

Traditional Catholicism Is Back

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 haven't figured that out — they think the 60s never ended. Still trying to be cool cats, they're so *cool* they're frozen in a time warp.

But, mercifully, God's frozen people are thawing out. Where's the fire and dynamism in the Church today? Among 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. Polls show that the Catholics most committed to the Church are traditional Catholics. Seminarians and younger priests are much more traditional than middle-aged and older priests. The only novel idea in Catholic education is home-schooling, 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 is the ardently traditional EWTN. The only significant Catholic voice on ra-

dio is that of traditional Catholics.

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 orthodox 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 a muscular 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.

Why is our pioneering monthly magazine still unique? Because we're still blazing the trail — with "attitude" (as Karl Keating says) and "cheek" (as *Newsweek* noted). And we're unusually cheap (see below).

We supply sparkling prose on behalf of Holy Mother Church, and we're still putting the heat on the liberals, who must realize by now that they're in hot water with real Catholics. If you're ready for a spicy and saucy Catholicism, subscribe today!

(© 1999 New Oxford Review Inc.)

