the Catholic Church without illusion or pious rationalisation. As a social reality the Church of Christ is not primarily a society or a group of societies; it is primarily a movement within the human community uniting men by adherence to a common set of meanings and values, and in actions based upon these meanings and values. This movement of thought and action has no clear boundaries; there are many varieties of participations. The total social reality of the Christian Church is not covered in the Catholic Church. It is transitory and takes its structural forms from the surrounding culture. It should have disappeared long ago but unfortunately because of the inertia increased by religious conservatism it remains well beyond its useful span of life.

The dogmas and doctrines of the Catholic Church are absolutely non-Biblical and non scientific. Though they are based on revelation and faith the conduct of the clergy particularly leaders of the Church contradicts the veracity of their faith.

The Catholic Church though founded on charity, her intolerant attitude is constantly seen in history and in respect of several individual cases. The Catholic Church imprisoned Galileo for life and burned Bruno at the stake because they disagreed with certain superstitious beliefs.

The Catholic Church is hypocritical. It teaches about charity, truth, forgiveness, justice and about all the virtues on the earth, but the Church leaders with no sense of impeccability always violate them. Being dishonest, uncharitable, revengeful and unjust how can the Church be



holy. And is that not hypocrisy? The man who is trying to be some thing other than he is, is obviously a hypocrit.

The history of the Catholic Church is well-known. It gives sufficient proofs that it did not uphold the commandments upon which it was founded. The Catholics persecuted those who held to other creeds. The story of inquisition gives a vivid picture of the horrible crimes perpetrated by the supposed followers of Christ. The story of the early colonies reveals a bitter religious hatred among the different religious sects. Even now Protestants and Roman Catholics are killing each other in northern Ireland. During all the time that priest-craft dominated the life of the nation there were wars, persecutions and suppression of freedom. Ceylon too experienced such atrocities during the reign of the Catholic Portuguese.

### CATHOLIC HOSTILITY TOWARDS JEWS

To some Jews the very thought of becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church is repulsive. Much of the blame for this should be borne by the Church clergymen. It should be remembered that the Jews have for centuries been subjected to suffering at the hands of persons professing to be followers of Jesus. The Church has therefore been the first and foremost stumbling block in the Jewish appreciation of Jesus.

The twentieth century has not changed matters. In fact the world witnessed the brutal murder of about six million Jewish men, women and children in the concentration camps established by Nazi Germany. On the attitude of Catholic clergymen and Protestant ministers towards such mass murder, Dagobert D. Rumes writes;

"Innumerable photographs of Christian men and women led by Catholic priests and Protestant ministers are available to those seriously interested, giving irrefutable evidence of the thunderous enthusiam rendered Hitler and his gang. These pictures show the benign and cheerful countenances of Christian churchmen not only blessing the arms of the murderous Hitler storm troops, but welcoming them at the Nazi festivals, Nazi-sponsored Church affairs ..... and Nazi arranged victory celebrations. In fact there is no public event during the Hitler decade in Germany and Austria, in which the Christian Churches did not cheerfully participate. The Cardinal of Vienna Innaitzer during the era signed all his correspondence with 'Hail Hitler' and the bishop of Rome himself a former papal nuncio in Berlin refused even to utter a plea of pity on behalf of the one million Jewish children being put to death in airtight trains and gas chambers ..... Austrian and Italian clergymen who failed to see the bleeding children at their doorstep lived on to praise Jesus. Indeed if you raise this issue now as I do and others did for me, these clergymen become rather annoyed with our unwillingness to forget."

But are the members of the Roman Catholic Church and its clergy imitating Jesus by these inimical acts? Not at all. Jesus encouraged his followers to display genuine neighbourly love citing this as the second

greatest commandment in the Law. He directed that even enemies be shown love saying: "Continue to love your enemies ..... that you may prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the Heaven."

There is unmistakable evidence that the actions and teachings of the Catholic Church stand in opposition to those of Jesus. Now I conclude that the Church and its clergy have forfeited their claims. The head of the Roman Catholic Church is not Christ, and the Pope is not his Vicar, and all the Bishops in various parts of the world are not appointed by the holy spirit, the entire priesthood has no basis for its existence, all religious orders of the Church are of pagan origin. The whole structure is in a quandary. A demonic structure- "Babylon the Great".

Please examine the facts with no prejudice hindering you. You can appreciate that prejudice tends to obstruct sound thinking. It can cause otherwise intelligent people to act contrary to good reasoning and logic. Knowing of this danger one protects himself from drawing conclusions other than the obvious results.

Priests and monks conditioned according to Catholic beliefs from childhood probably believe what they preach. It pays them handsomely to do so. Though their political power is in the wane in most of the countries yet the wealth and luxurious living have not diminished.

The more civilisation advances the most we abhor tyranny or any form of political dictatorship. Dictatorship is a retrogression, but strangely enough we do not object to the religious dictatorship of the Catholic Church. We accept the priest, the dogmas, the tradition and all the rest of it; that is we are frightened so we accept authority. — or true still, the Catholic laymen is brow-beaten by threats of excommunication and other dreadful and wild punitive measures that he is objectively submissive.

Catholic religion has caused untold suffering. It still does, while the million support the priestly loafers in comfort and ease. For ages the independent thinkers have been murdered, ostracized, tortured and suppressed and their writings destroyed. Only in recent years have few courageous thinkers become free to criticize humbug posing as religion.

## **THE HYPOCRISY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

The Clergy of the Catholic Church have endeavoured to please the rich section of the flock in order that they might have good financial support. In their quest for popularity they have steadily relaxed Scriptural principles forsaken and its standards of righteousness. They have 'watered down' the Word of God like the ancient peddlers of wine who added water to it to make it go farther. Are such men and their Church Organizations the pillars of strength that they purport to be?

Should the word of such men be counted as carrying any weight when they level charges against men of good will? Rather their conduct betrays their lack of moral strength and their inability or unwillingness to hold to the high standards of Christian morality.

In this regard note the remarks of a school Principal regarding their Congregation.

"We are rated by the Church by the kinds of statics we can accumulate-members and money, missions financial standing etc. We guarantee ourselves a lifetime job. By behaving ourselves we know that we will move to big Colleges and higher salaries. As a result we are more interested in building up the Congregation than in building the youth".

"The whole structure of our existence depends on the donations we collect or levy whatever you may say. How can we tolerate any criticism on the subject of donation".

"You are only an employee of our Congregation, how dare you interfere in our financial dealings. Who would care all the principles of the Bible you brag? I can say in all seriousness there is no God".

When I discussed the subject of donation with a Principal he made these impertinent statements. It did not surprise me the least. The Catholic Church and its leaders today retain only the form of godly devotion.

### WOLFISHNESS:

The historical evidence of the Catholic Church is that wolfishness led many from biblical standards into worldiness. Christ Jesus had plainly stated "my kingdom is not part of the world" (St) James Condemned as 'adulteresses' those who sought the friendship of the world. The conversion of Emperor Constantine opened the way for the apostates from Christianity to gain worldly favours. The face of the Christian Church began to change. "The simplicity of the Gospel was corrupted; pompous rites and ceremonies were introduced, worldly honours and emoluments were conferred on the ministers and teachers of Christianity and the Kingdom of Christ in a good measure converted into a kingdom of this world" (M'Clintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia).

This was not true Christianity. It was counterfeit Christianity, a fraud. The Bible shows that Christ Jesus had turned down control of the political kingdom of the world offered him by God's adversary Satan. In the fifth century Pope Leo 1 proclaimed:

"I will revive government once more upon this earth; not by bringing back Caesars, but by declaring a new theocracy by making myself the

vicegerent of Christ ..... not a diadem, but a tiara will I wear the, symbol of universal sovereignty before which barbarian shall flee away, and happiness be restored once more" (Beacon Lights of History),

What was the result? no happiness, but corruption superstition and bloodshed. The dark ages descended upon the Christian Church. The Bible practically disappeared. The turning away from biblical standards brought upon the clergy during that period greatest power, wealth and influence. The power hungry clergy waged wars of crusades. A modern historian on Crusades writes: "In short the Crusades were an exhibition of unbridled, unprincipled, unrestrained savagery in the name of Christ".

As you read ask yourself: Were these armies of priests and people following genuine Christianity as taught by Christ and his apostles. And keep in mind the teachings of the people and compare them with what you read in the booklet — The truth about the inquisition: .

"The Church cannot escape responsibility for the use of torture nor for the burning of victims at the stake..... We frankly acknowledge the responsibility of the popes in the use of torture and in the burning of thousands of heretics at the stake. Their sanctioning of such cruel and brutal measures is unquestionably one of the blackest stains on the record of the Holy office and will remain to the end of time a cause of obliquity and sorrows upon the Papacy".

**Reformation:**— The Protestant Reformation no doubt brought many improvements in Bible reading and it was accompanied by several improvements in education and in legislation providing greater justice and tolerance. But the religious leaders of the Protestant Churches not only disagreed among themselves but also held on to many teachings that contradicted the Bible. Although they rejected the authoritarian rule of the Pope they still retained a division between the clergy and laity. Yet Jesus told the disciples not to have titled positions saying that 'all you are brothers' and that whoever exalts himself will be humbled.'

Like the Roman Catholic leaders the Protestant leaders too formed alliances with the political states. Because of the connection of the Churches with colonialism, their missionaries often meet up with hatred in foreign nations. The 'Opium wars' in China are disgraceful to the message of Christ. Is it then a grave error to appraise the teachings of the Bible on the basis of the history of the Catholic Church, its teachings and its practices? How true this is, note the following admission.

"Our western history has been one war after another with one corner of our mouth we have praised the Prince of peace and with the other we have glorified war. So well we have succeeded in blending Christ and carnage, the Gospel and organised slaughter ..... Christianity is looked upon as a warring bloodspilling religion" (The modern use of Bible).

The divided Churches of Christianity must bear the guilt for prejudicing millions of persons against Christianity. To these Churches perpetuating a colossal fraud in the name of Christianity the following words apply: "They publicly declare they know God, but they disown him by their acts" (Titus 1:16).

### **The Catholic Church Reaps What She Has Sown:**

The harvest time foretold in the Bible has arrived. The difference between the 'weeds' or counterfeit Christians sown by God's adversary and the 'Wheat' or genuine Christians is now clearly distinguishable. The Catholic Church has proved to be not a spiritual paradise producing the fruits of God's holy spirit, but a weed patch of disunity, hatred, revenge and unprincipled conduct. In many parts of the world she has produced only "rice Christian" — The clergy and laity — persons who joined her for the material benefits they could get. "God is not one to be mocked. For whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7)

Having sown contrary to Christ's teaching or to God's Word the Catholic Church with all other Churches in Christendom is now reaping the consequences: serious internal strife, a grave lack of candidates for her seminaries, dwindling Church membership or indifference among the Church members, a steady loss of influence, public criticism for political meddling and widespread delinquency and immorality. Having prostituted herself to the political powers to gain influence with them, the Catholic Church and her Religious orders cannot escape being classified as part of the harlot-like "Babylon the Great" The symbolical "great city that has a Kingdom over the kings of the earth" (Rev. 17:1-6,18) To the Catholic Church no less than to pagandom apply the words:

"Get our of her my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues. For her sins have massed together clear up to heaven and God has called by acts of injustice to mind" (Rev. 18:4-5).

We cannot look to Catholic Church for guidance concerning the word of God nor for an example of what its teaching and principles are. If the book of Bible contains the Word of God, certainly the resurrected Jesus must be dwelling with his spirit in genuine Christians, persons who are convinced of the righteousness of the Bible and of its standards and principles and who are willing to die rather than violate them. Such people will certainly be at peace with one another, will have love for one another and will be united in unselfishly aiding those who seek to know the truth about God and His Word.

The Catholic metropolitan of Ceylon by sanctioning the act of revenge and by contesting the civil action in the Labour Tribunal has violated the teaching and principles of the Holy Scriptures. Is it not? This is an open question; will any Catholic in Ceylon elucidate me, If not why do you cling to a church of the wicked one. Get out of it immediately.

## SOME INTERESTING NEWS AROUND THE CHRISTIAN WORLD

### \* CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CLOSE —

At the end of the school year last June, more than 400 additional Roman Catholic schools in the United States closed, mainly due to financial difficulties. More closings are expected in the near future. The number of teaching nuns and priests also continued to drop.

### \* CLERGYMAN PROPOSES FORNICATION

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Fisher says that unmarried couples should be permitted to commit fornication with the church's blessing. The Associated Press reports from London: "Lord Fisher, 83 year-old retired head of the Anglican Church says sexual intercourse between betrothed couples pledged to wed 'would not be regarded in the moral sense as fornication'. "But fornication is sexual intercourse between unmarried persons — regardless of how the clergy regard it — and God's Word condemns it.

### \* COMMUNAL CONFESSION —

The number of Catholics going to confession has dropped dramatically in recent years. Now communal confessions are being tried. In January the Vatican announced it would consider such a reform. Under the new experiment, those at the church service would simply join in a collective confession in general terms.

### \* DENIES PAPAL INFALLIBILITY —

Prominent Catholic theologian Hans Kūng has denied the doctrine that the pope cannot be in error when he speaks on matters of faith or morals. Kūng, Swiss-born theologian at Tübingen University in West Germany, also says that the doctrine of papal succession from the apostles has "feet of clay" because it is unfounded Biblically and historically.

### \* DONATIONS DOWN —

Many private institutions such as churches, colleges, hospitals, welfare agencies and cultural organizations depend on voluntary donations for financial support. United Press International editor Louis Cassels says that all of them "may be in serious trouble during the next few years." Why Expenses keep going up, but donations do not keep pace. The gap gets wider each year.

### \* DYING CATHOLIC PUBLICATIONS —

In a report in the New York SUNDAY NEWS of October 31, 1971, it was noted that 180 Catholic publications have discontinued publishing since 1965. Many of those remaining are just barely hanging on in the face of dropping circulations.

# The Drama of Revenge

## The Clergy — To Shepherd The Flock Of God.

Both the documents of Vatican II and the Scriptures abundantly shed light on the qualities of the church leaders such as bishops or prelates, priests and superiors of Religious Orders or societies. In the early church mature, spiritually qualified men were appointed from the community itself as bishops (Titus 1:5,7) These men were interested in the welfare of the entire flock under their care. They tended the flock of God with great care. Though the present structure of administration of the Church is somewhat confused and modelled according to corrupt secular forms, evidently there were more than one elder-overseer or bishop in each of the early communities of the Church. St. Paul not only taught publicly but also he went house to house to teach the word of God. Paul exhorted the elders to pay attention to themselves and to all the flock among which the Holy Spirit had appointed them bishops to shepherd the community of God which God purchased with the blood of his own son (Acts 20: 16-28) Paul took his work very seriously and he wanted to impress his fellow elders with the seriousness of their responsibility before God as overseers of the flock.

Be it noted that no elder was viewed as the principal one, the head of the Congregation or Church. That position has been given by God to his own son Jesus Christ (Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:8) The elders were required to set the same excellent example for the Congregation (1 Tim 4:14).

Certain Churches ordain a class of men called priests closely equal to the elders. The priests as pastors of parishes assist the bishops in ministerial and sacerdotal functions.

The Catholic Church with the pretext of dedication and loving service of Christ in the Church encourages vocations to Religious life. Though this mode of life is evidently an escape, and anti-Christian the religious communities are usually constituted like a Corporation or a trading company. The superiors of the congregations wield absolute power over their subjects consisting of the members of the order and other secular employees of the institutions.

Though prelates, priests and religious superiors are distinctly different categories in their ministries, the qualifications needed for

them are almost the same. These requirements should not be taken lightly. God's blessings can be expected only when his Word is followed closely (1 John 3:22)

## QUALITIES NEEDED FOR LEADERS

A leader should "show out of his fine conduct his works with a mildness—that belong to wisdom" (Jas 3:13) He has to be a man who hates what is bad. Otherwise he will not have the fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom. He must consistently adhere to the highest moral standard. The morals of the leaders should be in full harmony with the Word of God. They must be irreprehensible — free from blame or reproach. Their conduct, their dealings with people and their way of life cannot be the sort that can be called into question. They must be above reproach as to their conduct in the church and in their relationship in the secular employments — wrongly called apostolate, and everywhere else. They must be men of the highest moral standards (2 Cor 6:3-4) They should also be "moderate in habits", not who go to extremes. They should have a balanced view of their responsibilities as Christians and carry them out in a way that wins respect of fellow Catholics. They should be sound in mind and their viewpoints should always be governed by the principles of Scriptures — God's Word —. This would enable them to be balanced in their thinking and they would know what is proper and improper, true or false as based on the Scriptures. So they need to be well versed in the Word of God. (Rom 12:2; Ps. 19:7).

They must likewise be orderly and methodical. This implies that they should pay attention to the complaints of their flock, subjects and employees. They should promptly reply the letters they receive. Orderliness requires that they recognize the divine order of the Church, that they appreciate the need for submission to Christ, the head of the Church, and they see their own position in relation to the flock, subjects and employees, as elders or shepherds fully accountable to God (1 Cor 11:3; Jer 23: 1;4).

They are also to be hospitable. They are to welcome strangers and friends alike making them feel glad that they have come. They must be approachable, not self willed, but willing to listen to others and not be taking offense even some one offers them certain criticisms for improvement in the way things are being done. They must be reasonable, not belligerent (1. Tim 3:3) They must not be the kind of persons who try to settle things with their fist, or refuse to talk to their brother who may have offended them (Rom 2: 17-18) On occasions something may happen that irritates them, but as is true of all Christians they ought to have self control which is a fruit of God's spirit and as James said "The fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace (Jas 3:18).

## NOT LOVERS OF MONEY

Appreciating what the Bible says about the relative value of material things a mature Christian would not be a lover of money. A true leader



of the Church would never engage in dishonest business practices to get money, nor would he allow even honest secular work to push his ministry into a secondary place.

All Christian leaders prelates, priests and superiors are commissioned to teach. They should practise in their daily life the things that they teach others to do. The standard of morality to be met by those appointed to be leaders is a high one, but it is not unreachable.

## REPROOF OR REPRIMAND

When difficulties arise the leaders should not hesitate to reprove or reprimand the wrong doer irrespective of his position in the Church (Titus 1:9) For a bishop there is no room for compromise. If he really loves his flock and is determined to help them he must show fortitude and speak truth and act with righteousness. And the bishop must not stop loving the flock when problems arise (Col 6:1-2).

## ARE OUR ELDERS FAITHFUL TO THE WORD OF GOD?

### Do They Obey?

In the foregoing paragraphs the qualities of the Church leaders are enumerated briefly as found in holy Scriptures. The word 'elder' specifically pointed out in the early church our present counterpart the bishops. Without limiting the usage to the bishops alone I wish to widen it to other prelates, priests, monks and nuns who hold responsible positions in Catholic activities or the Christian apostolate. Therefore not only the bishop, but the managers of schools, Provincials of religious orders, Principals of schools and diocesan union leaders are also included as elders so that I could discuss the problems conveniently.

There is no question about problems arising in a community of the Church. All kinds of people include the flock of Christ. But not all of them remain as loyal Christians, and some even try to subvert the faith of the others and entice them to bad conduct. Paul the Apostle said: "I know that after my going **oppressive wolves** will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with **tenderness**, and from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples". The warning of Paul may be unpalatable to our elders holding eminent positions as Cardinals, Provincials, Directors managers or secretaries. But the Apostle expected trouble to come within the Church of God and it did. Why should we think it to be any different today when there is so much turmoil in the world, and people from all nations and tongues with different ideas of life fleeing from "Babylon the Great", the world empire of false religions which include R.C. Church, and are seeking refuge elsewhere. Will not a true shepherd or his stewards protect the flock against wolfish elements?

The writer of this book was a baptized Catholic, a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, a lamb in God's flock. The council of

Vatican II is a unique event in Church history. Popes John and Paul as well the council documents call the Catholics to engage in that sincere dialogue which knows how to listen humbly as well as how to speak candidly. Pope John in his opening address of the Council, though somewhat asserted the 'Magisterium' (teaching authority) of the Church he candidly admitted the cloud of sorrow and of trials of the Church for more than nineteen centuries.

The word 'Magisterium' is somewhat misleading. Its emphasis is more on authority than on teaching. What do we mean by teaching? 'A particularly important qualification of elders is that they be qualified to teach' (1 Tim 3:2) All our elders — Bishops, prelates, provincials and whoever share in the ministry of diffusing the Word of God or of the good news of redemption must be spiritually minded to do this — teaching — among Christians. Experience and truth will help here. Breadth and depth of Bible knowledge are needed and this is acquired not only by constant reading of the Bible but also by regular preaching, teaching, listening and learning as is the situation of the individual. Then only a Christian leader would turn to God's Word and be able to say 'Thus it is written'. Elders who share in the apostolic work of teaching on no account can diminish the importance of teaching the Word of God or Religion on any other pretence, whatever may be its importance. Our provincials and principals who wilfully neglect their duty of teaching disobey the Word of God and thereby become unworthy stewards of Christ. All elders should be able to apply what they read and convey to others the right ideas clearly and quickly. Teaching is an art — a Charismatic gift of the Holy Spirit. When a baptized Christian is in spiritual difficulty it is the bounden duty of the bishop to go to his rescue. If he wears the eyes of Christ as mirrored in the Bible he can easily solve any problem. Do we see this quality in our elders?

Power often corrupts is the conclusion of a report on 'power' by an American Professor — Walter A. Lunden. Rulers and bosses may be smarter than their subordinates, but they probably also are more crooked, and the more powerful the leader the more crooked he tends to be the report states. 'Not all leaders tend to show higher rates of criminality but a great majority of them do' Prof. Lunden asserted.

The great problem confronting the world after almost two thousand years remain unchanged. Only men who are loyal to Christ can enjoy light, goodness, order and peace. They who are deliberately opposed to Christ give rise to confusion to bitterness in human relations and to the constant danger of fratricidal wars.

## WAS I DISLOYAL TO CHRIST

Illuminated by the light of the Vatican Council, I was honest and sincere to do my bit in bringing the Church up to date and share the sources of divine grace which I believed to exist in the Catholic Church.

When the 'School take over' bill was mooted in Parliament, I was on the side of the leaders of the Church and opposed the move. One day the Director of St. Benedict's College announced to us that the hierarchy of the Church had determined to run a set of schools as non-fee levying private schools. I was not satisfied with the decision, because the Church was prepared to sacrifice thousands of poor little ones to the mercy of the state and wanted to safeguard the interest of few children coming from wealthy or materially blessed homes. I had the privilege of being included in a set of teachers mandated to find ways and means to collect donations to run St. Benedict's as a non-fee levying private school. In a conference, a teacher who usually poses as a stalwart of the Church, opposed a suggestion to employ the teachers to collect donations. Now I know that he denies this fact, because Bro. Athanasius is not in Ceylon to reprove him. A member of the staff with a legal training supported him saying that it would amount to extortion and not to donation. It was agreed and no teacher in the class room was engaged to collect the so called donations. The management found it difficult to collect the donations and pay the teacher's salaries. It went on for a considerable time.

Bro. Lawrence who succeeded Bro. Athanasius convened a teacher's meeting and appealed to the teachers to collect the donations in the class-rooms as they were accustomed to collect fees earlier. The stalwart mentioned above did not hum a word, because Bro. Lawrence had already bribed him with the appointment to a post of supervisor, a privilege until that time reserved to clerical crooks only. While I rose to oppose the crooked move of the cunning director, fortunately I was prevented by a senior teacher seated close to me. If I had spoken certainly I would have been revenged on the pretext of retirement on my attainment of the age of 55, ie. on 8th March 1966. And also the management would have served notice of discontinuance and retired my wife immediately because the secular code of education permits a manager to require a woman teacher to retire on attaining the age of 50. These retirements are absolutely against a promise given to us by Bro. Athanasius on behalf of the management during the trouble days of the 'School take over'. See how promises are forgotten so soon.

My criticism on the subject of donation at St. Benedict's was not done secretly. Though it might have lacked serenity of mind, brotherly concord, moderation in argument, dignity in discussion and wisdom of deliberation, no one could question me about my sincerity of purpose, loyalty to Christ and admiration of my Church. With St. Cyprian I admired the Church. How beautiful his description is.

"The Church surrounded by divine light spreads her rays over the entire earth. This light however is one and unique and shines everywhere without causing any separation in the Unity of the body. She extends her branches over the whole world. By her fruitfulness she sends ever farther afield her rivulets. Nevertheless the head is always one, the origin one, for she is the only mother, abundantly, fruitful.

We are born of her, are nourished by her milk, we live by her spirit". (De Catholicae Eccles. Unitate. 5).

## BROTHER DIRECTOR

### The Chief Actor In The Drama of Revenge.

The traditional method of the Christian brothers is to appoint the director of the community to the principalship of the college. "The wise are promoted to honour, but fools are promoted to shame" (Prov) Professor Lunden lists a type of men modern society tends to elevate to a higher position. They are conceited, ambitious, domineering and intolerant. The Holy Scripture considers them not wise but fools. Bro. Director who played the role of a villain in the drama of revenge can easily be placed in this category.

As St. Benedict's College is a grade I institution a graduate or a trained graduate was appointed to the post of principal since certain rules relevant to such appointment in the educational code of regulations came into force. It is rather amazing that this requirement was not heeded in the appointment of this director by resorting to some crooked methods. It was my misfortune that I had to work under such a resentful man. On resentment De Cathcart observes: "I think resentment is one of the big things that backfires on the individual I am sure that if I were a teacher of religion I would emphasize that the Bible teaches us not to have hate and bitterness towards other individuals — even enemies because we can't afford to have that kind of resentment. It backfires on individuals' health — mental and psychomantic" It even drives men to murder.

This professed Christian brother not matured in wisdom and spiritually weak should not have been promoted to the position of a superior or director. The Scripture rightly says that 'fools are promoted to shame'. The man who knows right from wrong and has good judgement and common sense is immensely rich. A Christian gains such wisdom not from the material sciences but from the holy Scriptures. When the knowledge of Scripture is appallingly pathetic can anyone expect from him any knowledge about the decree on religious life as found in the Vatican documents. He plotted against his own brother. He is an abomination to the Lord. Certainly monks of religious orders should not compete like men of the world in running the rat race.

How can godly men trust ungodly men like him when they are no better than drunkards and womanizers. As he was intoxicated with unlimited power and wine, he had no control over his senses and powers of reason. If he had shown mildness that belongs to wisdom (Jas 3:13) he could have easily settled my problem. But he was the kind of person who tries to settle things with his fist. This has evidently been displayed by him when he presided at the guild meeting convened by some sycophants and stooges in the staff of the college to kick out the writer of

this book not only from the guild but also from the college. The Director had a friend who was ungodly and addicted to alcohol. He made use of him to criminal purposes such as intimidation, harassing and even murder his opponents. Though often muder results from alcohol fortunately such a disaster did not happen.

Being a teacher and sharer in the apostolic ministry is a privilege, but it is also a serious responsibility. Some of the Christian brothers including their local superior do not diligently take pains to qualify as good teachers. They do not teach though they manage or administer in their schools. Teaching in the Christian sense is a 'gift' of the Holy Spirit. (St.) John Baptist De La Salle founded the teaching order for the upbuilding of Christian students. His image or statue gives one such an impression. When a brother is elevated to the post of principal he shuns teaching, even the teaching of the Word of God or Christianity becomes a taboo.

People who seek comfort and sensual pleasures usually idle or loaf. Their conscience is so hardened, they cultivate dishonesty. Like the ostrich they hide their faces in the sand of administration or management. They may further interfere fraudulantly in school records like the time table and lie to the civil authorities. Is it not a life of sin and evil? Do they build up the kingdom of God or that of His adversary? Have the idle ones left any distinguished mark in teaching to remember them? We admire a band of devoted brothers who have made good impression on their students. Bro. Luke is remembered for his talents in teaching mathematics, so Bro. Theodoret in Chemistry, Bro. Alban in classics. We have some more of them. Can the present humbugging monks boast such achievements? From the time the present Provincial took his principalship the devil of idleness and the devil of loafing have pitched their tents in the sacred grounds of St. Benedict's. It is a great shame to note that all the recent directors except Calixtus did not care to teach even the Word of God or Christianity — which is the real mission of all Christian teachers. All what I write here is 100% verifiable, no exaggerations. These are facts as they are. Are private Catholic schools necessary under these deplorable conditions? Let our shepherd honestly answer the questions.

## **EXCESSIVE LOVE OF MONEY AND MATERIAL COMFORTS**

Appreciating the relative value of material things a mature Christian should not be a lover of money. But most of the administrators of the Catholic institutions obviously are fond of money. Without reluctance they engage themselves in dishonest practices to accumulate money. The leaders of the Church were irritated when the dishonest practice of levying donations was exposed. The brothers and sisters of private schools solicit bribe and extort money to give admissions in their schools. Some of their establishments like the school,-boarding are too expensive. When the schools were closed on account of the emergency the boarders were compelled to pay the boarding fees in full. The brothers run a

nursery school where no brothers teach. Is it really an apostolic work? What is the difference between the nursery schools run by the brothers and other schools managed by secular bodies? Obviously these schools are money spinners. Apostolic or missionary work should not be confused with even honest secular work where the real ministry is pushed into a secondary place and the temptation of profit making is pushed to prominence.

Religious orders of the Catholic Church now venture in various secular undertakings. It is true that works like teaching and nursing carry some spiritual dignity with them. Though labour is noble why should Religious nuns and monks compete with the men of the world to market their products. Have they any biblical sanction to such a nonsense? Why does not the Religious Orders turn their attention to prostitution also. If they see no harm in running liquor bars and carnivals why should they be ashamed of opening brothels not for only men but for women also? The modern world needs such upheavals.

Let me reproduce some passages from my letters written to Bro. Director. They were written with the sole idea of bridging the gap in our rift and strengthening the Christian fellowship by mutual understanding forgiveness and love. But the scandalous kick I received remains still unchanged.

### **FREE EXPRESSION:**

Where are the true spirited Religious brothers and sisters who are prepared to face the chaotic conditions of the world today? I hope I am wrong and will gladly own I am when I see a tenth of the dedication, sacrifice and selfless care for others been found in Religious orders of the past centuries, displayed by present institutions for human welfare.

There was no cause for provocation in the criticism on donation. Do you go to Russia, China or East Germany today if you want to find free self-expression? of course not. These are totalitarian regimes and all oppositions to authority is ruthlessly quelled. Is that the way of love to show regard for human value to shut up in a cage? Christianity essentially has always been implacably opposed to totalitarianism, because of its conviction that men matter more than the state, because men are made in the image of God. You have made the liberty and free expression a problem in the Catholic Church. In blunt language if somebody perched in power dislikes one's face out he goes Is this not totalitarianism?

### **JUSTICE:**

If you ask why the Christians value man so highly, the answer is very simple. It is because we believe man is made in the image of a personal God. The Man's freedom, his self-consciousness his sense of values, his creativity, his heroism his conscience, his love all make sense;

They derive from the personal God who is the source of our being. Similarly our conception of truth, honesty, justice beauty and goodness derive from the God who enshrines them all. That is why Christianity at its best has always cared passionately about all types and conditions of men.

Righteousness and justice derive directly of course from the teaching and practice of Jesus himself. As Christians our Church, our schools, our families all belong to the theocratic society of God. We should not bind ourselves by secular rules. I do not dispute the right of an employer to discontinue an employee on attaining the age of 55. The problem is why did the employer seek to discontinue me all of a sudden? We all know the history of the circumstances. It is Hitlerite autocracy at its worst particularly when it operates for personal gains and it is not justice. "What are kingdoms without justice but a band of robbers. (St. Aug).

Disputes must be settled not by force, not by deceit or trickery, but rather in a manner which is worthy of the dignity of man. Have we not been so moulded by Christian values? When you discontinued me you were aware that I would lose my wage. In another word you have deprived me of my lawful wage. Is it not utterly ruthless? In totalitarian regimes unwanted people are eliminated by methods of torture. What is the difference between your act and that of Hitler's Germany, Maos' China or Communist Russia. In quality both are same though not in quantity.

To Jesus the Fatherhood of God is the key to the whole question of personal value. It was because of his example that Paul could say "that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither female or male; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" It was Jesus who both taught and exemplified this quality of love for all men even his own murderers.

It is true that I was a rationalist for a while. But I have not lost faith in God's love and goodness. Now I find more joy in the adventure of sharing hardships with my family than enjoying the comforts of the rich. Though I have rejected the Catholic Church I am still a Christian. For Christianity is the faith for men who are prepared to swim against the stream. It is the religion for radicals.

I have no doubt that the Catholic Church has plenty of escapists like any other group of people. There are many nominal churchmen whose escapism takes a religious form; They call Jesus 'Lord Lord', but have no intention of involving themselves in costly discipleship. Jesus called them 'wolves in sheeps clothing' of whom he would have to say on the Judgement Day. 'I never knew you'. The ugly results of human self-centredness are equally evident in Religious societies as in Communist societies.

## COMPENSATION

Evidently you have revenged me. The Christian standards of morality demand the revenger to compensate his victim. Unless you compensate your victim you will have no share in the Grace Life and Eternal Life here and hereafter respectively. St. Paul writes to the Romans thus:

“Live peaceably with all, Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God: for it is written “vengeance is mine I will repay” says the Lord “if your enemy is hungry feed him if he is thirsty give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good” (Rom 12:17-21)

In my several letters I have clearly explained to you my attitude as a Christian — The Catholics must face the charges of the aesthists with humility and shame as they hold dialogue with Communists. If I was wrong what refrained you from giving me a conscientious explanation?

My Church has failed me. But my God has not failed. He is my shield. All of us at some time or another have to make critical decisions. I agree. On what did you base your decision of discontinuing me? The temptation to look to men or men made regulations to point the way rather than to an invisible God through his word is always great True many persons like you shy away from submitting to Bible standards They prefer to set their own standards to make up their rules of conduct. Why not write to me for a free discussion in your own house.

## DEMONIAC INFLUENCE

**The Drama of Revenge Introduces Another Prominent Actor:—**

“For his part as one who will render an account for the souls entrusted to him (Heb 13:17) each superior should himself be docile to God’s will in the exercise of his office. Let him use his authority in a spirit of service for the brothers and manifest thereby the charity with which God loves them ..... Let him give the kind of leadership which will encourage religious to bring an active and responsible obedience to the offices they shoulder and the activities they undertake. Therefore a superior should listen willingly to his subjects”.

These are some fine sentiments seen in the documents of Vatican II on Religious life. The qualities of a superior is briefly stated. The provincial of the Christian brothers who was an active partner in the drama of revenge aided and abetted his son in the religious community. Today many feel repelled by the hypocrisy they see in the Religious Orders. The provincial of the order of Christian brothers is usually addressed visitor. Bro. Visitor whom I accuse has been one of the past directors of St. Benedict’s College. Though he is generally respected by the gulli-



bles he is evidently crooked and full of cunning. According to Prof. Lunden he may be classed in the inadequate a placid and emotionally blunt person often mistaken for a profound man.

During the early period of his principalship he made certain dramatic reforms in the administration of the college. He promoted some lay teachers to the rank of supervisors which have hitherto been monopolized by crooks of the Religious members. As there were not enough holy humbugs mere necessity induced him to make the change — not any educational wisdom. Besides he has lessened his own responsibility with the pretence of sharing the burden. One of the teachers who got the promotion was absolutely an unworthy person. Why was he promoted? This teacher knows all the secrets of defrauds and embezzlements of the management. Their secret time table manipulation of accounts and similar dishonest practices. The promotion was a sort of gratification to silence the fox.

Bro. Visitor has not dedicated himself to the cause of teaching the word of God or educating the little ones, but to the evil of loafing and seeking pleasure. In the Biblical sense he is not wise. A wise person judges soundly what is true or false, proper or improper. He made an unworthy appointment in the staff of the college by transferring a real educationist. Each superior should himself be docile to God's will in the exercise of the office. How can one find out God's will? To be able to find out God's will a Christian must have a good knowledge of the word of God — The Scriptures show what is right and what is wrong in problems of life. At times it is difficult to obey the Word of God for those who are selfwilled. Paul wisely counselled the young man Timothy to free himself from the desires incidental to youth, but to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace (2 Tim 2:22). I dare accuse Bro. Visitor not that he is inclined to the desires incidental to youth in the erotic forms, but his loafing, desire for excessive comforts and other demonic remnants, are evidently desires incidental to youth. Does he pursue righteousness? What righteousness is there in the practice of levying donations? Does he pursue love? What love is there in deliberate revenge? Does he pursue peace? What peace is there in betrayals as disclosing confidential letters?

A superior is expected to use his authority in a spirit of service for the brothers. In the case of my discontinuance Bro. Visitor took personal troubles to get the paper of discontinuance signed by 'Pilat' — the General Manager and it to have been approved by the Director of education. The officer concerned was gratified to expedite the execution. Is this the way of using authority in a spirit of service? I don't deny that a leader should have the courage and fortitude to deal with the wrongdoer? The one dedicated to God should realize that he is born in sin and shaped in iniquity. But it should not prevent one to correct the wrongdoer with courage. "For what son is he a father does not discipline"?

What did our Lord say to his disciples before his departure? "By this all will know that you are my disciples" By what? "If you have love among yourselves". And this is his final commandment: You love one another just as I have loved you. Do we faithfully obey this commandment? absolutely not.

Bro. Visitor had the privilege of reading an explanatory letter sent by me to the Director of Education. To get the sympathy of a government consisting of unbelievers the explanation had to be cooked up by some deliberate red herrings.

If Bro. Visitor is a man of faith he should have seen the desperate state of the soul of the writer in the explanation. If he is really a leader sharing in the work of shepherding the flock, he would have certainly concerned in making straight the paths for the writer's feet. It is an act of love manifesting obedience to the final commandment of our Lord.

The writer has explained in full the circumstances that led him to criticize the institution. If it was really unworthy of Christian love Bro. Visitor could have helped the writer to correct his thinking and his conduct. But Bro. Visitor, was behaving like a fool promoted to shame. He did not even hesitate to produce private letters sent to him trusting his good office. Is this not crookedness? abominable treachery. If the discontinuance of the services of the writer was prompted by love or any other good reasons, why did not Bro. Visitor explain to the writer the cause. Elders and leaders of the Catholic Church deliberately disobey the word of God, which contains all solutions for all problems of life spiritual and temporal. But they prefer to set their own standards to make up their own rules of conduct.

There can be no doubt about it. If such men remain as superiors of a Congregation for a long term the doom of the congregation will be seen soon written on the wall. Unwise administration will bring fleeing conditions from Babylon the Great which includes the congregation of Christian Brothers.

Let me produce passages of certain letters addressed to Bro. Visitor with the hope of levelling the difference in our Christian relationship. The writer did not get any encouragement. The scandalous kick of revenge has deepened the wounds. No Samaritan is seen on the way.

## ATTITUDE OF JESUS

Indeed there are rationalists and communists who often put to shame the lives of professing Christian monks. Unlike the monks the communists by their social involvements advance knowledge and forward freedom. Either in their concern to banish superstition or caring for those in need, they are following ideals which Christ taught. Unfortunately your congregation has not always been conspicuous in following the teaching of Christ. There had indeed been much running away from truth,

from social concern and from freedom. This is something of which you have every reason to be ashamed. But it has not been the characteristic Christian attitude and it was not certainly the attitude of Jesus. Whenever the Church or its establishments have not been notable for their love of people, the love for truth and the concern for social freedom and welfare they have been untrue to the character of the Founder.

Whenever I revolted, the zeal for social concern pushed me forward. Jesus taught that so far from making men's lives miserable he had come to give them abundant life. It is useless to say piously 'Lord Lord' — unless the fruit of genuine goodness to others is seen in Christian lives. "You will know them by their fruits". For is it not true that the things that really make life worth living are 'love joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness and self control? Those things are the fruits of God's spirit and can be practiced without restriction. If I want to identify you by your fruits you do not belong to Christ. What Jesus taught he carried out in person. And unless his followers share his love for people, his hatred for poverty and disease and ignorance no less than sin their religion is not the religion of Jesus whatever they may claim.

## WRONG DESIRE AND PRIDE

Wrong desire can be an insidious share to Satan. Judas Iscariot is an example. First he had the qualification for his office. But he became covetous, greedy. He began to steal from the fund that Christ and his Apostles used for expenses. With this start Satan was able to lead him farther and farther into the development of a wicked heart, until finally he betrayed the Lord. He lost everything becoming the son of destruction.

Pride is also one of Satan's most powerful instrument. The Apostle Paul specifically ruled out the appointment of a newly converted man to the position of overseer in a Congregation 'for fear that he might get puffed up with pride and fall into the judgement passed upon the devil'. The brothers of Christian schools are puffed up with pride at being elevated to an office of prominence and responsibility Your Chapters sometimes become the instrument of Satan. Because the conduct of any man appointed to oversight in a Congregation reflects on the entire Congregation and upon God himself, he is required to be a man having a fine testimony from people on the outside.

## KARL MARX

No-one could deny that Marx had plenty of justification for denouncing the Christian Churches. There was sickening hypocrisy in the Churches of Christendom. Did the Catholic Church ever observe the appalling social injustice perpetrated in Catholic countries. The victims of injustice in this life were assured by the Churches of bliss in the next. Has the Church in Ceylon done any social reform among the down trod-

den? The formalism of the Church and hypocrisy in religion are deplorable. As an employer do you pay your workers an honest wage, the Catholic Clergy exploit and cheat their workers. They always encourage the snobs who indulge in class distinction, race differences or caste disabilities.

But there is nothing more shattering in the teaching of Jesus than his biting invective against formalism which was as rife then as it is now. Jesus in his denunciation said 'You devour widow's houses and for a picture you make long prayers' he added 'woe to you hypocrites ..... how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? He compared them to their cherished whitewashed tombs, beautiful enough on this outside but revolting within. Can you honestly give an account to God?

It is indeed a ghostly thing that several children attending your private schools have to pay their fees under the dishonest name of donation. You all know the economic plight of many parents. But you fatten yourselves with the money of the children earned by the sweat of the parents. "All power tends to corrupt absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely. No man is good enough to be allowed absolute power over anyone else." The ugly results of human self centredness are equally evident in religious as in secular societies.

## CHARACTER

The test of the validity of Christian experiment is character. Instead of building up the character you are deliberately destroying it. The teaching of Christ should make the immoral chaste, the greedy generous, the selfish and cheat, the honest. A Christian should be one who really lives up to the name in morals, in business dealings, in neighbourliness, in hospitality and in loving kindness.

## REVENGE

In the drama of revenge you have acted in the most wretched manner. I am a mature Christian and can boast with all humility that my knowledge of scripture is far superior to yours. I am definite that you will not have a share in the grace-life and eternal life unless you compensate the victim of your revenge. If you try to satisfy your action by crooked thinking, please remember that you cannot deceive the Holy Spirit. I have rejected the Catholic Church. It is not the Church of God. The God of truth will lead me to a fertile pasture. He is the true shepherd. He protects the godly man with his shield of love. Why do you shy away from submitting to Bible standards. I invite you for an honest dialogue. "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free".

## THE BISHOP'S AGENT

### A Minor Role In The Drama Of Revenge

In the drama of revenge let me accuse a priest an agent who is appointed by the bishop the proprietor of private schools belonging

to the Church in Colombo. The bishop in his capacity as an employer employs teachers both Catholics and non-Catholics. We do not know the exact assignments or duties of the so called agent. Let us call him by the defunct name General Manager. It appears that he is a sort of corresponding clerk of the bishop. The present holder of this post in respect of the schools managed by the Christian brothers is obviously not a priest of God. He may be classed 'the ethically abhorant personally endowed with acute intelligence, but morally wile and cunning. He is not interested in the welfare of the teachers, students or parents. I appreciated a Catholic school as an important organ of the flock of God. So then I thought that the bishop has appointed a priest as his agent to shepherd or watch over the interests — spiritual and temporal — of the school family and upbuild those associated with it. A priest need not waste his apostolic ministry by being merely a clerical assistant of the bishop. We had responsible priest-managers during the time our schools were assisted schools. For example father Anthony was a source of comfort and solace to teachers who went to see him. Always he welcomed the teachers with open arms to his office and listened to their complaints.

I have never seen this priest. I do not know whether he is old or young, bearded or clean shaved, tall or short. All my attempts to approach him have miserably failed. Like the bishop he too did not care to acknowledge or reply my half dozen letters.

If he really respects his calling certainly he should have the courage and fortitude to investigate the truth before signing the letter of discontinuance. Depriving a man's wage by hook or crook is not the way of a Christian. He should have signed the letter after deep discernment, complete investigation and through search for the truth. But I am ashamed to associate with such humbugging priest. He has signed a document which was maliciously prepared by a set of humbugs clothed in holy cassocks with the trousers protruding prominently. The ridiculous part of the document was that it has been prepared not on the letter head of the bishop or his agent, but on the letter head of St. Benedict's College and posted as an express letter from Jaela. Why were all these crooked methods resorted to? Certainly Our Lord Jesus did not entrust to his ministers such demoriac ministries. His desire was that they should tend his flocks with real affection and care. The Holy Spirit has appointed a bishop to tend his flock not to cut the sheep's throat. The bishop ordains a priest to carry out the ministries commanded by the Word of God.

Did not St. Paul take his works seriously and want to impress his fellow workers with the seriousness of their responsibility before God as bishops and priests appointed to tend the flock. In the early Church all were required to set the same excellent example for the community. The communities were small and all the elders sincerely adhered to the highest moral standard, their morals were in full harmony with the Word of God. The Holy Roman Catholic Church has succeeded by enticing methods of propaganda to draw thousands of people into her fold. It has become unwieldy and corrupted. All her activities do not promote the real kingdom of God, but that of His adversary.

The Church by sporting too much in mundane activities of politics, business undertakings and material sciences has already pushed the real ministry of teaching and preaching the word of God into a secondary place. She has forfeited her commission. The R. C. Church has lost all her holiness and beauty, the fruits of a few Catholic Church leaders are quite enough to judge the holiness of the Church. Is it not clear from the unchristian conduct of the elders or leaders just now mentioned?

Because of her involvements in all demoniac activities the Church is not free from the love of money. Have the leaders not been familiar with the Words of God? Let your manner of life be free by the love of money while you are content with the present things (Heb 13:2).

The General Manager who played a minor role in the drama of revenge has definitely not been guided by the principles of love. He should have at least respected a brother in Christ inasmuch, I am also a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, and listened to my version of the story. Instead he chose to act only on the story fabricated by the member of a particular society. Thus he did not even concede to me elementary right allowed by civilized governments.

**Responsibility** — (from my letters to the manager)

Many men — leaders in politics, business, science, religion and other fields at some time or another have to make critical decisions. But when you look at the circumstances that led to discontinue my services are you sure that you have made the right decision.

It is your duty to console those who are unjustly victimized; don't stand back and let them suffer. Don't try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God who knows all hearts knows yours. He knows you knew, and he will reward everyone according to his deeds.

### **Criticisms**

Didn't you read in the scriptures not to refuse to accept criticism (Pro 23:12) If the method of levying donations is acceptable to God I do not see the reason why the management should be agitated over my criticism. If you have been a fool by being prejudiced without proper investigation cover your mouth with your hand in shame. Don't defend your action.

### **Bible Standard**

A share in the divine life is said to be Grace Life. What do you understand by the phrase "Share in the divine life"? Is it not participating in the life of Christ? To participate in the life of Christ his constant fellowship is necessary. If you had based your decision on Bible standards

you would have known the truth With God's Word guiding us we can make our decision free from fear. Decision based on it will unfailingly bring the best results, for it applies consistently everywhere at all times under any circumstances.

You have done irreparable damage to the cause of justice. The dignity of the human person should be recognised not only formally but effectively. Relationship between all people, let alone between the Christian, should be peaceful reasonable and fraternal. But the Catholic Clergy including you work hope and pray for the perpetuation of all the detestable things. Without any proper inquiry you have signed the letter already prepared by a wicked and satanic band of men. I appealed to you to give me an interview to express my grievance, you have neither acknowledged nor replied my letters. Is this the way of God? Is this the way of Christ? This is indeed something for you to be ashamed about. The Catholic Church has corrupted herself with all superstitious and non-sensical practices. One of which is her priesthood. Every vestige of this corrupt polluted system of things must perish. Your, priesthood will not protect you on the day of judgement. It is indeed a certainty. You have disobeyed the Word of God as pronounced by Paul. How cruel you are! My wife and children deprived of a reasonable income with hunger and thirst cry to the heavens for vengeance. According to the standards of the secular code of education you may be right, but God who knows the motive of the action will pay you back for all your meanness.

Please hold an inquiry and if I am found wanting either in my conduct or in my efficiency I shall accept the notice of discontinuance with all humility. But if it is a case of revenge or of my honesty irking the wicked management compensate and set me free. So why not let me assist you in a friendly dialogue. I am certain you will be spiritually enriched by such a dialogue. Are you humble enough to accept my invitation?

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LUTHER'S point that the Church is always in need of reformation can be applied equally to Christian education. It is important that these schools should embody a new trend. Then it is possible to forge a new type of dedication. The whole range of educational facilities must be available to all children. Religious Orders as far as possible should refrain from selling education. If the Apostolate of education is a part of Evangelization, running schools for financial gains, becomes absolute profanation.

\* FEWER SPANIARDS SEEKING PRIESTHOOD — (News)

On November 2, 1971, the Barcelona newspaper EL NOTICIERO UNIVERSAL reported a substantial drop in the average number of seminarians in Spain. Between 1962 and 1971 there were 58 percent fewer persons in Spain seeking to become priests. In some dioceses the drop was as much as 80 to 90 percent.

\* 'NO LONGER CHRISTIAN' —

England's GUARDIAN reports: "England was a past Christian nation — a land of former believers — Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, said." The Cardinal stated that religion was no longer regarded as important or relevant. Who but the clergy themselves are primarily to blame for this condition?

\* SICK WORLD —

Columnist Jim Bishop spoke of the time gone by "when daddy was the font of knowledge at the dinner table; when peace and security were the norm; when an academic argument was a pleasure; when respect was accorded unasked." But he said, "it's gone, and I extend an empty world." He noted that now the world was filled with international tension, suspicion and hate, adding that "we have lost the definition of truth and justice ..... Where is truth? What is justice?" This brings to mind the prophetic words of the Bible writer Isiah, who foretold: "Justice has come to be far away ..... and the truth proves to be missing." — Isa. 59:9, 15.

\* TEACHERS CAUGHT CHEATING —

Some teachers in American schools have been caught cheating. They gave out answers to test questions before they gave out the questions. While a student's test scores may be improved temporarily this way, the child is the real loser. By not studying to get his own answers, he is not cultivating the ability to learn. As these children go through the school system, and life, they will be increasingly handicapped. As it is, an estimated 7,000,000 school children cannot read properly now.

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THE PRIVATE school system has become commercial in character. Fee-levying or non-fee levying, human motives are irresistible. It is no wonder therefore that those who campaign actively for private enterprise in education are apt to obstruct the march of socialism. And also they ruin true Christianity. Further they impede the coming of God's Kingdom.



# The Shepherd

## The Bishop — An invisible actor in the drama of revenge,

The bishops as elders are commissioned to shepherd the flock of God. The church is a theocratic organisation of God entrusted to the tender care of the bishops. I do not want to contest whether the present holder of this office in Colombo is spiritually qualified or not. But I dare accuse him of his indifference, negligence and carelessness towards a lamb in his flock. The Greek term bishop means to “look or watch over”. So then a bishop in a diocese is one who is appointed by the Holy Spirit to watch over the Christians often depicted as a flock in the Scriptures, to visit and upbuild those associated with it.

Our bishop is a reputed theologian and I was humble enough to listen to his exhortations and explanations. I was even prepared to bow to his reproof or reprimand if it was needed. I respected him as a Father and expected that he would help me to straighten out my thinking and bring my conduct into line with Scriptural principles.

All my honest and sincere attempts to have access to him have miserably failed. I addressed twelve letters to symbolise the apostles. Six of them were registered letters. I wrote to his secretary to arrange an interview. All those letters must have gone into the waste-paper-basket. They were not even acknowledged. My attempt to meet him through the phone has failed further, only some rude remarks of the secretary vibrated into my ears. This is the love history of my Church.

Paul writing to Timothy says: “For there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the healthful teaching, but in accord with their own desire, they will accumulate teachers for themselves to have their ears tickled; and they will turn their ears away from the truth whereas they will be turned aside to false stories.” (7 Tim 4: 3-4).

Paul was moved by the spirit of God to write in advance that there would be persons (like our Catholic Elders) who claim to be Christians but who wanted to serve God in their own way not according to Scriptures.

## ON THE MYTH OF BISHOPS AS OUR SHEPHERDS

The image of shepherd is a favourite symbol found in the holy scriptures to express God, Christ and the leaders of the Christian com-

munity. Palestinian shepherds knew their woolly charges well and invented names for them. And what is just as important the sheep also knew their shepherds. The shepherd can sort out instinctively his own sheep among hundreds of sheep. He is their shepherd and their place is with him. They know him as their companion; they do not question his authority, but trust him as their leader defender and provider.

Pastoral life is not so idyllic and peaceful as often depicted by artists. In reality there is nothing romantic about the life led by shepherd and sheep; it is a grim and bitter struggle for existence. But the shepherd always is vigilant and tender in tending and protecting his sheep. Not only he leads them to green pastures but also protects them from ferocious animals, thieves and robbers. Biblical Babylonian and Hittite codes of law alike held the shepherd responsible for the loss of a single sheep, and he had to be able to show that any loss sustained by the flock was not due to neglect of his part. His sheep had a limited endurance, and could not be hurried or driven too far. An eye had to be kept on the weaker ones, strays had to be sought out and the shepherd had to know a bit of first aid as well. Clearly he lived for his sheep and his sheep either lived or died, depending on him. The sheep is a meek defenseless animal. Its life therefore was almost entirely in the hands of his shepherd.

In one of his books on the Holy land, George Adam Smith gives this picture of the Shepherd: "On some high moor ..... when you meet him sleepless, far sighted, weather beaten leaning on his staff and looking out over his sheep, everyone of them on his heart, you understand why the shepherd of Judea sprang to the front in his peoples history; why they gave his name (David) to their king and made him the symbol of providence; why Christ took him as the type of self sacrifice"

Everyone knows and loves the charming words of Psalm 22, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want". God is directly addressed as shepherd only four times in the old testament. But he is repeatedly reminded the fact; "We are your people, the sheep of your pasture" (Ps 78: 13); "We are his people the flock he tends (Ps 99:3) Isaiah writes, "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock, in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom and leading the ewes with care" (40:11) All the intimacy and devotion of shepherd and flock are given beautiful expression.

## THE IMAGE OF SHEPHERDS

The kings of Israel were thought of as shepherds of their people. But not all of them measured up to the ideal and Jeremiah raised up his voice, inveighing the Lord's name against bad shepherds. Such was the situation that it was inevitable that Israel's men of God would look forward to the righteous king, the good shepherd who would pasture his flock. The figure appears clearly for the first time in Ezekiel. "The Lord will take over the government of his people ..... I myself" he

says "will look after and tend to my sheep ..... I will rescue them" (34:11-16).

The image of shepherd and sheep was often on Jesus lips. One beautiful parable with the shepherd who left the ninety nine sheep in the desert and went seeking the one that was lost. He said that he came to save what was lost, the supreme expression comes in St. John's Gospel. "Jesus is the good shepherd and he will lay down His life for His sheep" (10:11) One can understand that a shepherd ought to risk life and limb in caring for his sheep, but that he should carry his devotion to the point of willingly laying down his life for them — this is startling. If the shepherd loses his life who will tend the sheep? Would it not be better to loose an occasional sheep than to lose the shepherd? It is precisely here that the vicarious death of the "good shepherd" far surpasses all the symbolism of the ordinary shepherd figure. He dies that His sheep "might have life and have it more abundantly."

Leaders of the early Christian community were in their turn looked upon as the shepherds of the flock. Peter received a solemn commission to "feed my lambs, feed my sheep," Bishops were urged by Paul "to tend the flock of God", still guarding the Messianic community is the heavenly Christ the "great shepherd of the sheep" (Heb 13:20) And Peter assures his readers that when the Prince of the shepherds appears they will receive the unfading crown of glory.

## THE FRUSTRATED IMAGE

No wonder the biblical imageries of a shepherd produced in my mind pictures of goodness and mercy in our bishops. My shepherd Thomas Cardinal Cooray regards me as an enemy or an alien. In the beautiful parable narrated by Jesus the shepherd leaves his ninety nine sheep and goes to seek the one that was lost. I was revenged because my zeal to the cause of the Church has overlapped the calculation of the power hungry authority. Was I not a lamb belonging to the flock of Christ. When Christ came shadows yielded to substance. I wrote a dozen letters to Thomas Cardinal Cooray. He did not even acknowledge a single letter. He has falsified the parable of the man who succeeded by repeatedly knocking at the door of his neighbour.

I tried to get the assistance of Bishop Gomez. But he counted me as an unwelcome visitor to his sheep-fold. Like the priest and levite in the parable of good Samaritan he purposely avoided the situation. I am compelled to decry with Jeremiah against the bad shepherds. How beautiful the picture of a good shepherd carrying the lambs in his bosom. How ugly the attitude of our modern bishops towards their flock.

In the Old Testament Zachariah threatens wicked and foolish shepherds with punishment. There are no prophets to threaten our erring shepherds. Such is the situation that it is inevitable to look into and examine the credentials of our bishops puffed up with the power

mentality. Are they really the successors of the Apostles? Or some impostors in the guise of shepherds. Do our bishops as good shepherds with righteousness serve their flock without any distinction. The pattern of their administration is completely conditioned according to civil administration. If so how can they merit the good name of a good shepherd. The shepherd knows his sheep and the sheep also know their shepherd. What a vast contrast between the bishops and the people! Christ the Prince of the shepherds took this symbol to show the greatness of self sacrifice.

The bishops may be reciting the beautiful and charming Psalm 22 regularly. If they have really assimilated the noble ideas found in the Psalm they would never be indifferent to their charge. To my dozen letters the bishop failed to give me a reply. If he is unable to hear the voice of a lamb entrusted to his care by divine command can we expect him to gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom. The unfortunate thing among our bishops is that they want to be great in the worldly sense, but they do not want to be saints. They want to be governors or rulers, but not shepherds. How can they relish the humble, poor, self sacrificing life of a shepherd who depends completely for social justice on others? What is the use of repeating the noble ideals of Christ the good shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep. We see the person of Christ through faith alone; if it is not strengthened by the examples of our bishops how can we stay steadfast in our faith?

### **CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

One of the fundamental teachings of the Church is that Christ the Good shepherd feeds His flock with His own Body and Blood. He knows His sheep from within, where with Father and the Holy spirit. He has taken up His abode. He loves the sheep and loses none of them. He the Lamb, God's Lamb, is also the shepherd who guides the sheep to the fountains of the waters of life. It is not surprising that we were captivated by such beautiful pictures. Are they merely pictures? or empty words? or charming poetic expressions? Are they not patterns of actions? now I am fully convinced that the leaders of the Church have already become crysallized, narrow, limited and stifed with anti-Christian attitude. I imagine myself as a child duped by a thief in the temple premises, with the sole intention of stealing the child's jewels.

### **MAUDLIN SENTIMENTALISM**

The Church speaks incessantly of redemption, eternal life God's kingdom and so on. She gives us comfort as well as threats such as hell and eternal damnation. She has created more fear in our hearts than love. But the moment I wanted to be like Christ what has happend? misery, conflict, envy and sorrow ensued; my struggle to achieve that ideal was impeded by the very shepherd to whose care I was entrusted. There must be something wrong either in the path of the Church or in the attitude of the shepherds who are not loyal to their charge.

## THE STRONG AND THE WEAK

The strong always suppresses the weak; why? Because they want to assert themselves. The bishops puffed up with power want to show their strength, they want to show how much better or more powerful they are, so they dominate. To them the shepherd-sheep relationship will never occur. They cherish that relationship only when writing pastorals encyclicals and preaching sermons. Preachers as a general rule do not practice what they preach. Bishops are no exceptions. I have seen bishops with angry faces and other expressions of hatred. How can they be disciples of Jesus Christ who is depicted as meek and humble? The bishops are bigger than we are; they know their holy Scriptures and Theology more than we know them, they have position, money, authority and status; so they suppress, they push aside and are impertinent even to the extent of not acknowledging a letter. Each one wants to assert himself, this is what we observe in the world, he wants to dominate, he wants to show that he has power over others. That is why the Bishop's secretary failed to arrange an interview with the Bishop. He was not even prepared to listen to me on the phone.

## REAL MOCKERY OF CHRIST

Like most of us the Bishops want to be somebodies; and the showing of power over others give them that satisfaction, the feeling that they are somebodies. Dual personality is always deceptive. The Bishops want to be governors or princes of the Church. How can they be shepherds? Christ taught a model lesson to his disciples by washing their feet. But our Bishops only mock Christ by washing the clean feet of twelve poor men on Maundy Thursday, without any change in their hearts.

Is it not a myth depicting bishops as our shepherds? Mere empty words; no doubt a beautiful image. If any of the Bishops in Ceylon disagrees with the analysis, I am humble enough to learn from him whenever he cares to meet me.

## FROM A LETTER WRITTEN TO THOMAS CARDINAL COORAY

The theme of 'Body of Christ' intimates the union between Christ and Christians and the unity of the Church. The union of the faithful with Christ and with one another is beautifully illuminated by Paul in the epistle to the Corinthians which reflects his love for Christ and for those whom he calls "his children". No wonder living in Corinth, a flourishing commercial town in the mid-fifties occasioned problems both practical and doctrinal for new Christians. They were not slow in having recourse to their founder and father Paul, just as I submit my problem to you they also asked him questions such as: "you mean to say we have to give up fun; and eating food offered to idols, and carrying our disputes into civil courts. Before carrying my dispute into a civil court I am bound to think deeply various matters. A civil court never endea-

vours to find the truth as it is. It goes through legal technicalities, to ascertain the case in dispute. A clever lawyer may be able to spot certain defects and win the case; it is an expensive item to both parties. If we really believe in the oneness of the Mystical Body of Christ can we not settle our problem outside the courts?

**THE CHRISTIANS V CHRISTIANS IN CIVIL COURTS  
WORD OF GOD DISCOURAGES IT.  
CONTEMPTIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE HIERARCHY.**

1. Corinthians VI: 1 — 11.

“When one of you has a grievance against a brother, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the World is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, matters pertaining to this life. If then you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who are least esteemed by the Church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no man among you wise enough to decide between members of the brotherhood, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers?”

“To have lawsuits at all with one another is defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that even your own brethren.”

When I was revenged by the Catholic hierarchy of Ceylon I did everything in my power to end the matter peacefully. I wrote to the proprietor and the managers of the institution indicating my willingness for a settlement. Father De Mel the Vicar General, I am sure will bear witness to this fact. I have had to go to the civil courts under desperate circumstances. I went to courts not to win the case but to make the authorities think with Christian Charity.

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ANOTHER factor is corporal punishment. I have never seen and cannot see why, in one section of the national community, one group is allowed to hit another. It is only in Catholic schools I have seen priests, monks and lay teachers carrying canes; it tends the punishment be given irrationally. By what right does some one hit someone else? “In loco Parentis” but do parents formally and with due ceremony beat the children in everyday life.

# The Burning Problem of Celibacy

## CELIBACY AFFIRMED BY SYNOD.

The third Synod of Bishops gathered at the Vatican reaffirmed the doctrine of celibacy for priests despite the fact that the Bible nowhere lays this requirement upon Christian ministers. There is no such direct evidence to support the claim of the Latin Church. On the contrary it was foretold that in the "last days" there would be men who would "speak lies, marked in their conscience as with a branding iron; forbidding to marry ....." (1 Tim 4:2-3) Is this not a cruel discipline of Holy mother the Church?

Since 1961 the Roman Catholic priests of the Latin rites are in the throes of a fiery anxiety whether they would have the chance of the gentle embrace of fair women and they could be permitted marriage. It is very strange that the Catholic Church a divine institution, the Holy Spirit pervading and guiding Her is confronted with perennial problems. Whatever She touches turns into problem. As most of Her projections are subjected to divine mysteries, it is extremely difficult to find reality amid conflicting attitudes and theories in the Church today and is at times a rather monumental task. She is unable to maintain the cardinal virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity among Her members, hence these problems.

## RELIGIOUS CHASTITY — THEOLOGICAL DATA.

Decrees of Vatican II have testified to Religious life as an intrinsic element within the Church. Chastity or Virginitly is placed in the primary position as the constitutive element in Religious life. In the context of the apostolic teaching, the term evangelical counsels is a broad one and can be applied not only to poverty, chastity and obedience, but equally to meekness, humility, charity, simplicity etc. It is evident too that in many respects the lives of the early Christians mirrored the traditional practice of Religious life. It becomes necessary to study the traditions regarding poverty and chastity in Religious life in the light of present circumstances.

## ESCHATOLOGICAL HOPE.

Paul's teaching on chastity is essentially eschatological. His expressions such as 'present distress', the shortness of time and the passing of this world simply manifest the eschatological aspect of the post resurrection era. Paul saw in the Religious life not only chastity but also poverty-dispossessed of all things, and obedience in will and judgement. The ideal of Paul was free from care, in this context care denotes an involvement of mind, heart and soul in the material and emotional life of the religious person.

Paul who believed in an immanent PAROUSIA hoped the Christian to live in the eschatological reality. If the priests and members of Religious orders believe without any reserve the eschatological hope, the problem of celibacy is ridiculous. The PAROUSIA expected is seen also as a present 'good'. The concept of the kingdom of God is broadened and deepened by the concept of PAROUSIA. The kingdom is a present reality; the Christians must hope and strive to perfect the kingdom which is now imperfect and incomplete. The Christian chastity can only be accepted on the basis of a lived faith. The radical renouncement involved in chastity represents the form of lowliness characteristic of the poor ANAWIM of God, completely dependent on Him.

## POVERTY A DELIBERATE BLUFF.

In Religious life poverty and obedience are obviously necessary regulatory means of witnessing the kingdom, but chastity remains the charismatic gift establishing one through Faith, Hope and Charity in the state of witness to the redemption. The hope of redemption is rooted in faith. Events in biblical history show poverty as a means of purifying faith. Today the members of Religious orders and priests regulars and seculars do not relish poverty. How can Christ who lived in the poor home of Nazareth and in the open air consent to live in 'Nazareth Retreat' and other palatial mansions of modern monk, nuns, priests, bishops, and pope where signs of luxury and plenty are expressed. The prime impetus and direction and purpose of the Church is to generate God's people by conceiving in ever increasing number the 'ANAWIM' in every age. No doubt the leaders of the Church increase the number of poor among the ignorant lay Catholics, but the members of the clergy vie with the royalty and the rich of the world and parade the country in luxurious cars. Pleasure tours under the guise of mission are becoming more and more common. When they preach about poverty or chastity they talk with their tongues in their cheeks just that.

## SIXTYONE IN CEYLON.

Sixtyone Catholic priests in Ceylon recently expressed their view on the question of Catholic priest-hood emphasising the need of relaxing the discipline of celibacy and of permitting women to the priestly ministry. The majority of the clergy and the laity appears to oppose the demands



of the priests. Though they are a minority, the views of these priests should be properly considered. As we have been conditioned to think in traditional forms, it is no wonder that we fail to appreciate the reasonable opinion of other men and rush to impose or assert our views.

I do not think that it was fair by the priests who signed the document to accuse them of a selfish trait. Have they no liberty to express their candid opinion to the Church? They have every right to present their view at a time when the problem of celibacy is discussed at the highest levels. It is not only a democratic right but it is the essence of Christian liberty. Christians are not slaves.

Thus some people have in the heart of ill-considered arguments degraded the beauty of marriage particularly Christian marriage, they have not only destroyed the value of celibacy but have declared to the world that they have themselves not appreciated the wonderful gifts that God has Given to them in the sacrament of marriage they possess How foolish it is to compare celibacy and marriage on the same scale! Both are good in their respective places. When a celibate person hates marriage his life of celibacy is no consecration.

A dedicated married priest with his wife can bring immense blessings to his flock than a hypocritic, promiscuous priest. As we have been heavily conditioned by traditional ideas we refuse to think in the proper light. No doubt, because the people support their pastors, and they may have to be called upon to pay more to the family of the priest as well. But this traditional system of the laity supporting their priests can be changed into a system where the priests work for their sustenance. A worker priest would indeed be a symbol of great edification.

## FATHERS OF THE CHURCH.

Fathers of the Church wasted their precious time in deliberation on unnecessary problems as celibacy and contraceptive pills. The question of celibacy was not discussed with charity. The council Fathers were, I am afraid, apt to consider the problem of celibacy isolated from other problems, instead it should have been understood in the totality of all problems. There is no problems by itself, every problem is related to all other problems and we have as human beings innumerable problems.

The Fathers of the Synod were confused in explaining the problem. For example the comparison of the Catholic priest-hood with that of the monks of the 'Sanga' was absurd and idiotic. The good opinion of the non-Catholics about Catholic celibate priests was quite irrelevant. The distinction between the SANNYASIN and the priest was not clear to the Fathers. The Holy Spirit has confused the Fathers. If the same spirit was speaking how could there be division and strife. Has the decision of the Fathers solved the problem? Has it ended the problem? The Fathers should have discussed about Faith, about Hope and about Charity. In a Church where these cardinal virtues are dead, does celibacy have any

meaning. By promulgating endless dogmas the council merely resembles a political organization. If the image of the Church is a Mother, She should not torture her children with all sorts of superstitious and barbarous disciplines.

### **BIOLOGICAL PROBLEM OF SEX.**

Experimental physiology and bio-chemistry have revealed that erotic feelings in bisexual organisms like human beings are dependent on sex hormones secreted by certain glands in the body. Hyper-sexuality and hypo-sexuality in persons are directly related to the well or ill functioning of the sex glands.

Sensory stimuli of sight, odour, touch, sound etc., from members of the opposite sex or anything associated with them, trigger off sexual thoughts in the mind (brain), which in turn sends electrical impulses through motor nerves to the sex glands, causing them to contract and thus discharge their hormones into the blood stream.

These sex hormones which reach the brain through blood circulation have an intoxicating effect and to induce an emotional upset. A person under sex intoxication loses his or her capacity to resist instinctive biological urges. They forget all acquired inhibitions.

Man has no chance to tell his domesticated animals what is right and what is wrong in sex. Hence they do not have such inhibitions as "civilized" men have in their reproductive activities.

If the sex glands are removed from a person by castration he is not likely to be emotionally excited by the sight of 'mini skirts, and nude pictures in magazines and films'. It is a biological and psychological impossibility for the celibate priests and monks, whose sex glands are maintained in perfect working order by consuming nutritious food, not to have erotic feelings. It is a natural law in human physiology.

It is absurd to expect priests whose sex glands are maintained in peak form to lead celibate lives: Since women have to go often to these priests for their "spiritual" needs, it is a sociological need that they should either be allowed to marry or be castrated.

### **SEX GLUTTONS AMONG THE CLERGY.**

In my opinion no great blame can possibly be attached to the priests, monks and nuns throughout the modern Catholic world, who live a scandalous loose moral life, oblivious to the purpose of their calling. While seeking the temporal honour and material grandeur, their dominant cry is no longer "how much can I serve" or "how much can I grow in spiritual wealth", but only "how much can I dominate?" The cases of the Roman Catholic priest of Ceylon who smuggled in the indecent "french cards" or the priest lying naked on the beach of Luxembourg

with a woman are only some fragments reported in the press. The talk based on facts and not on rumours among knowledgeable circle reveal endless infraction of the moral law which may well chill the heart of real devout Catholics. During the short period I was the editor of UNMAI I received several complaints from young girls accusing the priests for sex offences, and from boys accusing the 'Brothers' for homo sexual sins. I shall give to the readers the passage of a letter written by a priest to a young girl. "Darling! your beautiful countenance is mirrored on the Host when I offer the sacrifice of the mass". What an abominable sex glutton this priest is? I am in a position to cite several verified indecent instances where the priests have violated the self inflicted celibacy. Do these priests constantly live in the presense of God? How many in their daily prayers and spiritual exercises sincerely give thought to God? What does God matter when they have the best houses, the best cars and the best of everything? Do they understand what consecration means?

### REAL PROBLEM IS FAITH.

What is essential today is the rediscovery of Faith, Hope and Charity. Are these priests and monks really God's men. The God's priesthood is degraded to primitive witchcraft and sorcery. A vast number of Catholic priests glorify in their priesthood, but actually do they resemble Christ the chief-priest? Can we feel proud of the spiritual eminence, actual not propagative, of our clerics and their all embracing love. The multitude must feel drawn towards them like bees to flowers and bats to fruits. Can any single bishop, priest, monk or nun take this challenge? How many of them can truly look at their followers in their face and say "Follow me, because I follow Christ". "I practice what I preach". To spot such one man would be like finding a needle in a haystack", The Church is alive today, not because there is a Pope, not because there are many priests and bishops, but there are some devout lay Catholics whom the religious leaders exploit for their own selfish ends.

The organized Church has lost its character of guarding the teaching of Christ. it has forfeited the trust placed on it by Christ. All its mysteries are projections of its leadership. The very nature of our minds with no exception of those of the Church leaders, is to be crooked, **incapable of facing facts** and that is the thing which creates problems. The Church leaders like any others spend generations, the whole lives cultivating their minds making them more and more clever, more and more subtle, more and more cunning, more and more dishonest and crooked all of which is apparent in every activity of their life. The organizations of Catholic Church are formed in such a manner, that it is extremely difficult to detect their frauds. It teaches the most pure and holy things, the clergy and the religious organization appear to our naked eyes as humble, simple and pious. But persons with a shrewd observation and biblical knowledge can easily detect their dishonesty, crookedness and cunningness in every activity they touch.

## THE LAST ATTEMPT—A LETTER

TO:

Very Rev. Bro. Henry Charles,  
 Superior General,  
 F. S. C.  
 C/o. St. Benedict's College.  
 Colombo 13.

Your Reverence,

I am a veteran teacher of nearly 35 years dedicated service in the Roman Catholic schools of the island. I have been given to understand that your Reverence visit is an inspection tour of the institutions run by your congregation in Ceylon and hence as one victimised by the management of one of your schools, I plead that my case be heard.

For more than 18 years I have been a teacher of St. Benedict's College and I have under many Brother Directors, given an ungrudging loyal service.

After the state take over of schools in 1961 the management having opted to keep St. Benedict's College as private non-fee levying institution resorted to the illegal practice of extorting money from the children in the form of donations. This practice apart from being unlawful was really inflection of severe hardships on the poorer parents.

In the proper spirit of the Second Vatican Council and in conformity to its ideals I felt it my right and conscientious duty to object such extortions. I expected the management to give me a senior teacher of the school a hearing and possibly in the name of Christian Charity provide relief to the poorer children of the school. Instead the management arbitrarily served on me notice of discontinuance and without even allowing me a chance of explaining my conduct. This action of the management has caused me and my family much distress and considerable financial loss.

This action of the management, your Reverence is to my mind a gross violation of all moral obligations of an employer, let alone those of a Catholic Religious. After my discontinuance I addressed many fervent appeals to the authorities to reconsider their decision. When these failed I was compelled to resort to civil action. Even when the case was pending I maintained in all sincerity that I was prepared for an amicable settlement but the authorities were obstinate. They contested the action and as a result incurred a much bigger expense in lawyers fees than the compensation I sought for.

I pray therefore before your Reverence leaves the island I should be given an opportunity to present my case to you so that your Reverence could inquire into my allegations and redress my grievances.

Thanking you for an early appointment. (The above letter was sent by registered post from Karaveddy where I stayed for some days. The fate of the letter remains up-to-this day a mystery. No acknowledgement, no reply, no actions. Has the F.S.C. lost its soul?)

# Faith – A Real Myth

## THE IMAGE OF SHEPHERD —

Rulers of the world, not excluding those rulers of the Church such as Pontiffs and Prelates have not considered themselves as shepherds. To this day such political leaders and religious rulers have not cared to assume duties like those of a shepherd. To worldly rulers — religious and secular — the occupation of shepherd appears too lowly to comport with the dignity of their governmental position. It is an occupation that calls for tenderness and compassion such as worldly minded prelates are not disposed to display towards the flocks or the masses who must be kept under their control. Also shepherding is too peaceful an occupation for ruling prelates who are inclined to show belligerency and militancy with the idea of keeping the masses under their control.

## A MORAL DEFEAT —

I was not happy to drag the Cardinal arch-bishop or his agents to the Civil courts. I felt that my grievances were genuine. I tried with all good intentions to settle the matter between ourselves. Bro. Visitor was crooked and cunning. His was an attitude unworthy of a religious superior. Compare the attitude of our prelates with that of the Son of God, the Sovereign of the Universe. He acts as shepherd towards all his human creatures. Likewise he speaks of the rulers of his people as shepherds. The chief shepherd and his assistants have failed to act like unselfish, compassionate oriental shepherds to their flock. “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasturage,” is the utterance of God. Will not God turn his attention upon the erring shepherds for the wickedness of their dealings?

This is what the Sovereign Lord has said: “Woe to the shepherds... who have become feeders of themselves! Is it not the flock that the shepherd ought to feed? ..... The flock itself you do not feed. The sickened ones you have not strengthened, and the ailing one you have not healed, and the broken one you have not bandaged, and the dispersed one you have not brought back, and the lost one you have not sought to find, but with harshness you have had them in subjection, even with tyranny ..... my sheep kept straying ..... with no one making a search and with no one seeking to find”. (Eze. 34: 2-6).

By virtue of my religious claim I am a lamb belonging to God. The professed Catholic rulers should therefore have been very careful of their treatment in respect of me as I was not the property of the Christian Brothers but the property of God whom they profess to worship. Despite the harsh treatment to me the Christian brothers find favour and support from the hierarchy, are highly rated also in the religious structure of the Catholic Church, Notwithstanding their claims of being Christians, they have made the sheeplike people their prey and have fattened themselves materially at the expense of these poor 'sheep'. How unlike the one whom they claim to follow namely Jesus Christ. We have not seen our prelates imitating the Fine Shepherd and lay down their lives for the sheep. And the religious clergy hobnob with the politicians and civil administrators and rank them higher than their Church members. Surely this enabled Bro. Visitor to get the approval to discontinue my services by the Civil authorities without much difficulty. I wonder how a lapsed document has been revived to achieve the sinister intention of the wicked clergy. Originally the notice of discontinuance was served on me on December 1968. At the end of three calendar months I should have retired from my service. But I continued to teach on the understanding that the document sent to the education department would be withdrawn. Whether the document was withdrawn or not the proposed date of retirement has lapsed already. Legally such a document is counted as one lapsed. The officer himself has accepted that he had amended the proposed date. Can he revive a lapsed or dead instrument? There is no legal sanction for such an act. I wrote to him personally alleging that he had been either bribed or been gratified by the management to get the papers approved. Can Mr. Manikkavasagar of the education department give any feasible reason for his irregular act? Why did he send one of his trusted teachers to me requesting to come and see him? Just because the religious clergy hobnob with the public servants and respect them more than the spiritual brothers, let no one of the clergy think that the heavenly owner of the 'sheep' approves the oppressive course of the public servants who are guided by wrong ideas. Though I was entitled to three months of notice by law it was not honoured by Cardinal Thomas Cooray and his agents, instead of facing the problem with Christian charity and by adherence to biblical principles they were acting like crooked and wicked men of the heathen world.

I respected my shepherd as a saint and went to him, he has not strengthened me though I was ailing and broken. As he was indifferent to a lamb of God I dared to go before the unrighteous civil court. I hoped that it would open his eyes, The Catholic Church in Ceylon esteems the civil courts against all the principles of the Word of God. Why did not the members of the clergy think that we were profaning the Body of Christ, in the presence of unbelievers? The bishops have their own proctors and advocates to look after the interest of the wicked clergy. Whose money do the bishops spend on litigation? Is it not the money of the sheeplike people their prey? Let our shepherd reflect the warning of God. He declares: "My sheep continued to be food for every wild beast of the field because there was no shepherd, and my shepherds

did not search for my sheep, but the shepherds kept feeding themselves and my own sheep they did not feed." (Eze. 34:7-9).

Because of the injustices that are not corrected many of the oppressed people have fled to various newly formed revolutionary kinds of organisations and have fallen victim to materialistic radicalism and atheistic communism, My problem is a moral defeat to the guardians of the Church.

Although the Labour Tribunal dismissed my request for an order to compensate me, the management has spent more than Rs. 10,000/- as legal expenses. When Fr. De Mel advised Bro, Director to settle the dispute Bro. Director was unwilling for a compromise. The management could have easily satisfied me with half of the amount spent on litigation. The management was grudging an old servant his due while lavishing the rich lawyers with their high fees.

The decision of the Tribunal has not completely ended the problem. Injustice makes void prayer and sacrifice. Worship is pleasing to God only when it is contingent upon right living.

#### FAITH OF OUR PRELATES —

God willed to snatch our schools; it was something like the demand of God to Abraham to sacrifice his son. Our prelates puffed up with power mentality did not view the problem in the wider sense of faith. Their petty, greedy and possessive mentality blinded them to perceive the matter in the light of faith and charity. They placed more of their faith in themselves and the ruling political parties than in God. No doubt they asked the faithful to pray. Is it not ridiculous to pray to God to help the prelates to extend their own personal selves? If the legislation was unjust they should have fought tooth and nail to protect all the schools irrespective of their grades. At last what did happen? Large number of schools with their staffs which consisted of priests, monks (Brothers) nuns and laymen were taken. If the school take over was a pernicious act how is it that priests, monks and nuns continue in their new appointments as state or Government servants enjoying all the privileges of a Government servant. This is the type of dissimulation and duplicity our clergy are capable of.

#### THE SCANDAL OF DONATION —

The prelates themselves, without consulting their flock decided to keep some of them as non-fee levying private schools. No pastoral letters or convincing reasons were issued, explaining their decision. The legislation was made on the acceptance of the term non-fee levying. The parents were not a party to the agreement, neither the teachers were consulted. The decision was absolutely arbitrary and dictatorial. What rights do the prelates have to burden the parents with the levy of bribes? What these schools collect by way of donation is neither fees nor donations. Donations as the term understood is a voluntary gift

the donor gives to the donee without expecting a return by service or money or any other benefits. The pattern is absolutely dishonest and fraudulent. By changing the label the content of a poisonous drug will not be a safe drug. By repeating the word donation and by issuing false receipts the reality or the true character of an act will not change. An immoral or fraudulent act will not be looked upon as sanctified because a Christian denomination or Catholic Church is resorting to it, nor by dismissing, humiliating or even by ex-communicating a teacher who stands for reason honesty and truth. Can you hide what is stark ignominy? The cause for which the teacher battles will triumph at the end.

Faith is not a collective reality. If we are true Christians we must be aware of the gifts of faith which God gives to us in the sacrament of Baptism. The gift of faith is active and constantly reminds us the encounter of God. It is a constant dialogue between man and God. A man of faith respects everyone equally, he has no distinction whatsoever; his respect for kings and slaves will be alike. He will never say that "we pay you the salary therefore you must act as we want". This kind of power mentality among our clergy and Religious institutions ruins both faith and love.

A serious religious thinker, as I am, can see the hollowness of the Church leaders completely devoid of their faith. Can any one elucidate me and lift me from this mess?

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**THE CHRISTIAN** private school system by its nature should have been intended to mean that schools were dedicated to themes and purposes transcending the ideals of state schools. It is most discouraging to observe the total failure of these schools. Can anyone answer the following questions, what is a Christian or Catholic school? The mere proprietorship of a school building is not Christian. What should it be like? And how far is the aim being realized? What factors help and what hinder. Did the authorities ever give serious thought to such questions. The Christian countries have moved from religious instructions to religious education. But in Ceylon while the state schools carefully and thoughtfully have worked out new Catechetical methods the private schools are still impoverished with teachers and methods. In the training centres in Colombo only two teachers from the private schools followed a course of Catechetical training.



# Fraternal Charity of the Catholics – Another Myth

In contemporary theology a resounding “yes” is being given to the question: “Are the people of God priests?” But in the beginning of this century the relationship between the ordained priests and the baptized priests was distinctly hostile. Such a brutal distinction obviously existed even between the white clergy and the black clergy. Black nuns were treated by the white mothers with contempt and they were considered inferiors. The brothers of St. Joseph, a congregation of natives were the victims of shabby treatment, and they were chased away from their native Jaffna. Space does not allow me to enumerate several details.

My own experience is tragic; Not alone did the Brothers of the Christian schools and the hierarchy of the Colombo diocese treat me as alien, not a son of God or a brother of Christ. But I have had similar bitter experience in the dioceses of Trincomalee and Kandy. These priests of God and spouses of Christ (nuns) correctly named as holy humbugs by a contemporary rationalist, either do not know the basic quality of a Christian or deceive the whole world. I may even call them spiritual thugs or disciples of Judas of Iscariot. What they preach is Christianity, but what they practise is Satanism.

In about the beginning of this century the present town of Nelliady was rural Vadiry. The high caste Christians were of an independent type and were a constant source of irritation to the power-hungry priests. In my school days though I was docile and obedient, this trait of independence remained in my mind. At times it erupted and caused misery. The priests in charge of the school and the Church when compared with the modern clergy, were really devout, pious and exemplary, though at times they gave vent to anger and thrashed the children mercilessly.

## LOVE DESTROYED —

But they fed us on a maudlin sentimentalism or dogmatic religion. They terrified us in our tender age with the fear of an afterworld and a fear of hell. The fear was planted so deeply that it has destroyed the soul of love beyond comprehension. As I had lost my father at the early age of six, after passing my sixth standard in Tamil, a good and

charitable priest in the person of Fr. Poologasingam helped me to be admitted to the orphanage in Colombogam. The Brothers of St. Joseph in charge of the orphanage were very kind to me; with paternal and fraternal affection they fed me physically and mentally. Although these brothers had some shortcomings they were humble, simple and loveable. They appreciated the value of true Christian love, because they were constantly oppressed by the Bishop and other leading members of the clergy. The lower the member of a Christian clergy is the higher he or she shines in charity. After the completion of my training in the teacher's training school, I spent a full year and a half studying English and Latin as a preparation to enter the seminary. My early impression of the priestly formation was rather critical and on my own I abandoned the idea.

Since then, I had to undergo hardships on account of my independent character in contrast to the haughty attitude of a power hungry clergy. The general manager of R. C. Schools Jaffna refused to employ me in any of his schools in Jaffna diocese. I obtained a job in Batticaloa through the assistance of a good hearted Rev. Brother belonging to the congregation of St. Joseph. But the priests and nuns in charge of the schools were savagely intoxicated with power. The Tamil teacher often ridiculously called vernacular teacher was looked down like a domestic servant in the circles of the clergy. As I did not tolerate this egoistic attitude of the priests or nuns, I was chased from pillar to post. In those days the teacher had the assistance of neither labour union legislations nor the safeguard of the state. The teacher was under the mercy of the tyrannical priests or cruel nuns. After five years of teaching circumstances forced me to work under a priest who was a known debaucher. This priest is alive today and no more in the priesthood. This priest gave me immense trouble and at the end discontinued my services though I was married and had a child.

With great difficulty I obtained a teaching post in the diocese of Kandy. Here too the priests in the management of schools looked down the Tamil teacher like an Indian cooly. In the course of an inquiry a fanatical Hindu officer attacked the Catholic Church and an argument ensued between the officer and me. The provoked officer made an adverse report against me to the extent of recommending a cancellation of my certificate. The Director of Education an English-man did not find sufficient reason to take such a drastic step, but he requested the manager to inflict a lesser punishment. The Catholic priest, a God's priest, discontinued my services without any consideration of fraternal charity or filial affection. He could have punished me with lesser punishments, but his Christian love was such he gave the highest punishment he was able, just to please the Hindu officer with whom he was hobnobbing.

### HOSTILITY OF THE CHURCH —

Thus constantly the Holy Mother the Church was very hostile towards me and my family through Her priests, Brothers or nuns belong-

ing to a self-styled aristocratic class. If I had been an indifferent Catholic, a hypocrite, a communist or a born Hindu, a Protestant or an Islamic my life would have been more safe and well secured. During all these trials I bore the cross patiently and clung to my faith with the genuine hope of a PAROUSIA and enjoying an eternal life. But this time I have realized that the Church in the guise of a beautiful image of Mother has been playing a treacherous game on innocent souls. One can see, obviously, mighty organizations like Catholicism are separating people creating intolerance. The reason for the desire to accept a religion is fear. All religions claim that they have the remedy to set the man free from fear and lead him to salvation.

## WHAT IS RELIGION —

Doing 'puja', performing a ritual is that religion? You repeat over and over again a certain ritual, a certain 'mantram' in front of an altar or an idol. It may give you a sense of pleasure, a sense of satisfaction; but is that religion? Putting on the sacred thread, calling yourself a Hindu, a Buddhist, or a Christian, accepting certain traditions, dogmas, beliefs — has all this got anything to do with religion? Obviously not. So religion must be something which can be found only when the mind has understood and put all this aside.

Religion, in the true sense of the word, does not bring about separation, does it? But what happens when you are a Moslem and I am a Christian, or when I believe in something and you do not believe in it? Our beliefs separate us; therefore our beliefs have nothing to do with religion. Whether we believe in God or not believe in God has very little significance; because what we believe or disbelieve is determined by our conditioning, is it not? The society around us, the culture in which we are brought up, imprints upon the mind certain beliefs, fears and superstitions which we call religions; but they have nothing to do with religion. The fact you believe in one way and I in another, largely depends on where we happen to have been born, whether in Ceylon in India, in Russia, or America. So belief is not religion, it is only the result of our conditioning.

Then there is the pursuit of personal salvation. I want to be safe; I want to reach Nirvana, or heaven; I must find a place next to Jesus, next to Buddha, or on the right hand of a particular God. Your belief does not give me deep satisfaction, comfort, so I have my own belief which does, and is that religion? Surely ones mind must be free of all these things to find out what true religion is.

And is religion merely a matter of doing good, of serving or helping others? Or is it something more? Which does not merely mean that we must be generous and kind. But is that all? Is not religion something much greater, much purer, vaster, more expansive than anything conceived by the mind?

So, to discover what is true religion, you must inquire deeply into all these things and be free of fear. It is like going out of a dark house into the sunshine. Then you will not ask what is true religion; you will know. There will be the direct experiencing of that which is true.

### LITURGY OR MAGIC —

Catechetical studies, liturgy and the study of Scriptures though I am a layman, have increased my religious knowledge to a considerable degree. The Church in her teachings gives emphasis to love, truth, justice and so on. The liturgy of the Church is so formed the sacraments constantly remind one a continual encounter of Christ. But is the life of the leaders, in anyway an example to prove the truth of their belief! The general horizon of the PAROUSIA is still present and charity is the central virtue of Christian growth, but its first conquest is knowledge and discernment. Genuine charity does not pour itself out blindly but shows understanding and good judgement in the multiple decisions which face the Christian daily. In practice the meaningful liturgical actions have regenerated into meaningless, useless reflex action or worse still into magic.

### THE CONDUCT OF THE LAITY —

The political rulers of Catholic countries have fought among themselves. One Catholic ruler against another so called Catholic ruler, and have sacrificed their sheeplike people on the altar of nationalism or religious sectarianism. Some rulers, outstanding favourites of the religious clergy have been dictators. There is neither political, national nor religious unity actually prevailing in the catholic Church. Like bewildered sheep without a shepherd the people are scattered as prey to "beasts".

### TRUE CHRISTIAN —

Outstanding in the life of any true Christian must be love for fellow Christians. This is not merely a matter of being pleasant in mixing with other Christians or greeting them. Love is unselfish concern that moves one to put the welfare of others ahead of ones' own interest and actively working for the good of fellow Christians. The Lord Jesut said that the identity of a true Christian is mutual love. "This is my commandment that you love one another just as I have loved you. By this will know that you are my disciples if you have love among yourselves" (John 15:12, 13:35). Is this quality dominant among the laity in the Catholic Church? Do the teachers who teach in Catholic schools love one another? Do they encourage the children to love one another? Do the senior members or lay leaders demonstrate such love and manifest their exemplary character for others in the Church? Do they play the part of the good Samaritan when one of their fellow member is in difficulty? Why do some of them bully their own Christian brothers?

## MATURITY —

Paul in writing to the Philipians said to them. "This is what I continue — praying that your love may abound yet more and more ..... so that you may be flawless and not be stumbling others up to the day of Christ and may be filled with righteous fruit". It is good for all Christians to be progressive in their outlook. No one want to be an infant either physically or spiritually. "Let us press on to maturity (Heb 6:1) Are the lay Christians making advancement as mature Christians? Is their devotion to God growing stronger? Are they widening out in their love for their Christian brothers? If we sincerely and honestly answer these questions I am sure the answers will not be encouraging Many Catholics are ignorant of the Word of God, because the shepherding teachers have not taught them properly, others either wilfully disobey the word of God or do not closely adhere to God's word.

Now let us examine the conduct of some lay Catholics who were involved in the tragedy of the 'Revenge' where I was victimized. Many Catholics were in the staff of the institution where I was a teacher. Some of them were prominent Catholic actionists holding offices in Catholic Unions and other active movements as the Legion of Mary. Daily mass, daily communion, regular confession and annual retreats featured their religious life. A few Marxists, non catholics and indifferent Catholics were also in the staff. The contrast between the prominent Catholics and the rest was while the former were arrogant, haughty, jealous and crooked the others were loving, friendly sympathetic and considerate

## TREACHERY —

The criticism on levying donation was not in anyway a secret plot. I discussed it in all candidness with the so called pious Catholics quite openly and got their blessing and encouragement, before the publication appeared. One of them an embodiment of treachery even helped me with some additional facts. On the contrary the Marxists and others cautioned me that it would be a helping trap to get rid of the Principal who was then in office. Some crooked men in the rank of the religious and lay teachers have been already plotting to remove the Principal by crooked methods.

When the journal containing the criticism came out I noticed some changes in the countenance and behaviour of a teacher who had encouraged me to go on with my criticism. A good number of the teachers including a Singhala catholic subscribed or bought the paper. For what purpose? Some of them started to plot. A real sycophant with homo sexual tendency took all the troubles to translate the article; circulate it among the teachers and pollute their minds. The primary school principal an ambitious monk and some cunning members of the staff, most of them Christians, moved fast in their conspiracy. Two or three old boys — supposed to have been drunken brawler companions of the primary school principal — were contacted and through them

messages were sent to the Provincial. The matter was twisted so cleverly the Director of the College too was dragged in. A special general meeting of the Teachers' guild was convened with the mere purpose of humiliating me by kicking me out of the guild and as well out of the College. The Provincial who invisibly engineered this move came just at the end of the meeting to check the voting. A poor retired teacher in charge of the library was reprimanded for voting against the proposal. Later he was dismissed and revenged. Loyalty to the institution was considered more important than loyalty to Truth or Christ. Some of the fanatical Singhala Catholic teachers and one south Indian Tamil were thirsting for my blood. They hated me in such a manner they began to harass me with all sorts of atrocities. One Christian teacher instigated some urchins to throw cow-dung on me. What a precious present on my 58th birthday: Another drunken brawler — a Christian set up a band of thugs to assault me. He further manhandled one of my children. Two other Christian teachers used criminal force on me in the presense of the students. The Principal tried to get me arrested by the Police in the school grounds, but it failed. Some nails were placed on the track of a teachers' car with the criminal intention of sabotaging the tyres. Because this teacher gave me a lift in his car to save me from assailants hiding in ambush. In the tribunal inquiry a Catholic lawyer of the archbishop wanted to impress that all these atrocities were instigated by the pious and loyal Catholics of Kotahena. What a fine certificate to the fellowship of the Christians! He must have been instructed so by one of his associates in the Catholic Union.

### SEPARATIST ATTITUDE —

Now can you see that almost everyman's hand is against his brother in the Catholic Church. Obviously they do not manifest the spirit of the God or of Christ. If the Christians of the Catholic Church truly love God and their neighbour will all these scandalous things happen? The baptismal commitment of a Christian is to subject himself to God and oppose the devil? Is this the way to renounce or oppose the devil? Our Lord Jesus wants no people having merely a form of devotion which is false to his name. He desires them to take note of his word and follow it. The entire Catholic Church with its clergy and laity is lying in the power of the wicked one.

In the drama of 'revenge' many of my fellow Christians despised and hated me with all bitterness, even refused to return my salutes and talk to me. No one including the Catholic lawyer ventured to initiate any move of reconciliation or settlement though they were approached by me or by my friends. It should be remembered that fellow Christians have been subjected to sufferings at the hands of their brothers professing to be followers of Christ. Fellow Catholics, clergy and laity persecute their brothers. Brutality, murder, hatred, jealousy and all other evils rule the entire Catholic world. No country, no city, no village, no parish, no community are free from these evils. How endearing are terms like, mystical body of Christ, communion of saints, fellowship of the Christians

etc. They are actually vain, empty and idiotic expressions. Are they not?

### The Poor Record Of The Catholic Church In History —

In the history of the Church at all times She was intolerant, cruel and wicked through her ministers. But is all this merely interesting history? In the passage of the growth of Christianity, can anyone point out a period when fraternal charity manifested itself among the community of Christians. Do the Christians live up to the ideal of fraternal charity even today in any community, parish or groupings. Do the Christians really strive to build the Kingdom of God? Have they progressed or advanced in building it. The answers to these questions certainly will not be encouraging to a genuine believer.

Let me now reproduce a letter written to a lay Catholic leader. I was prepared to have a friendly dialogue with him. As he has not understood the responsibility of a dedicated Christian he deemed it better not to reply my letter. This has further strengthened my belief that the Catholic Church is not the true Church founded by Christ. If any lay Catholic disagrees with my conclusion I am still prepared to listen to his arguments. If they are sound I am even prepared to recant.

### CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FOULED

#### CONDITIONED —

As your mind has become more and more crystalised heavy and dull with erudite intrigues, it is not open and approaches everything from a crooked point of view. As you have not understood the true ways of a Christian mind, as depicted in the sacred Scriptures, how can you realize the way of love? Will you take up my challenge and demonstrate the truth of Catholicism and the beauty of the Church which is called by you Holy Mother? I have rejected her, the dogmas, the doctrine her Credo, her liturgy and her priests. In the movement of non conformist Christian Humanism exists a strong fellowship than in the decaying R.C. Church.

People who are merely clever or incarnation of cunningness do not know what love is, because their minds although sharp are superficial, they live on the surface and love is not a thing that exists on the surface. Your desire crystallises your mind. You want to be a great leader, though such an ambition is legitimate you have set a limitation to your thought. So your thought has already become crystallised, narrow, limited and stifled. On account of your destructive ambition, thirst for power and greatness, your mind is incapable of quick adjustment and a deep penetration of real charity; because you are caught in the labyrinth of your own desires. Such people can never love God or their neighbours.

**LOVE CANNOT BE EXHIBITED —**

On the day of Wilfred's Marriage, you intimated to me that you would exhibit the commodity of Christian charity to the Marxists. I just smiled because of the shallowness and vanity contained in your innocent desire. Charity or 'agape' is not something sentimental, nor an object of exhibition. If you were so charitable and loving, why did you bring so much of misery and bitterness to many of the fellow teachers and other employees of the school. You have brought ruin upon many happy smiling faces. The Christian Brothers who nourished and reared you foolishly have confided all their financial commitments to you, without the least suspicion that they were nourishing an avariciously cunning animal. Do any other teachers in the staff interfere or poke their head in the administration of the school? The Principals who sought your counsels were safe while the others like Bros. Athanasius, Flavian and Calixtus were the targets of your slanders.

**DEDICATION AND DEVOTION —**

Let me pause to ask few pertinent questions from you. Have you ever been dedicated and devoted to your calling? Did you ever teach honestly as a full time teacher to which a salary was paid to you. You were getting a clerical allowance from the management for manipulating several irregular things under the pretence of clerical assistance. Did you not perform your clerical work during the school in session. Do you excel in any single subject either as a scholar or as a teacher. You may perhaps excel in a sort of diplomacy which is nurtured by crookedness. Can you satisfy your behaviour according to the Christian principles as found in Sacred Scriptures. You may hold a top post in the Catholic Union, You may move in the company of spiritual Lords, but it is like the fox moving with the lions in our fairy tales.

The psychological disease of superiority complex has been tormenting you, and in turn you torture others. You may excel in the activities of trade unionism which does not in any way prove that you are an efficient or devoted teacher. Can you deny that you have made use of my criticism to oust one brother from the principalship of St. Benedict's and enthroned another brother there. If the special post had been refused to you, I am certain you would have been the first to revolt against the management. Can you deny that you were nurturing me to hate the brothers about whom I had favourable opinion. What business have you to disclose their financial secrets to us in your private conversations. What a torture had Bro. Athanasius and Bro. Flavian by your wagging tongue, even Bro. Victor had his share sometime ago.

**DESTRUCTIVE AMBITION —**

You see the unfortunate thing is that we want to be big or great. A brother wished to be the Principal of St. Benedict's College. Why did he want to be the Principal? Why was he not satisfied with his



previous appointment. You see the moment he wants to be like another, there is misery, conflict, there is envy, sorrow. What did actually happen? You know very well that he was only a mediocre to hold such an appointment. You also know that it could be achieved by crooked and cunning methods. He might have achieved his desire. Is he fully contented and happy? Have you ever given thought that his ambition had caused misery and sorrow not only to one of his spiritual brothers but also to me and to my family? I was conscientiously faithful to my - Baptismal commitment until this tragedy. Today all the members of my family have given up all the devout practices of the Catholic religion. My wife alone goes to Sunday mass, because she finds it hard to give up the practice on account of the conditioning she had. For my part I keep on seeking first the Kingdom of God's righteousness with the hope that all other things will be added to me.

### LOVE AND RESPECT —

We might have been apparently friendly and respected each other. Our respect was not real. Obviously there is no love when there is no real respect, when you don't respect another, whether he is your servant or your friend. Therefore where there is no respect there is no love; where there is no mercy, no pity, no forgiveness there is no love. We are neither respectful nor merciful nor generous. Catholics — Religious and lay too are possessive, full of sentiment and emotion which can be turned either way; to revenge, to kill, to butcher or to unify over some foolish, ignorant intention. So how can there be love. All theories of love are empty, and idiotic.

### HUMILITY —

As imperfect humans, we are prone to think more of ourselves than we really should. So we must put forth effort to imitate the humility of Christ. At times developments within the Church put the humility of many to the test; Especially is this the case when men are appointed to serve in the special capacities. For example some though not appointed as leaders, may feel that they should be looked to as leaders in the Church or in the institutions. As Christian teachers we share in the apostolic ministry of teaching. Only then it becomes an apostolate, if not it becomes merely a secular vocation. Christian teachers should realize that in the accomplishment of their work, they have great accountability than Christians generally. This is not an easy thing for teachers. They like their Christian brothers, are imperfect men. "We all stumble many times" (Jas 3:2).

The imperfections of the clerical and the lay teachers are often revealed to a greater degree than those of other members of the Church. Why is this? It is because they are constantly before the people and pupils teaching, preaching, exhorting and reproving. The clergy mainly of the teaching brothers come under close scrutiny by members of the staff, parents and pupils.

A brother who is not an appointed Director but believes that he should be one does well to reflect on what James wrote. He could ask himself: Why do I want to be a director? Is it because I want to expend myself in behalf of my brothers? Is my motive wholly an unselfish one or do I desire the prominence that is associated with one who is a director of an institution? Am I really in a position to render a more serious account than other members of the Congregation? Do I have the wisdom and insight to judge matters affecting the lives of the students, teachers, parents and fellow members? Can I give sound Scriptural counsel that would truly aid others in solving personal and social problems? Aware of their limitations in at least some of these respects honest Christians will hesitate to take a responsible position. Please reflect on these points without any illusion. There is nothing to prevent one from sharing fully in the work of teaching truth to outsiders, loyally supporting those who are devoted and dedicated in the accomplishment of their work. Cultivating the fruitage of God's spirit in fuller measure and doing good towards their brothers. And are these not the things that make a Christian's life rich and meaningful? Surely they are.

#### INVITATION FOR A DIALOGUE —

Let us completely forget the past and re-discover the causes of our problems. What we are going to do is to find out the problems of Charity. If anyone satisfies me reasonably that I was wrong in my conviction I am prepared to forget all that ensued and make the necessary amends.

As an ex-Catholic and a fellow Christian, I appeal to you to consider my request for a dialogue. As I consider myself righteous there is no meaning in soliciting an apology. Since we live in an age in which religion has become more sensitive to its social obligations there was nothing wrong in my criticisms about levying donations. Are you prepared to investigate the problem by a mutual dialogue. Is your mind clean and innocent to undertake such a task?

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A CATHOLIC school should be a kindly place; the community spirit, the germination of the idea of the Mystical Body of Christ, must be fostered. A school is not a hierarchial state. It is a place in which all including the proprietor, the managers, the Principal and the teachers 'do unto all others as they would be done by'. If such an atmosphere is not created it is not a Christian school.

# Dedication or Profit Making

## An Example:

A news item under the caption 'Principal saves Rs. 78000 from school funds' appeared in Times of Ceylon on Nov. 16, 1971. A school Principal in the South has been able to save Rs. 78000 from the facilities fees and monies paid by the hostellers over the past few years by means of careful stewardship. The principal Mrs. Olga Buultjens and her staff of a sub-urban school in the far south ought to be congratulated for their devotion and dedication to the cause of education. There is an impression both among the Catholics and non Catholics that the members of Religious Orders are a band of people dedicated and devoted to their calling. It may be partly true in respect of the members lowly placed and working in rural conditions. But it is absolutely a canard in respect of the members of international reputed congregations working in urban areas.

## COMMERCIAL IN CHARACTER —

Religious congregations approved by the Church particularly the institutions founded for promotion of education, are more or less obsolete and have derived from a past historical situation prevailing in an alien country and redolent of a past foreign culture. Since their foundation they have undergone a gradual secularisation. Though they have migrated far and wide from their countries of origin they have become natural human groupings, Christian in name but not in substance. The various services undertaken by them have completely lost their character or spirit of service, they merely supply for some what the country clubs or political organizations provide socially for others. The Religious men and women compete with other men and women for employment and place themselves in security. A good many congregations frequently function as anti-Christian institutions. Their social and cultural impact reinforces values and activities that contradict Christian teachings and values. These congregations have absolutely become commercial in character; values such as success through competitive struggle activism etc. are not those of Christ. Christian truth disturbs and arouses opposition.

## GRANT IN AID SCHOOLS —

Let me illustrate the working of a well known congregation engaged in education and prove how greedy the members are; also I will show the more hidden ways in which the effect of the congregation is anti-Christian. It has been emphatically reinforcing social and religious values alien to Christianity. In the educational history of Ceylon there was a period in which the management was allowed to charge fees without any restriction from the students even though the school was entitled to a restricted grant from the state. The Colonial Government favoured the management with almost absolute powers. Religiously, administratively and financially there were no checks. An annual inspection was the only check.

The hierarchy and the leaders of the Congregation did not lose time to exploit the situation to their selfish advantages. As the subject is very broad I will deal only with the situation of finance. As reported from reliable sources still clinging to them — the management of a said school was able to save the full amount of grant given by the government. All the other expenses were met by the fees collected. What did happen to the saving? The congregation in charge of the management was appropriating this amount to the fund of the general body of the congregation. Is it not commercial in character? Thus the congregation was accumulating a wealth. Does not this act indicate the greedy mentality of the monks. Is it not idolatry? When the heart is on money — The Golden Calf — how can one sincerely and truly worship the slave-God, Christ.

## FREE SCHOOLS —

When the schools were made free and the salaries of all the eligible teachers were paid by the state, the state allowed the management to charge a fee for the facilities rendered. By this time the number of students seeking admission also increased on social and economic grounds. The students in each class almost trebled. The management too collected a rich harvest by way of facility fees. The unfortunate truth was no facility was rendered to the student population. The students taking part in sports, and the science students of higher forms no doubt, received some additional facilities — But the majority of students did not get a single benefit by way of facilities. An additional fee was charged from each student for terminal test expenses. The progress report was sold at black-market rates. The school library is almost impoverished. The Principal entertained the staff to a lunch on the founder's day or to a tea on his birthday. The kiddies were not even given some sweets. Where did all the money collected by way of facilities go? Again, it was also appropriated to the fund of the congregation. Is it an honest dealing? Is it not cheating or robbery? The ethics of this congregation does not arise above that of the surrounding clubs. On the contrary aren't such action totally anti-Christian? Will any member of the Catholic Church take up the challenge which follows. Can they justify the

dealings of this congregations either in a public debate or by a press statement. It must be justified on Christian principles.

### PRIVATE NON-FEE LEVYING SCHOOLS —

Certain schools in 1960 became private non-fee levying schools. The management has either handed over or allowed all the non-profitable schools to the state. The Catholic Church still clings to some big schools as private non-fee levying schools. If any member of any religious congregation says that they run their schools with great sacrifice, it is absolutely a lie. When they are not accustomed to sacrifice the talk of sacrifice is utterly idiotic and non-sencical. Donation is another fraud. The late Bishop of Jaffna must have been multiplying money by miracle. He had exceeded his master Christ in this exploit. The financial account of Judas is a secret. The Church keeps its financial assets as a dead secret.

### EDUCATION A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS

Religious congregations of international repute are more or less bureaucratic. The Bishop though Head of the local diocese, is also the prisoner of a pastoral system that makes him more a puppet monarch, than a successor of an Apostle, he neither rules nor tends the flock. Bishops as a rule are hesitant to rebuke members of bureaucratic religious orders, who take repressive measures against fellow-Christians. Most contemporary Church problems stem from the cowardly mentality of the Cardinals and the functionaries of the Church. The Religious Congregations which refuse to recognise the belief in the Holy Spirit or resurrection or an eternal life should be abolished. Such a belief is not mirrored in the conduct of the members. As long as the monks are permitted to touch money all boasts of dedication and devotion are deceitful, idiotic and hypocritic. This is the actual image of big men and women of the members of Religious orders. I may be charged for defamatory and slanderous public statements. There is no cause for retraction. What I say is factual, reliable and verifiable. If a woman principal can save Rs. 78000 in an urban school, certainly the priests, monks, and nuns should have saved several hundred thousands of rupees, when they were the absolute authorities in their schools. Where has the savings gone? The Europeans came to the East in search of merchandise. True to their trait they have built up a lucrative business in education though in the guise of Christian missionaries. If the missionaries have gained souls for Christ certainly they are dedicated and devoted to their calling. They should have aimed at spiritual profit making, not accumulation of wealth, estates and buildings. When they themselves are impoverished spiritually how can they educate others in the real sense? The superior of a congregation, while he was in the teaching profession, did not spend a second in teaching in the class room. His followers did not fail to copy this example. True to his character he loaf about, not only in Ceylon, but also abroad. Religious loafers get their promotions as Principals, Directors and Provincials in short time. The character of an educator in the Religious congregation is idling, loafing, bossing and plotting.

They are called educators, dedicated men and devoted men. Noble words are degraded by being associated with men of crookedness, cunningness and destructive ambition.

### CATHOLIC MESSENGER —

Recently there was an editorial in the Catholic Messenger, praising the dedication and devotion of a band of teachers in the private schools. I refuted the editor's claim with facts and figures and challenged the editor to disprove my assertions. The editor neither published my letter nor retracted his claim. The Catholic Church heavily relies on propaganda to build men of dedication and devotion from outright wicked, crooked and cunning men. That is the modern method of press prostitution. The press of the Church is no exception.

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PERHAPS the most important factor of all is the teacher. These teachers are largely selected today on personal, sentimental and social grounds. Though they possess the minimum educational qualifications, there is no means whatever of sifting the efficient one from the idle one, and as a result even the most imperceptive and obtuse teachers—particularly Religious teachers, remain in teaching. These teachers often become cynics or defeatists or careerists or loafers. I have great deal of evidence on this. The truth remains valid that no school in the private system is dedicated to education in the real sense. The history of these schools is almost entirely and inescapably, the history of Principals, like the era of the colonial governors in Ceylon history, the history of these schools may be written into eras of Principals.

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THE CHURCH should evolve a clear philosophy of Christian education. The organization and direction of their schools should reflect Christians ideals. Some schools are dreary and uninspiring precisely because no adequately thought out philosophy inspires them. Many silly and idiotic habits and practices persist in these schools. St. John Baptist de La Salle founded his order with dedication and clear purposes. How many of his sons can truly say that they are loyal and devoted to the purposes of their founder. A remarkable principal goes and is replaced by a very mediocre one. Thus an educational institution is degraded to a carpenter's shop or a kitchen. Can you appoint a carpenter or a butler to any job other than to that he is trained. Ridiculously such adjustments are made in these private schools.

# The Apostolic Ministry of Teaching

## HARD WORK.

The schools, as an integral organ of the Church, are established to proclaim the good news of redemption or salvation. If Religious orders are so engaged to carry out the mandate of Christ to teach all nations how do the members of religious congregations view their work in the Christian ministry? Are they willing to apply themselves to it with diligence? Is it the main source of their happiness in living? Are they finding genuine enjoyment in the teaching work they do, striving to become skillful in it and freely sharing the benefits of it with others? That is very good, for who wants to relapse into the attitude about work so prevalent in the world today? On every hand people seem reluctant really to apply themselves to work. Most of the members of the clergy engaged in teaching have become more and more dilatory, lax and indifferent. Hard work is essential for happiness especially if one is engaged in the apostolic ministry of teaching.

Not only is working hard becoming more and more unpopular but apparently many, including members of the clergy, connive at means to avoid all work. I admit that organizing and administering are essential parts of an institution. But they should not be reasons in which people keep begging off for neglecting the important work of teaching. True Christians need not be compelled to work.

## IDLENESS.

Laziness or idleness is condemned by the Bible. All men must find enjoyment in the work they do, deriving deep satisfaction and contentment thereby. There is nothing better than the man should rejoice in his work, for that is his portion. Accordingly Christians need to shun worldly attitude towards work. Lay Christians work to support themselves and their loved ones. They are well aware that laziness will lead to poverty and ruin. But members of Religious orders rich in material comforts usually shun work and cherish idleness. As they have sufficient wealth and have no dependents, they think that laziness will not lead them to poverty and ruin. Certainly it will lead them to spiritual

poverty and ruin. To view such matters as simply part of life would be disastrous, especially if the infection of laziness affected one's spiritual work and afflicted one's spirituality. Truly "laziness causes a deep sleep to fall and slack soul goes hungry" (Prov 19:15).

If teaching is seriously viewed as an apostolic ministry we must pity a good part of the members of the clergy engaged in teaching, because they are not committed to working hard. Some of the lowly placed clerical members spend few hours each week in teaching the secular science, preparing the lessons and correcting the exercises of students. But others keep themselves busy in bossing and loafing, they have the joy and satisfaction in such mundane activities. As they are not committed to hard work they become prey to many of the temptations and snares of the world, the flesh and Devil. So when you visit a school conducted by the clergy you will find the lay members working hard while the members of the clergy idling.

Another thing that keeps conscientious, hardworking Christian teachers busy is the need to assist their pupils by efficient teaching as well as preparing the lessons on the various subjects they teach. Such hardworking teachers are deeply appreciated and esteemed by the students and the parents.

### **THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS —**

Indoctrination, instruction or merely imparting secular education is not the purpose of a Christian school. Then it is not an apostolic ministry. There came a time when Jesus put aside his secular employment as a carpenter for far more important, infinitely more meaningful pursuits which he delighted to do. On an occasion when his disciples urged him to eat he responded: "my food is for me to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work". His exemplary career was that of hard work in the ministry with happiness. What about the lazy slave in his parable? The talent was taken from him, and he went off weeping. Christian schools are conducted in such a manner that the purpose of the schools is absolutely ignored by the members of the clergy. As the talent was taken from the slave, God took over the schools through the political Government. The clergy had to go off weeping. Truly to be happy one needs to work honestly and take care of responsibility. Today's clergy is increasingly skeptical of working hard. Christians have every incentive to be genuinely industrious as Christ was, the one before whom they hope to stand approved. What can a man accomplish without much drive or enthusiasm or heart? Nothing worth which comes easy, half effort does not produce half results but usually no results. The only way to accomplish results that last is by continuous, diligent, hard work.

### **DISCIPLES OF CHRIST MUST COME FROM OUR SCHOOLS —**

We should not forget that Christians are to make disciples. To make true disciples is no small thing; it requires persistent, intensified



effort for months, perhaps years, The clergy make intensified effort to foster vocations to priest-hood, brother-hood and sister-hoods. But the members of the clergy do not take any pain to make disciples of Christ from the students who come under their care, Sharing in the ministry of making disciples of Christ is a joyful occupation, but because of the magnitude of the task we should more than simply have some small share if we are able to do so. Just as devoted, loving parents are ready to help their child to advance toward physical, mental and emotional maturity so the Christian teachers should be anxious to help their students progress in the knowledge of God, They experience a unique joy in seeing the pupils to whom they teach advance in knowledge and understanding to the point of also becoming active disciples of Christ. Unless Christian teachers become energetic workers and zealous evangelizers the Christian schools have no basis for their existence. This does not mean that the teachers should convert or proselyte their pupils by enticing methods. Honest teaching and righteous conduct will produce marvellous results as in the early Church.

The Catholic Church although has literally covered the earth with her net work of schools it may be truly said that no substantial result is achieved in spreading the good news of the kingdom and in making true disciples of Christ. The teachers belonging to the religious orders of the Catholic Church claim foremost material possessions, personal comforts and ease in their lives, but give minimum effort in the Christian ministry of teaching. A dedicated Christian must not take his responsibilities lightly, This principle is well illustrated by Jesus in the parable of two sons.

## INDUSTRIOUSNESS.

Through divine power we are given freely all the things that concern life and godly devotion. As sharers in divine nature we escape from the corruption that is in the world through lust. For this very reason we must supply to our faith "knowledge, self control, endurance, godly devotion, brotherly affection and love". The appreciative Christian will want to progress, making a contribution of earnest effort towards the end. The objective or target of such earnest effort by Christians says Peter is a most worthy goal. One thing important is to keep very busy in the apostolic ministry of teaching. Never let up right down to the end. "For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name in that you have ministered ..... and continue ministering. But we desire each one of you to show the same industriousness so as to have the full assurance of the hope down to the end, in order that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promise" (Heb 6:10-12),

## EXCUSES.

Many are the ways in which people keep begging off from accepting responsibility. Fallen human nature is to follow the line of least resistance,

so it is common thing to hear all sort of excuses from the clergy for their dishonest and fraudulent acts. Even dedicated Christians need to guard against this common tendency to excuse oneself from life's obligations. Trying to excuse oneself from what one ought to do or giving less of oneself than promised usually results from faulty human reasoning.

A news report at hand says that 800 or so Roman Catholic priests, brothers and nuns are leaving the active ministry each year in the United States alone. A typical comment made by one is: "The present forms of ministry are not viable (capable of living, growing, developing; not dead or malformed) for me. I have to find a form that is" (New York Times March 8, 1969). Unless current trends are reversed the Catholic priesthood and other fraternities not only in the United States but also in other parts of the world will have an imbalance of older men and may not survive as a viable force in our society. In 1970 for every ordination there were 23 priests lost says another press report. Another kind of begging off is disclosed in a dispatch from Rome. The article was headlined "More priests urged for Rome's slums". The vicar of Rome, Cardinal Dellacqua noted that at least 8000 Roman Catholic priests were residents of this metropolis of nearly three million people and 500 churches but that only a dozen clergymen were ministering to its sprawling shanty towns" (New York Times April 27, 1971) What it means to beg off is very well illustrated by Jesus in the parable of a grand evening meal. Like those mentioned in the parable our clergy often make filmy excuses to vindicate their dishonest actions. Putting all excuses aside we should let our service to God come first if we are whole souled. Only then our teaching can merit the name of Christian apostolate or Christian ministry. If we are genuinely interested in the apostolic ministry our contribution to it must be generous.

## **PRIESTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**

It is said that the members of the clergy have dedicated themselves to the service of God. Do they carry out their dedication to the full? Do they move out and serve where help is specially needed and results are bountiful? Living conditions may be more primitive and distances that must be travelled may be large, inspite of such added exertion, even hardships are they willing to work among such people to prove their love to God? The clerical members have the privileged opportunity of spending an hour or two in a week at least to do some field ministry among the down trodden ones. Are the members of the clergy actually aware of the divine requirements of dedication. Jesus urged Christians to be progressive, to view service opportunities as privileges and not to consider token service in the ministry enough. Admittedly the life of a Christian is not one of idleness, but it is a satisfying happy life. Paul's course is exemplary. An indefatigable worker Paul seemed never to yield to weariness. Hardships and suffering did not rob him of happiness or make him discontented. He was sustained and refreshed by his privileges and accomplishments and quick to give credit to others who worked hard also.

My experience and observation as a teacher in Catholic schools are that the priests the brothers and the nuns do take little responsibility in the apostolic ministry of teaching. No doubt there were some efficient teachers and principals in the worldly sense. They did not render any special aid to the students or fellow teachers. If the work is bossing, managing or supervising they willingly and gladly accepted the responsibility. But if it was actual teaching they have excused themselves and begged off. This is an issue for each of them to face personally, individually. Certainly there must be a minimum assignment of teaching even to the Principals of schools according to the educational code of regulations. If so assigned it was not faithfully followed by not a few members of the clergy.

## THE POST OF SUPERIORS.

A Religious teacher should by his qualities reach out for the office of Principals, Directors, Rectors or Superiors. Indeed the office of a Head is a fine work (1 Tim 3:1). The members of the clergy should have taken honest steps to be qualified and made themselves fit for such an appointment. The following Scriptural exhortation is in harmony to the situation. "Shepherd the flock of God in your care not under compulsion, but willingly; **neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly** neither as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, **but becoming examples to the flock.** And when the chief shepherd has been made manifest you will receive the unfadable crown of glory".

## DEEDS MUST MANIFEST THE APOSTOLIC

### MINISTRY OF TEACHING.

Clinging to some schools to assert the proprietorship is not an apostolic ministry. It simply manifests greediness and possessiveness. It is hardly the time for a Christian to beg off. Rather he should have an attitude of eager willingness, progressive willingness to give of himself. Why should he put a limit on what God may ask of him when he owes Him much? The Bible's counsel for Christians is to be industrious down to the end and not become sluggish is most practical. We must not disregard it, becoming reluctant to do our full. If we really believe that there is substances in holding on to our schools, we should share reasonably in the teaching ministry. "God loves a cheerful giver". If the schools are for the self glorification of our bishops and the members of the clergy, all boasts of sacrifice and dedication are meaningless. When Jesus initiated the Christian ministry he stated: "The harvest indeed is great, but the workers are few ..... to send out workers into his harvest". Note the word workers, he did not instruct to send His holinesses, His excellencies, His lordships and Reverends to boss over God's inheritance. These men do not find joy in the ministry but only in worldly grandeur which had been rejected by Christ.

**VANITY.**

Does not the Catholic Church follow a path which contradicts the exhortations of the Bible? He who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it will be happy in his doing it. Whereas human living abounds with vain works, works relating to true worship or true religion are not in vain and will not be frustrated or come to nothing. The Catholic Church does not honestly depend upon God, that is why her works fail. "Unless God himself builds the house, it is to no avail that its builders have worked hard on it. (Ps. 137:1).

Hard work in the apostolic ministry will not wear a Christian out but it will keep him, alive, healthy in the faith, happy and refreshed. "Come to me all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and become my disciple, for I am mild tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for your souls. For my yoke is kindly and my load is light". (Matt. 11:28-30). These have proved to be the 'critical times hard to deal with' and men generally are pleasure lovers rather than lovers of God and godly works. The members of the Catholic clergy now a days shun godly works and seek comfort and worldly pleasures. They do not apparently keep busy in the ministry. They soon forget their dedication which has been made so willingly on the ordination day or on the day of religious profession, and they relapse to the snares of the world. "Indeed who is the man that will harm you if you become zealous for what is good? But even if you suffer for the sake of righteousness you are happy." (1 Pet. 3:13-14)

**CONCLUSION.**

With a zeal worthy of a Christian, I shared in the apostolic ministry of teaching. When I found not only laziness but also dishonesty prevailing among the members of the clergy I extended my helping hand to my brothers with my hope resting on a living God. Although I have been revenged by the power hungry clergy of the Catholic Church I see no reason to beg off. I will keep up my vigorous exertion for the sake of righteousness. Like the Catholic members of Ireland the local Catholics may bully me for writing this book. Such an act will prove evidently the hypocrisy of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

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**THE CATHOLIC** hierarchy, until now has not explained to the people why the leaders of the church have decided to keep a few schools in the private system. The church herself has no resources to run a non-fee levying private school. The Church expects the support of the parents who for various accidental and external causes prefer these schools.

# Mockery of the Celebration of Eucharistic Sacrifice

## Importance of Eucharistic Sacrifice.

The Catholic Church esteems the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice or the Mass as the centre and culmination of the whole life of the Christian community.

Please read the following brief reasons without any prejudice or illusions and come to your own conclusion. I am prepared to debate on this subject with any Catholic Theologian. I refute the claim of the Catholic Church in respect of her priesthood and Eucharistic sacrifice.

It is claimed by the Roman Catholics that by the establishment of the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ made his faithful apostles to perform a real human sacrifice of literal flesh and blood, this being a sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. It is claimed that by repeating the words of Jesus Christ pronounced at the last supper, the miracle of transubstantiation, that of changing the loaf into Jesus' literal person, and the wine into the literal blood of Jesus, to take place. So the Roman Catholic Priesthood claims that this is what Jesus Christ himself did when he pronounced the words "*This is my body*" and "*This is my blood*". This is claimed to be a sacred mystery, by which all doubts and questions on this subject are curtailed.

## Transubstantiation.

Were Jesus' own apostles and other disciples of the first century scandalously presumptuous toward the Roman Catholic doctrine? The twenty seven books of the New Testament say nothing about transubstantiation, and do not explain the Lord's supper in that way.

If Jesus by his words over the bread and the wine meant, the bread loaf had become not his flesh but his body or person which was many time the size of the bread, and the product of vine had become his literal blood, then Jesus was actually sacrificing himself before even he was

nailed to the cross and died on Calvary. Shocking as it may seem to say it, Jesus was also making his faithful apostles, make cannibals of themselves by eating literal human flesh and drinking literal human blood, this is in violation of God's law (Levi 17:10-11).

Then consider; did Jesus Christ kill himself and share the sacrifice with his apostles long before he was crucified on the cross by the misguided Jews. besides that, the Christians who perform the mystery of transubstantiation become Christ Killers and Christ eaters. Does this not look ridiculous? Horrible Indeed.

Let us ask some reasonable questions with full regard for what Jesus said about the loaf and the cup. The loaf of bread used in the last supper either must have been baked on the order of the apostles or have been bought in a shop in Jerusalem.

Well then when Jesus said over the one particular loaf, "This is my Body" how could it become his "body" flesh of flesh? The material of that bread loaf was never a part of his own human body, so much it could only become baker's bread miraculously changed into a lump of flesh, the size of the original loaf.

I wish to make the above point clearer. Suppose a juggler having the power of turning a loaf of bread into mutton or beef. He can turn the bread into beef or mutton only, not the flesh of a particular goat or bull. We shall take for granted that a magician has power to turn a loaf of bread into a full sized goat or bull accurately identical to a goat or bull reared by his daughter. Can he honestly claim the miraculous goat or bull as that of his daughter. Similarly to be the flesh or body of Jesus it is essential that it should be taken from the very physical person of Christ. If not Christ becomes a real lying juggler. Can we accuse the Son of God, personification of truth, a liar. Did he change the loaf of bread into several person of Jesuses? If so his claim that "*This is my body*" becomes another fraud. How could he say this is my body, he should have said: This is I or ego sum. But he did not say so.

Likewise with the wine in the cup over which Jesus said: "*This is my blood*". Where was the wine in the cup taken from? Evidently from the same wine shop where Peter and John had got the wine for celebrating the Passover. How then could that cup of wine be changed by Jesus' words into his own blood. The material of the wine had never flowed in Jesus' blood vessels. So suppose that he did change the wine into human blood. Well then, it was merely wine changed into blood, but was not the blood from Jesus' personal body. Even if the wine has been changed to the identical group of Jesus' blood, honestly he has no right to claim the miraculous blood as that of his own blood.

Even though identical how could the cup of wine transubstantiated into blood would become the blood of Jesus? If it was the blood of Jesus Christ it must have come from his blood vessels. When in Cana Jesus did turn water into wine, it certainly did look real wine, taste

like alcoholic wine. I bow to the miraculous power of Jesus in this instance. But I cannot appreciate the twisted teachings of the Catholic Church where it degrades the person of Christ to that of a juggler and his Evening meal to another primitive superstitious rite. How could Jesus say in all honesty that the cup of wine was his blood? It was merely transubstantiated blood. We should not forget the fact that Jesus had a human physical body when he celebrated the Lord's supper with his apostles. How could he offer his own blood without even losing a drop of blood from his physical body. Instead of resorting to mysteries and primitive cults, let the Catholic Church honestly seek truth in her teachings, falsely claimed as infallible.

#### Falsehood of Catholic Priesthood—

The Catholic Church has reduced religion into magic and jugglery. It is piously named sacred mystery. We read in Arabian nights that certain magical words like "open sesame" producing immediate results. In the same manner the priests of the Catholic Church are made ineffective jugglers by the ceremony called ordination. The superstitious and erroneous ceremony of "transubstantiation" with all paranoias of cannibalism are repeated daily in our churches. In all earnestness our Lord Jesus did not institute the corrupt institution of priest-hood in his celebration of the Last Supper. "Do this in remembrance of me" evidently did not give such a crooked order to the apostles. The institution of priest-hood is most primitive and barbarous. Christ was very cautious in perpetuating the priest-hood. He never spoke to his disciples on priestly functions such as sacrifices, sacraments etc. He rebuked the Jewish priest-hood without any mercy. When considering all the facts the priest-hood of the Catholic Church is ungodly primitive and magical. When the very basis of the Catholic Church is falsehood how can the priest-hood be sacred and godly. The priests of the Roman Catholic Church including the Pope, bishops and priests are jugglers of fortunate circumstances. When they claim to themselves the glory of God's priest-hood they unconditionally blaspheme the name of God.

As emblems of Christ's body and blood, the loaf of bread and the cup of wine have immense spiritual meaning. But as sacrificial victim they are not only meaningless but also mock Christ and his last supper. These Catholics absolutely disobey his command — "Do this in remembrance of me", also the Catholic Church is idolatrous because it gives all honour and worship due to God to mere wheat bread and grape wine.

Will my Catholic brothers and sisters consider the facts about the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice and the falsehood of Catholic priest-hood and be convinced so that they may desist from going to church to assist in a meaningless and barbarous mockery called Mass. Why do you address your priests Father, "Swamy" my Lord etc. Don't you know that they are mere men like any of us. In a sense they are imposters in disguise. They neither possess any power to change the loaf of bread into the body of Christ nor the wine into the blood of

**Christ:** The bread remains bread even after the utterance of holy "mantram". Likewise the wine. The mystery of transubstantiation is a fraudulent teaching. The parents who prepare their children for first communion should desist henceforth from the absurd ceremony and keep their children off from such maudlin practices. Let the parents send their children not to the Seminaries. Though many of the Catholic priests are innocently conditioned so, they are impostors in the eyes of God who does not approve them.

This is a vital subject. I invite my Catholic brothers and sisters both lay and clerical either to have a friendly dialogue or a meaningful debate privately or publicly.

If you are reluctant to do so why do you still cling to falsehood? God is not dead and Christ is still alive, but the truth is not in the Catholic Church. It is preserved through Bible somewhere in a humble place. Our duty is to seek it honestly and God will come to our aid.

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## PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE CITY.

Though the school take over act was a hasty legislation, the government has made a grave mistake in permitting the private school system. The non-fee levying private school system is absolutely idiotic. Men including Christian or Catholic Leaders, have created a corrupt society. Even the monk in his monastery, the bishop in his diocese and the nun in the convent are developing an art of crookedness and cunningness in the name of religion. To circumvent the act, voluntary donations were immediately tricked off. And by the magic of compulsory donation or rather by bribe wonders in education are going on. So to be fair by the country and the people the government must take over all these private schools and run them as state fee-levying schools, or a very stern check on the finances of these schools must be made and taxes be levied. The privilege of employing monks and nuns only to a set of schools should be done away with. There are thousands of able men and women really prepared to dedicate themselves. Holy cleric humbugs can no longer deceive.



# An Open Apology

The Second Vatican Council made its name by creating a fresh vigorous image of a growing "pilgrim" Church, a "People of God" joined in a community that was more a mystery than an Institution. An invisible Church of the spirit as opposed to a visible one of structure and hierarchy.

The priesthood and the clerical organisations are alien to the message of Christ Jesus, and destroy the very fundamentals of Christianity. As such the clergy of Christendom Churches is ungodly and humbugging. Though there are many sincere and honest priests, monks and nuns, they belong to a structure which is corrupted and Satanic. The title "The Holy Humbugs" does not ridicule, insult or defame any individual member or group of the Church.

In discussing the unchristian attitude of the clergy it was inevitable to point out the defects or shortcomings of some leaders. These leaders have violated the orders of the Scriptures. The statements are made with no malice or hatred towards the individuals. If a true Christian thinks that he is ridiculed, insulted or defamed I offer him my apology without any reserve. But I assert that no Christian's good repute is injured by the statements. Also I invite him to recite the prayer "Our Father" with all sincerity. If a true Christian thinks that it will be possible to build up a better relationship by suing me for defamatory statements in a civil court, let him do so. No law of the civil authorities is superior to the Word of God. It is not my intention to hurt or wound the feelings of any true Christian.

PADCHI

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