

## The Catholic Problem

As Catholics we are inextricably bound by Jesus to two clear mandates, love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. This sums up all that the law requires. Indeed, love eliminates law, as evil cannot co-exist with love. A society, which truly embraced these two mandates, would truly be free and absent all error. Since humans struggle with love and often fail, society is forced (no Catholic exclusion) to make laws to deal with errant and often criminal human nature. The reality of human existence mandates laws and penalties for transgressors.

Sin is a willful transgression. We are conceived sinless though not immaculate and enter the world to continue our journey in eternity. We are beset with all the faults of humanity and the message, which will save us from personal fault, is available to embrace. The choice is ours. Make no mistake; it is a conscious choice, to sin or not to sin. We are not born to sin; rather we elect a path to pursue, toward Jesus or away from Him. God is patient, always open to repentant souls; those who have truly accepted His other simple mandate “go and sin no more”.

Jesus, the first shepherd of the faithful, established his Church on Earth with the assurance the Holy Spirit would protect it from error in matters of faith and morals. He appointed Peter and his successors with the human task of spreading the truth of His message to the ends of the Earth and human time. They would be in effect surrogate shepherds, representing Jesus until His return. These human messengers may fail but the message would not. “Will the Son of man find any faith when He returns?” The message from the top is still the same but is it same when viewed from the bottom? Apply the question to clergy (church), politicians (state) and those in the pews.

1973-2006 Thirty-three years have passed since the infamous decision allowing the deliberate killing of innocent life in the womb. Practically nothing has been accomplished by the “faithful” to become the champions of Unborn Americans. Indeed, some “faithful” are apparently comfortable with the decision and are uncomfortable with those who are not. And why not, the only time I heard a homily about abortion from the pulpit was a result of John Salvi who was responsible for the killing of the abortion clinic workers. A very sad event, to be sure, and the vehemence and fury heard from the pulpit following that event was extraordinary. It was directed at all of us, the parishioners, in the pews! We were the villains or potential villains! The abortion industry, the abortion politicians, the abortion providers are all approved of, due to the silent treatment they received from the same pulpit! That silence still permeates the sanctuary of the Church in Massachusetts. Little wonder the “faithful” seem conflicted. The shepherds of the Church, minus its true message, have become surrogate abortionists, silent in the face of profoundly evil and inhuman activity, allowing sin to become a good.

Little wonder then that homosexuals gained social recognition and rights once serial killing of Unborn Americans became ritualized. If America would accept that heinous act it would accept all acts. Gay “rights”, nowhere written in Gods law or natural law, have found acceptance. The shepherds of the Church, minus its true message, have become surrogate apologists, allowing sin to become a good.

The Baltimore Catechism contained all the doctrine needed for the proper foundation of a person’s Catholic faith. It was once rigorously employed for that purpose and it worked well. The rigor has dissolved and has been replaced by publishing houses intent on a continuous process of newer and newer editions of feel-good social engineering. Challenge any present day candidate for Confirmation with the Baltimore catechism and look for any correct answers. The shepherds of the Church, minus its true message, have become surrogate social engineers, allowing sin to become a good.

Fire and brimstone has vanished, along with sin. Prominent “Catholics” are a public scandal and are given a pass by their alleged shepherds. “Catholic” politicians, drunk with self-infatuation, defy the teaching authority of Church with their errant consciences. “Catholic” politicians believe they are a power unto themselves and need no outside interference in matters of faith and morals. The shepherds of the Church, minus its true message, have become surrogate politicians, allowing Caesar to conflict the “faithful”, allowing sin to become a good.

The “faithful” in the pews hold mixed beliefs about the message. Many “faithful” believe what they wish to believe, privately claiming allegiance to Jesus but publicly worshiping Caesar. The shepherds of the Church, minus its true message, have become surrogate enablers, allowing sin to become a good.

Could the “Catholic” problem here in Massachusetts best be summed up as a lack of true shepherds?

Frank K. Porter Jr.  
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