

# The Resurgence of Traditional Catholicism

Since the 1960s, Catholicism in America has experimented with religious liberalism, and the results are in: Two out of three Catholics don't believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The number of priests, brothers, sisters, Catholic schools, seminaries, baptisms, marriages, and conversions has declined — dramatically in certain cases. And weekly church attendance has dropped from 70% to 25%. Catholic liberalism has been a monumental flop. Of course Father Flapdoodle, Sister Snakebite, and Bishop Bubbles are still in denial.

Where's the dynamism in the Church today? Among orthodox, traditional Catholics! The dioceses that have no vocations shortage, the religious orders that are growing, and the seminaries that are packed are predominantly the traditional ones. And traditional Catholics have been founding *new* colleges and seminaries. The only novel idea in Catholic education is homeschooling, spearheaded by traditional Catholics. The only massive grassroots movement in the Church is the prolife movement, led by traditional Catholics. The only significant Catholic presence on TV and radio is that of traditional Catholics. Eucharistic Adoration is back. And for those who want it, the Tridentine

Latin Mass is back — at least for those not subject to obstructionist bishops.

In Catholic journalism, guess what's coming at you *hot off the presses*? Orthodoxy! And who blazed that trail? We at the NEW OXFORD REVIEW did. As Fr. Joseph Fessio said recently, "Since the NEW OXFORD REVIEW began...I can count 19 new [orthodox] Catholic magazines."

We were founded in 1977 as an Anglo-Catholic magazine, taking our name from the 19th-century Oxford Movement, and we immediately championed Pope John Paul II when he cracked down on dissenting theologian Hans Küng, although no leading *Roman Catholic* magazine was willing to do so. The novelty of Anglicans supporting the Pope attracted the attention of *Newsweek*, which did a story on us and predicted that we would, like John Henry Newman of Oxford Movement fame, become *Roman Catholic*, which we did in 1983.

Our pioneering monthly magazine has led the way in the past, and we're still blazing the trail — with "attitude" (says Karl Keating) and "cheek" (noted *Newsweek*). And we're unusually cheap (see below).

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