

The Civil War in The Catholic Church

There's a civil war going on in the Catholic Church, and often it's the moderates who make it most difficult to achieve victory over the dissenters and heretics. Consider this comment from a prominent moderate Catholic: "Today the criticism is heard that the Catholic Church... *will permit almost anything in teaching or practice* so long as one does not formally break communion with the Church. There is truth in that, although I think it not a criticism *but a compliment*... The Church bends every effort, puts the *best construction on every deviant opinion*, in order to avoid...schism" (italics added).

Yes, the Church does permit almost anything in teaching or practice, and puts the best construction on every deviant opinion. That's why Catholic schools, religious orders, seminaries, and the middle management of the Church are dominated by dissenters, that's why there's so much liturgical abuse, and that's why there are so many ghastly sex scandals in the priesthood.

As for the sex scandals: The media love nothing more than to make the Church look hypocritical. But the media are right about those scandals: The Church *has* been hypocritical. A Church that regards homosexual behavior as a mortal sin cannot wink — cannot even appear to wink — at priestly pederasts. It's a blessing that the media have ripped the veil off the moral rot in the Church — and there's more rot that needs to be exposed.

The Church has wonderful documents on how the Mass is to be reverently celebrated. But why

are they often neglected? The Church also has splendid teachings on premarital sex, adultery, pornography, contraception, abortion, not to mention homosexuality. But, with admirable exceptions, they aren't preached or taught, or they're even contradicted. Or they're only given lip service, and the final say is given to personal convenience: "Just follow your conscience." It's just a big charade.

Now, if you point out the make-believe nature of much of American Catholicism, you will be accused of being negative and divisive. We at the NEW OXFORD REVIEW have pointed it out in our pages and in our hard-hitting ads. And we've been ostracized. Certain liberal Catholic periodicals have banned our trademark ads from their pages, and so have certain centrist ones.

Our Lord said, "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! No, I came to bring a sword.... Your enemies will be right in your own household!" (Mt. 10:34,36). These are not comfortable words, but they certainly speak to the situation of orthodox Catholics in the Household of Faith today. Those moderates who deny it are simply crying "'peace, peace!' when there is no peace" (Jer. 8:11).

We at the NEW OXFORD REVIEW, an orthodox Catholic monthly magazine, shout out, "No more appeasement!" We're "cheeky," says *Newsweek*, "provocative," says *Inside the Vatican*. We "belong in every loyal Catholic's arsenal," says Fr. Joseph Fessio. Be part of the Church Militant — not the Church Diffident — by subscribing today.

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