

Hickory Grove church of Christ  
1131 Hickory Grove Rd.  
Almo, KY 42020-9332

Return Services Requested

Sunday Services:

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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Almo, KY  
Permit No. 10

You find yourself wondering how or why many brethren have gotten themselves so far off track, particularly preachers. Several whom I know personally have in latter days come to teach and do things they never would have done years ago. Why?  $\frac{3}{4}$  Sometimes it's as simple as following the *money trail*. Truly, the "love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (I Tim 6:10).

Today, like no other time, the market is saturated with tapes, tracts, books, and talents for sale. Is it right for a preacher to "live of the gospel" (I Cor 9:14)? Yes. Brethren who willingly allow preachers to live hand-to-mouth need to do some Bible study and soul searching. On the other hand, is it right for brethren to make a killing off the gospel? I don't think I'm overstating here.

We have preachers who send out chits *before* they will condescend to go and preach meetings (or speak at "seminars"). These chits cover everything from demanded mileage, meals, motels, to a very comfortable, shall we say, stipend.

Some brethren plead for money that they may be able to devote their time to writing Bible literature. Have you seen the prices on some of that literature? Orphan's homes solicit money from christians and churches, but have you ever talked to them about helping you adopt a child? You'd better have a sizeable bank account. How does all this fit with II Corinthians 6:4-10? Sometimes I think people have misread the word "chargeable" in I Thessalonians 2:9.

Anyway: The gospel, the free market, and the performing arts — they all have their place. Yet, it seems to me that we've blurred the lines between the sacred and the profane. Stack what's happening now up against the First Century. What do you think?

—Assistant Editor

\*More "Readers' Response" next time.

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## "As It Is Appointed Unto Men Once To Die..." Pope John Paul II Has Died

**The illness and recent death of Pope John Paul II has gotten more attention than any matter in recent history, having dominated news sources for several days. Millions are expected to view the Pope's remains and attend his funeral. The overwhelming content of news items has been extolling the Pope's virtues. However, a subject which has received virtually no attention is the beginning and subsequent history of the Roman Catholic Church, relative to its teachings and practices.**

In *Banner of Truth*, October 2003, I did an article entitled, "Informative Notes On Roman Catholicism." We are reprinting the greater part of that article. We believe it to be very timely due to all the recent attention focused upon the Pope and Catholicism. Before doing that we shall call attention to a few things relative to the Pope and Catholicism.

**Pope John Paul II.** Many have emphasized the positive things about the Pope. These have included: 1) Many believe he had a very important part in bringing about the fall of Communism in the Soviet Union. His influence in Poland, his home country, was considerable as he demonstrated bravery in facing Communism. 2)

The Pope opposed abortion and has had some positive influence for the right-to-life movement in our country. 3) Homosexuality and so-called "marriage" of homosexuals have not had the Pope's approval. His opposition, though, has not prevented the myriad of cases of sexual abuse by priests in the U.S. Many have not appreciated the Pope's opposition to the death penalty and his being weak on the war against terrorism.

**The Lack Of Consistency In Catholicism.** Error can never be expected to be consistent. On the other hand, an outstanding thing about truth is its consistency. A primary case in point is the claim on the part of the Catholic Church and its Pope of infallibility. Infallibility on →

## BANNER OF TRUTH

Published by the  
Hickory Grove  
church of Christ

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Published monthly and sent free to interested persons. Made possible by the contributions of congregations and individuals. Our purpose is to: 1) Teach and uphold God's truth; 2) Encourage mission efforts to seek the lost; 3) Oppose that which is "contrary to sound doctrine" and not in harmony with the "doctrine of Christ."

*Continued from Page 1*

the part of the Catholic Church and the Pope means that the pronouncements and actions approved of them are infallible, that is, they cannot be wrong. In the following discussion below, attention is given to infallibility, where it is said by Catholic authority that, "Likewise the Pope himself enjoys the protection of infallibility.

A serious question about the Pope's infallibility, which demands an answer based upon fact is this: One Pope who claims infallibility takes a certain position on matters of faith and practice. Another Pope who makes the same claim takes a position on matters of faith and practice which is clearly different. How can this be? If both Popes "cannot be wrong," as Catholicism teaches, and yet they oppose each other, does this mean that God is guilty of contradicting himself? How could it be otherwise? Though Catholics are taught to believe *only* what they are told, it does look like some would ponder this question and see the fallacy involved.

In the reprinted article mentioned above we pointed

out some of the warnings of false doctrines in the New Testament. These include: I John 4:1; Phil. 3:18; I Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 2:1-2; Matt. 7:15. In view of all the warnings concerning the enemies of the truth it should come as no surprise that there would be such a religion as Catholicism. With these things in mind we begin our discussion by considering the following.

### THE BEGINNING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Since the beginning of the RCC is nowhere recorded in God's inspired word, it is necessary to look to historical sources. We have already noted that apostasy in the Lord's church had already begun in the first century, as stated by New Testament writers. That growing apostasy would continue in the years and centuries ahead.

No specific date can be given for the beginning of the RCC due to the fact that it happened so gradually, that it must have been imperceptible to many. It is a matter of reliable historical accounts, however, that a change in church government materialized. From the New Testament pattern of elders or bishops in the autonomous congregations, there came to be a "chief elder" in each congregation. Then followed the councils composed of these chief elders. These councils assumed authority to make rules or laws to be followed by the congregations they represented. It then came to be in this growing apostasy that certain ones of the chief elders or bishops would represent a certain geographical area. With the passing of time there came to be one bishop which was over all the congregations. He was referred to as the "Universal Bishop," or "Pope." Today they have: Cardinals, Bishops, Archbishops, and over all is the Pope.

An important date in the above development was the Council of Nicea which convened in 325 A.D. The "Nicean Creed" was formulated. Persistent efforts to force people to submit to this creed would continue for centuries. The Council was called by Constantine, the Emperor of Rome. Constantine became a nominal Christian, and as such he became the protector of so-called Christianity, as a state religion. With power of the state religion the pagans were persecuted. As a result many pagans aligned →

known that we ought not to fellowship or "bid God speed" to those who do not "abide in the teaching of Christ" (2 Jn 9-11); to those "unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph 5:11). I love the people who are in the denominations. I don't love their error, their sectarianism, but I love them and am trying to help as many as I can get out. I do not do this by playing with, performing for, and otherwise leaving the impression with them that "Hey, I'm OK and you're OK."

I am told that quartet singing is a legitimate method by which to "teach" the denominations. It has actually been argued in my hearing that by way of an "acappella quartet," we can "teach" the denominations the correct kind of music to be used in worship. But, you see, the same passages that authorize acappella music and are silent about instrumental music, are also silent about using "songs, hymns and spiritual songs" for the purpose of performing for others. Some of the same passages that authorize *only* acappella music in worship to God, also authorize congregational singing: "speaking one to another in psalms...teaching and admonishing one another" (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16). Quartet, or other special music, is not "speaking one to another." So, if one is truly concerned about "teaching" the denominations the correct kind of music in worship, it should at least be congregational singing.

To be sure, singing praises to God is not limited to the worship assembly (Matt 26:30; Ac 16:25; Js 5:13). I sing all the time. Every christian should love to sing hymns of praise. Sometimes when I sing, other people may hear me, just as the prisoners heard Paul and Silas (Ac 16:25). This is a far cry, however, from (A) using what is to be "praises unto God" for the purpose of performing for and entertaining an audience; and (B) designing an assembly of christians with where one part of the assembly does the singing and the rest are expected not to sing.

I've also heard it argued this way: Since it would be OK to preach to or teach a group of denominational people; and since singing involves "teaching" (Col 3:16), then it would be OK to "sing" to a group of denominational people. I readily grant that preaching the truth to a group of denominational people would be a good thing. I have done that. I was once invited to speak to a Methodist church, and I lovingly,

yet clearly presented to them Bible teaching on the plan of salvation, the church, the sin of sectarianism, etc. It is hard to believe, however, that anyone could honestly believe that I could, with God's approval, say, stand up before a denominational crowd and do a solo (or add three more people for a quartet) number on "Amazing Grace," and call that "preach[ing] the word" (2 Tim 4:2).

If this is an acceptable method for public teaching or preaching, then shouldn't the quartets, or other groups, be "all male"? I mean, Paul makes it clear that in such public settings the women are not to "teach nor have dominion over the man" (I Tim 2:12). Of course this is "after the manner of men" (Rom 3:5). The "teaching and admonishing" connected with singing "songs, hymns, and spiritual songs," is that of brethren mutually edifying and encouraging one another by singing together. It ought to be pretty clear that Jesus did not say "Go ye into all the world and *sing* the gospel to every creature."

Finally, some who go about performing for and playing with the denominations say, "It is not our intention to have fellowship with them." Here's a fair question: What precisely would one have to do in order for it to be said, "It is his intention to have fellowship with the denominations"? If getting together with manmade religions, clapping hands, stomping feet, singing to, picnicking with, and just generally having a "high old time" with them does not constitute "having fellowship with," or "bidding god speed to" them; then, what kinds of activities would?

### MERCHANDISING THE GOSPEL

Some day when you have time, get out your calculator. Whereas merchandising activities like the Jubilee and Promise Keepers have passed on, many more have appeared to take their place. If you have access to some of the advertisements which tell about the number of attendees, and some of their commercial materials and give the prices of tapes and other materials, see what kind of estimate you can come up with as to the take at one of these affairs. Just make it a very conservative estimate at that. In some instances, we're talking about tens of thousands of dollars. Much of what is touted as spiritual business is just plain big business. →

## The Gospel, The Free Market, and The Performing Arts

The Gospel is God's "power" to save (Rom. 1:16; I Cor 1:18-21) that which is more precious in value than the "whole world" — the "soul" (Matt 16:26). The Free Market, though not mentioned in these words, yet is a concept upheld by the Scriptures: Wages for work (I Tim 5:18); buying and selling (Jas 4:13); and property ownership (Acts 5:1-4). Likewise, the Performing Arts is a scripturally legitimate concept. Humans are aesthetic beings designed to seek and appreciate things of beauty and pleasure. Thus, From the ground of the "garden," God caused there to come forth "every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food" (Gen 2:8); and early on in human history there arose such as "Jubal...the father of all such as handle the harp and pipe" (4:21). It is right and natural for us to, within the boundaries laid down by the Creator, seek out and enjoy things that please and satisfy.

Problems arise however, when otherwise noble concepts are commingled. There is the proper time and realm for the utilization and appreciation of "every creation of God [which] is good" (I Tim 4:4). However, there is a time a place for everything. Jesus took a dim view of people mixing their business with what should have been the time and place for worship ¾ "Take these things hence, make not my Father's house a house of merchandise" (Jno 2:16). Paul did not view preaching as the appropriate time for pageantry and performance — "I...came not with excellency of speech" (I Cor 2:1). May I suggest the need for brethren today to back up and "think on these things."

### THE PERFORMANCE MENTALITY

Hardly a day goes by that I don't receive some type of brochure advertising and promoting some *Greeaaaattt* (said the way Tony the Tiger describes Frosted Flakes) activity coming up. I got one advertising an upcoming singing "featuring brother \_\_\_\_\_" as the leader. Preachers are promoted with cherubic pictures and pedigrees as long as your arm. I've got one where the preacher's pose is like that of the statue of the Meditating Philosopher (elbow on the knee and chin resting on the fist) that used to be shown on the Doby Gillis Show. What a pretentious bunch of pomp.

Does any of this have anything whatsoever to do with the price of tea in China, much less Christians worshipping God in song and the preaching of "Jesus Christ and him crucified" (I Cor 2:2)? It is through the "foolishness of the thing preached" (1:21, ASV footnote) that believers are saved, not through the foolishness of self-promoting preachers.

Should song leaders work at doing their best to see that the congregation does its best when praising God in song? Certainly. Should song leaders be the featured attraction, and should they gyrate, carry on, and blare out about 100 decibels above everyone else? Certainly not. Emphasis must lie upon the "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs," not the performance of the song leader.

Are preachers polished in the art of theatrics, dramatic gesture, and tremulous voice to be that by which we seek to attract people, or does God still "draw...[those who are] taught of God...[who] have heard from the Father, and hath learned" (Jno 6:44-45). Certainly, those who preach will work to improve, not their performance, but their ability to make the message clear, plain, and applicable.

I got a really slick brochure announcing an upcoming Youth event. It was the same kind of hype — "Come and hear brother \_\_\_\_\_" as though he were a celebrity. Three or four singing groups are pictured and featured in the brochure. One group even has the gall to call itself *Justification*. I'd love to hear some justification for these and others turning worship into a Hip-Hop, Teeny-Bop, High 'ol Time. Yes, worship is to be a pleasant and enjoyable experience as each *participant* worships God in "spirit" (Jno 4:24), not because the audience is entertained by hired performers.

### CROSSING THE LINES OF FELLOWSHIP TO PEDDLE WARES

There is a present and massive proliferation of Christians forming quartets (some call them "Gospel" groups) and then going out to perform at and for denominational activities and groups. I have always tried to point out that denominationalism is wrong (Jn 17:20-21; Matt 15:13). I have always →

themselves with the state religion. Along with them they brought their pagan beliefs. To accommodate the pagans many of their beliefs were incorporated into the religion which was to become the RCC. This helps to account for a number of things which are seen in Catholicism of today, which are strange and without example in God's word. Remember, Catholics are to believe whatever they are told, and that without question.

At the point of the Council of Nicea, many of the things which characterized the church as established by Christ had been cast aside and replaced by the ideas of men. Apostasy was nearing completion.

### THE FIRST POPE

Although Catholicism had developed to a great extent, it was 606 A.D. before one claimed the title of "Universal Bishop," or "Pope." Boniface III accepted that title. "Pope" is from a Latin word which means "pappa."

Catholics teach that the apostle Peter was the first Pope. This teaching is based upon "tradition" and there is not one whit of evidence from God's word that this was true. To the contrary, biblical evidence stands against Peter as a Pope. Peter had a wife (Matt. 8:14). Paul "withstood" Peter to his face, "because he was to be blamed" (Gal. 2:11). Cornelius "fell down" at Peter's feet and worshipped him. "But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up, I myself am also a man" (Ac. 10:25-26). If Peter had been a Pope, he would have gladly had Cornelius to fall down before him, and kiss his ring, his slipper, toe, or whatever. There is much other evidence in God's word that Peter never was a Pope.

### THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE POPE

Note what a Catholic source, a booklet put out by the Knights of Columbus, entitled "Why Catholics Believe as they do," says with regard to Catholic's belief in the Pope. The following is from page 29, of the booklet published in 1955, which carries the *Imprimatur* of Joseph E. Ritter, *Archbishop of St. Louis*.

"All Catholics everywhere recognize the authority of the Pope, the Vicar of Christ. He is the representative of the Lord, and like the

Lord he can tell each individual in the Church what to believe and what to do in religious matters. Catholics do not accept the official pronouncements of the Pope only when they agree with them. They accept them at all times because they recognize his authority."

From the same source as that above, p. 27, note the following paragraph, with the heading *Christ's Vicar*:

"It was at Caesarea Philippi—the same solemn title 'Simon, son of John,' the same acknowledgement of Christ's divinity by Peter, the same conferring of power. The good shepherd was performing the last great act of his public life—handing over the flock to Peter."

When Catholics are taught, and they believe, that they are to believe everything they are told, it is no wonder that they accept all sorts of things which are totally without evidence from God, which is the only basis for faith.

**A Vicar of Christ and God.** It is sad and also frightening, that people will entrust their soul salvation to a mere man on earth, who has no God-given power to legislate or make rules for man to live by. God's word says, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). Man will be judged by the word's of Christ (Jno. 12:48), not by what the Pope says, or any other Catholic authority. Catholics are not willing to accept this. God's word alone is not sufficient, they are taught. We shall give attention to this later.

The word "Vicar" is defined by *Webster* as "a person who acts in the place of another." By this definition the Pope is acting in the place of Christ and of God on earth. This is exactly what they claim. This also includes the exercising of authority of Christ and God on earth. The Pope is also setting himself up as God on earth when he assumes the title of "supreme pontiff." "Pontiff" is defined as "a high priest." "Supreme" means highest in rank, power, authority, etc. The New Testament teaches that Christ is our high priest, not the Pope. But since the Pope claims to be the "supreme" priest, that puts him above Christ.

Note the following quotes from Catholic sources from the booklet, →

*Catholicism Against Itself*, by O.C. Lambert:

“...complete submission and obedience of will to the church and to the Roman Pontiff as God himself.” (Great Encyclical Letters, p. 193).

“We hold [Popes] upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” (Ibid. p. 304).

Lest some get the idea that the exaltation of the Pope as God or Christ on earth happened during the “Dark Ages,” we call attention to the account of the crowning of Pope John XIII, by the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Rome on Nov. 4, 1958, as given by the Pensacola Journal, Nov. 5, 1958:

“At the chapel of St. Gregory, the pontiff took his place at yet another throne, and the cardinals once again — one by one — came forward and knelt in homage to kiss his ring.”

“The statue of St. Peter, whose toe is worn smooth and thin from the kisses of millions of faithful through the centuries, was decked in glittering pontifical robes.”

“The cardinals, once again approached the throne in an act of homage. Each one touched cheeks with the pontiff and then knelt to kiss his ring and slipper.”

Try as hard as one could, the scriptural authority for such as we have considered cannot be found. It’s totally lacking. One can see why the Catholics have to turn to something in addition to the Bible to uphold many of their teachings and practices.

**The Infallibility of the Pope.** It is easy to see why people would accept the claimed infallibility of the Pope if they swallow the claim that the Pope takes the place of God and Christ on earth. And the Catholics do teach that the Pope is infallible.

In a tract entitled, “This Is The Catholic Church,” by Richard Ginder, with the *Imprimatur* of Francis J. Spellman, D.D., *Archbishop of New York*, the following is said about Infallibility: “We have already spoken of the Church and her setup as a spiritual army. It only remains to say that if God is to be with His Church, as He promised, then she can’t make a mistake in her teachings. This is called Infallibility.”

In a paper-back book entitled, “*This Is Our Catholic Faith*,” by Rev. Arthur W. Terminiello, bearing the *Imprimatur* of: Most Rev. T.J. Toolen, D.D., LLD, Archbishop of Mobile-Birmingham, we find some information about Infallibility.

The question is asked, “What do we mean by the infallibility of the church?” The answer, “By infallibility we mean that the Church can not make a mistake when it teaches a doctrine of faith or morals to the universal church.” The next question is, “Who is infallible in the church?” The answer is: “In the church a general Council of all the bishops of the world, presided over by the Pope, is infallible. Likewise the Pope himself enjoys the protection of infallibility.”

It is further stated that for the Pope to speak infallibly there are some conditions: (1) “The Pope must speak ‘ex cathedra,’ i.e., he must speak from his throne. (2) “He must speak to the universal church and not to a particular group or nation. (3) “The wording must be clear. For example, he must state that he is speaking as the Vicar of Christ, successor of St. Peter and Pope of the Universal Church.”

Where did such erroneous ideas as the above come from? Did they come from God’s word? NO. Since there are only two sources of religious authority, God and man, they had to come from man.

Due to space limitations we are going to move on to some things about the Roman Catholic Church in more recent centuries. We do want to point out a few things before we do that. There are so many things of interest that it is difficult to choose those things which are now most timely. We shall mention a few things about the papacy.

#### THE CONDITION OF THE PAPACY

The power and authority of the Pope has varied at different times. In periods when the Catholic Church has been characterized by turmoil and power struggles the Pope has not been exalted as in times of peace. An example is given by the noted church historian, Philip Schaff, as he describes the papacy in the 10<sup>th</sup> century:

The papacy itself lost all independence and dignity, and became the prey of avarice, violence, and intrigue, a veritable synagogue of Satan. . . . Pope followed Pope in rapid succession, and most of them ended their career in deposition, prison, and murder. The rich and powerful marquises of Tuscany and the Counts of Tusculum acquired control over the city of Rome and the papacy for more than half a century. And what is worse (incredible, attamen verum), →

### Fellow-helpers

Jan., Feb., March 2005

Churches:	
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Hornbeak	200.00
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Mary Grimmit	100.00
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Louise Wilks	25.00
Total contribution Jan.-Mar.	
3,695.00	
<b>“fellow-helpers to the truth” (3 John 8)</b>	

### Banner of Truth Financial Report

Jan., Feb., March 2005

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 2005 14,	222.55
Jan. – Mar. contributions	3,695.00
Total funds available	17,917.55
Jan. – Mar. expenses:	
January & February labels	71.18
Plate making material for computer	159.34
New paper folder	979.95
Returning folder	26.85
Mailing Dec., Jan., Feb. BOT	2,402.38
Postage for foreign mailing	100.00
Other postage, stamps, etc	111.22
Phone calls	26.80
Fountain solution	25.79
Service on old folder	10.00
Misc.	13.23
Paper	1,580.00
Additional cost for new folder	1,150.00
Total expense	6,856.74
Total funds available	17,917.55
Less Jan. – Mar. expense	6,856.74
Total on hand March 31,	11,060.81

The words seem too trite and easy to say, but we want to express our sincere thanks to those who make our work possible. An enterprise of this magnitude takes many people’s contributing their time and treasures. Every contribution of whatever amount is greatly appreciated. We are thankful for the interest that our brethren have in helping get the truth to the thousands of readers of Banner of Truth, in this country and in several foreign countries. There has never been a time in my life when the need to uphold and promote the truth was as great as now.

I wish time allowed me to send a special word of thanks to every contributor personally, but my lack of time prevents me from doing a number of things I would like to do. I’ve been blessed with 79 birthdays thus far, the downside being they have lessened the amount of work I can do in a day; but, we’re still at it.

– Editor

# Fifth Annual Banner of Truth Lectures

Murray, KY, June 27-30, 2005

Theme: Lessons from Prophets of Old for Modern Man

Sponsored by: Dexter & Hickory Grove Churches of Christ

Location: *Curris Center, M.S.U. Campus, Third Floor Theater*

Monday, June 27

- 10:00 a.m. Alan Adams — “In The Beginning God Created” — Genesis 1:1
- 11:00 a.m. Richard Adams — “The Eyes of Both of Them Were Opened” — Genesis 3:7
- 1:30 p.m. Garland Robinson — “Stand Still And See The Salvation of The Lord — Ex. 14:13
- 2:30 p.m. Walter W. Pigg — “The Lord Rained Fire And Brimstone” — Genesis 19:24
- 3:30 p.m. Paul Curless — “But They Have Rejected Me” — I Samuel 8:7
- 7:00 p.m. Roger Campbell — “Arise, Go Nineveh, that Great City” — Jonah 1:2
- 8:00 p.m. Garland Robinson — “And The People Sat Down To Eat And To Drink” — Ex. 32:6

Tuesday, June 28

- 10:00 a.m. Ken Bureson — “The Feet Of Him That Bringeth Good Tidings” — Isaiah 52:7
- 11:00 a.m. David Lemmons — “The House Of Israel; All Came To Pass” — Joshua 21:45
- 1:30 p.m. Robert Alexander — “Life And Good; And Death And Evil — Deut. 30:15
- 2:30 p.m. Roger Campbell — “I Will Make Of Thee A Great Nation” — Genesis 12:3
- 3:30 p.m. Roger Scully — “Ye Shall Not Surely Die” — Genesis 3:4
- 7:00 p.m. Ken Bureson — “Art Thou He That Troubleth Israel?” — I Kings 18:17
- 8:00 p.m. Leon Cole — “Prophecy Not Unto Us Right Things” — Isaiah 30:10

Wednesday, June 29

- 10:00 a.m. Leon Cole — “The Lord Had Respect Unto Abel” — Genesis 4:4
- 11:00 a.m. Lindon Ferguson — “To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice” — I Samuel 15:22
- 1:30 p.m. Michael Willey — “Gave Thanks Before His God, As He Did Afortime” — Dan. 6:10
- 2:30 p.m. David Lemmons — “Out Of Zion Shall Go Forth The Law” — Isaiah 2:3
- 3:30 p.m. Jeff Bates — “A Virgin Shall Conceive, And Bear A Son” — Isaiah 7:14
- 7:00 p.m. Alan Adams — “And They Stood Every Man In His Place” — Judges 7:21
- 8:00 p.m. Roger Scully — “My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge” — Hosea 4:6

Thursday, June 30

- 10:00 a.m. Guyton Montgomery — “Offered Strange Fire Before The Lord” — Leviticus 10:1
- 11:00 a.m. Rick Knoll — “Turned Not Aside To Right Hand Or To The Left “ — 2 Kings 22:2
- 1:30 p.m. Jimmy Bates — “In The Plains Of Ono” — Nehemiah 6:2
- 2:30 p.m. Joe Spangler — “And Shall Cleave Unto His Wife” — Genesis 2:24
- 3:30 p.m. Gilbert Gough — “Can Two Walk Together Except They Be Agreed?” — Amos 3:3
- 7:00 p.m. Joe Spangler — “Joseph Was A Goodly Person, And Well Favored” — Genesis 39:6
- 8:00 p.m. Richard Guill — “Fear God, And Keep His Commandments” — Ecclesiastes 12:13

**NOTE:** The above schedule is tentative. We will make known any changes. Room rates will be \$39.63 total, including tax. We will be making reservations soon. Spread the word of BOT lectures —*Editor*

three bold and energetic women of the highest rank and the lowest character, Theodora the elder (the wife or widow of a Roman senator), and her two daughters, Marozia and Theodora, filled the chair of St. Peter with their paramours and bastards . . . They turned the church of St. Peter into a den of robbers, and the residence of his successors into a harem, and they gloried in their shame. Hence this infamous period is called papal Pornocracy or Hetaerocracy. [*The History of the Christian Church*, Vol. IV, pp. 283-284.]

It is hard to imagine a religious group, in this case the Roman Catholic Church, to be more evil than the condition described above. But it only involves a little study of church history to see the facts. But when people are taught, and believe, that they must blindly follow someone or some organization, regardless of what they are called upon to do, then anything can happen, even that which is very wicked. Some of the evil within the Catholic Church has been brought to light recently. We shall discuss this later.

A lot of attention has been given to religious cults in recent years. A cult is where people blindly follow some leader. With Catholicism it is the following of a man-made system in which the Pope has all authority, Just as Christ had all authority within His church. Christ is the author of eternal salvation to them that obey Him (Heb. 5:9), but the Pope has set himself up as Christ and God on earth, and he is the author of all manner of evil and deceit. He indeed is a “man of sin.”

**The Split Within the Roman Catholic Church.** Due to differences within the Roman Church, a split occurred in 1054 A.D. It was a split between the East and the West. Rome continued as the head of the Roman Catholics while the East, or the Greeks had their seat in Constantinople. This division continues until the present time. The East is known as the Greek Orthodox Church.

I was told by people in Kiev, Ukraine a few years ago that the Greek Orthodox for the most part went along with the Communist Regime. In that way they were no threat to atheistic Communism.

## **SOME CURRENT ERRONEOUS TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Volumes could be written on the false teachings of the Catholic Church, but we shall touch upon some of the more common ones. Some may not realize just

how clearly many of these false teachings are set forth in Catholic literature. There was a time when Catholics were kept in the dark more than now. About forty years ago I talked with a Catholic lady in Pensacola, Florida, while door-knocking. I told her that I understood that Catholics did not read the Bible. Her response was, and she had several children, “We don’t even have a Bible in our house.” Her reasoning was, as obviously she had been taught, that the regular member of the Catholic Church could not understand the Bible. It was up to the priest to tell them what to believe.

There are various sources of information put out by Catholics which plainly teach many things. The false teachings we shall discuss will be from the Catholics’ own literature, not hearsay. The following information shall be from a paper-back book entitled, *This Is Our Catholic Faith*, authored by Rev. Arthur W. Terminiells. It carries the Imprimatur of Most Rev. T.J. Toolen, D.D., LL. D. Archbishop. Bishop of Mobile-Birmingham. Copyright 1956. The following quotations will be from the above source, unless noted otherwise—

“8. WHY IS THE BIBLE ALONE NOT SUFFICIENT AS OUR RULE OF FAITH OR GUIDE TO THE TEACHING OF CHRIST? The Bible alone is not sufficient as a guide to Christ’s teaching, because: (a) It was not CHRIST’S way.... (b) The Bible alone is not a SAFE guide .... (c) The Bible is not COMPLETE.... The Bible alone is not CLEAR....”

“9. WHERE ELSE IS CHRIST’S REVELATION TO BE FOUND? It is also found in Tradition, i.e., in the living, spoken word of Christ and His Apostles....”

“10. WHERE IS THE TRADITION OF THE CHURCH FOUND? It is found chiefly in writings of the Fathers of the Church of the first centuries, in the decrees of the Councils, the decisions of the Popes and in the ceremonials of the Church.”

We do not have to be very wise to see that such sets aside God’s word as an all-sufficient guide, as declared in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. With God’s all-sufficient word set aside as our only guide, and supplanted by “tradition,” authority for anything men want to do can be found. This accounts for the many, many errors taught by the Catholic Church. Actually, “tradition” is more powerful with the Catholics →

than the inspired word of God. This is seen in the fact that many things taught and practiced are based on tradition, even though those things are opposed by God's word.

In Catholic literature we often see statements with regard to what "the Church teaches." We are accountable to what God's word teaches, not what the church teaches. The church is to serve as "the pillar and ground of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:15), but it does not have authority to formulate doctrine. The Catholic Church assumes that authority, but God has never granted such. Note the Catholic claim—

"WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH? By the authority of the Church we mean the power of the Pope and bishops, as the successors of Peter and the other Apostles, to teach and govern in the name of Christ."

Another thing we see in Catholic literatures is the frequent use of the term "Church of Christ." Our Lord did not build, purchase, or approve anything like the Catholic Church. He built and purchased with his blood, only His church (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28). By the use of the term "Church of Christ" some may be misled into thinking the Catholic Church is what it claims to be. But the use of that term in no sense justifies their claim.

"6. WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE THAT DIE WITHOUT BAPTISM? Those who die without Baptism and have not offended God by unrepented sin, go to a place we call 'Limbo.' Limbo is a place or a state where there is no suffering – a place of perfect natural happiness."

"1. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH? After death, according to Catholic doctrine, these things can, or will, happen: (d) Souls which have no mortal sin, but still have unrepented venial sins, or temporal punishment due for either mortal sin or venial sin, will go to purgatory."

God's word knows absolutely nothing about "purgatory." In fact, this idea is in sharp opposition to what God's word does teach. The apostle John said: "Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (Jno. 5:28-29). Was it the

case that John didn't know about "purgatory," or was it the case that what he said is exactly according to God's will, which leaves out any idea of man-made purgatory?

"4. WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF BAPTISM? The effects of baptism are: (a) IN INFANTS, Baptism gives first grace (or justification) to the soul, and imprints upon it a permanent character. (b) FOR ADULTS, in addition to the above effects, it also removes all actual sin together with the temporal punishment due for all sin."

"6. HOW MANY KINDS OF BAPTISM IN WATER ARE THERE? There are three kinds of Baptism of water: Immersion (or dipping), aspersion (or sprinkling), and infusion (or pouring)."

"8. WHY DOES THE CHURCH USE POURING RATHER THAN DIPPING OR SPRINKLING? The Church uses infusion today: 1. Because from the very beginning of Christianity, this type was used in the Church. 2. For practical reasons, it would be impossible to immerse infants, those in prison, those in hospitals, etc. During the early centuries Baptism was administered by immersion and sprinkling....However, although Baptism by pouring was not in common use until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, we know that it WAS used along with dipping even in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century."

Where did the Catholics get all these strange ideas about baptism? It had to be from "tradition" since such is nowhere authorized by God's word. Note how it is said that "pouring" was used "from the very beginning of Christianity." This is simply not true. Catholics have no qualms about stating things which God's word in no sense of the term justifies. The sad part about this is that multiplied millions are entrusting the salvation of their souls to a system of man-made error. A question I've never been able to answer to my satisfaction is this: Why will people entrust the salvation of their souls to systems of error, even when they think soundly about things in the secular world?

"6. WHY SHOULD WE CONFESS TO A PRIEST WHO IS ONLY A MAN, AND A SINNER, LIKE OURSELVES? When we go to confession we confess to the priest, not as a man, but as an agent of God. His personal life does not affect his agency or his office." →

We suggest the following for further information on Catholicism: 1) Bro. O.C. Lamberts work, Catholicism Against Itself. 2) Encyclopedias, and especially the Catholic Encyclopedia. 3) Materials available from Catholic sources, such as Knights of Columbus. Many brethren, including several former Catholics, have written about the Catholic Church. The Catholic

## The Home and Christian Living

That pristine and perfect Home involved: a *union* created by God (Matt 19:6); a *pledge* of loyalty (Gen 224); an intimate *joining* (24), and a *progeny* (Gen 1:28). The kind of Life intended by the Creator for His creature, Man, involved: *privilege* (29, 16); *obligation* (15); and *restriction* (17). Divine intent was that the Home would sustain and support the Life, and the Life the Home. So it is with the Home and the christian life today.

Despite the tampering with and the attacks on it, the Home, as God would have it, is still a unique, identifiable entity. It is one man, one woman, and children; and even others who of necessity are subsumed within that household. The Life is no less identifiable. It is a "way," a "conversation," a "vocation," et al.

It is sad that so many, even christians, have gotten on a Merry-Go-Round from which they can't seem to get off. Homes are unhappy and broken because of the way the members thereof are living; and the members of the household are not, by the Home, being instructed, disciplined, and encouraged in the way they should live.

Parents fret and blame the church, the schools, society, and the government because their children grow up and become unpleasant, disloyal, even reprobate. It angers and sickens me to hear frustrated parents say, "The church is running off its young people" <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> when, in reality, their moms and dads started running them off years and years before. William J. Bennett has produced two books (*The Book of Virtues*, and *The Moral Compass*) to promote the teaching of morals and virtues within the home. Certainly his works do not compare to the Bible, but he makes some very good points; precisely because he echoes what the Bible already says.

In his first book, he identifies ten character traits:

Church has great influence in our country, therefore we need to know what it is and what it stands for. Everything they stand for is not error, but much of it is. I think we could say that all religions claiming to be the Christian religion, teach some truth. "Some truth" does not make a religion right. Truth is the only basis for the Lord's church.

—Editor

"self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, friendship, work, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, and faith." One page 11 of his second book, he says,

Children learn most of their first character lessons in the home...Those early lessons stay with children as they make their way into the world, shaping the way they see life, and to a large degree determining whether they live it well. Later, as young people and then as adults, through various stages of life, they must make countless choices that call the virtues into play.

Bennett even understands what many christians have failed to grasp — "the life [is] more than the food, and the body than the raiment" (Matt 6:25),.

...life is a moral and spiritual journey...we undertake it, at least in large part, to find our way Morally and spiritually. Thus it makes no sense to send young people forth on such an endeavor having offered them only some timid, vacillating opinions or options about conduct in the hope that in the course of their wanderings, they will stumble onto some more definite personal preferences which will become their "values." We must give our children better equipment than that. We must raise them as *moral and spiritual beings* by offering them unequivocal, reliable standards of right and wrong, noble and base, just and unjust" (pp. 11-12).

Parents, please listen,

Moral education must involve following rules of good behavior. It must involve developing good habits, which come only through repeated practice. And character training must provide example by placing children in the company of responsible adults who show an allegiance to good character, who demonstrate the clear difference between right and wrong in their own every day habits. (ibid.)

Remember these things the next time you fail to get your children to Bible school and worship.

—Assistant Editor

## EVIL WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

History is replete with the account of many evil activities which have taken place within the Catholic Church. To name a few: 1) The Crusades, when multitudes were murdered, property taken, etc. 2) The persecution of “heretics” by burning at the stake and other forms of punishment. 3) The corruption of the papacy in many instances, is recorded by reliable historians. Space limits us.

The sexual assault on boys and young men by Catholic priests has been a major news item during the past two years. These assaults go back several years. It is only in relatively recent times that this has come to the attention of the public. A major concern on the part of some has been the efforts of the Catholic officials to try to cover up these acts. An article in Newsweek, March 10, 2003, by Daniel McGinn, discusses the extent of this crime. He says:

It’s been 14 months since the scandal over the Roman Catholic Church’s handling of priest’s sexual abuse broke in Boston and rippled across the country. Nationwide, more than 300 priests have been removed over abuse allegations. Most will eventually face charges before a church tribunal and never minister again; some will go to jail. But a handful – as many as two dozen nationally, experts guess – will return to their posts after investigations conclude the allegations are unsubstantiated.

Some, including Catholics, have expressed their doubt that actions taken against sexual assault by the Catholic hierarchy will be as effective as they should be. In a Newsweek article, Nov. 18, 2002, by Peg Tyre and Julie Scelfo, some interesting statements are made.

It is said that “When Roman Catholic activists Peter Isley found out last week that the church’s proposed plan for dealing with sex abuse by priests could give bishops oversight of investigations, and will involve secret tribunals, he was very angry.”

Critics of the plan say it is the same old story. The revised plan gives the job to the bishops, many of whom have mishandled sexual abuse cases in the past. Of the “secret tribunals” involved the Rev. Thomas Doyle, “a former canon lawyer and expert on sex abuse by the clergy,” says “I’m skeptical tribunals could be useful.” He says further, “If tribunals had

the capacity to take on these kinds of issues, they would have been handling these for decades.” It is easy to understand that tribunals would not be unbiased in their decisions.

In a Newsweek article, Dec. 23, 2002, Kenneth L. Woodward discusses Cardinal Law’s resignation. Woodward, a Catholic, says: “Still, I do not understand what it is about ecclesiastical privilege that would render any bishop unable to sympathize – on the instant – with the victims of a predatory priest. The innkeeper of hell, I suspect, is holding special reservations for those few sanctimonious bishops who, complicit in cover-ups of their own, delude themselves in thinking they are suffering like Jesus on the cross. Have they never heard of Judas?”

### NEWS FLASH

We just called attention to Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Law, a doer of much evil. Just an hour ago on this date of Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, more sad news came from Massachusetts. The state Supreme Court voted in favor of allowing the seven homosexual couples to obtain marriage license to be married. The Legislature has 180 days to make a ruling on the action. If the Supreme Court’s decision stands, Massachusetts will be the first state to legitimize homosexual marriage. This is another step in banishing God from our society. It is indeed a frightening time when we have those who want to make of our country another Sodom and Gomorrah. God-fearing people need to wake up while there is still some possibility of turning back to a state of morality where God’s existence is accepted.

Let’s go back to our subject of discussion, the Roman Catholic Church. We have been able to only touch the hem of the garment with regard to the teachings and practices of this greatest religion in our country. We trust that what we have been able to present will cause some people to think. Just one thing mentioned should be enough to convince people of the falsity of the Catholic Religion. That one thing is the fact that Catholicism teaches that God’s word as contained in the Bible is not sufficient. What an affront to God this is. In order for them to have any basis for existence they have to resort to “tradition” for “so-called truth” which God has not revealed in His word. →

“6. WHAT ARE THE CHIEF POWERS OF PRIESTS? The chief powers of priests are to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass and to forgive sins.”

Who is willing to entrust the forgiveness of sins to a mere man? Is it not the power of God to forgive sins, and not that of any priest or other person? Paul said, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5). But we have the Catholic priest serving not only as a “mediator,” but as one who has the power to forgive sins. It is interesting to note that the “personal life” of the priest has nothing to do with his forgiving of sins. If this is a valid statement, then it would follow that all those homosexual priest which we’ve heard about in the past couple of years just went on forgiving sins as if nothing had happened. Who can believe such?

“2. WHY DO WE PRAY TO THE SAINTS? We pray to saints to ask them to intercede with God for us. We do not ask them to grant anything. In praying to the saints we acknowledge our own unworthiness to appear before God; and at the same time, we acknowledge OUR dependence, and the saints’ dependence upon God.”

“3. IS IT NOT THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE ‘MEDIATOR,’ WHO IS CHRIST, AND THAT WE SHOULD GO TO GOD THROUGH HIM? Scripture speaks of the ‘one mediator’ who is Christ. Catholics do not deny that all graces come to us through Christ, and that He is the PRIMARY MEDIATOR. . . .(cf. 1 Tim. 2:5). But this does not exclude secondary mediators. . . .”

“4. WHY DO WE HONOR MARY? We honor Mary: (a) Because she is the mother of God. (b) Because she was honored by God the Father who chose her as the mother of His Divine Son and sent His angel to announce this choice to her. (c) Because the Son loved her, not only as His own mother, but also as the purest of God’s creatures. (d) Because she is so powerful in her intercession with her Divine Son.”

With Catholics it is a very common thing for them to employ the word “But” to include whatever they want to include. Obviously, they are not content with the “one mediator” ordained by God. Therefore, they come up with “secondary mediators.” The acceptance of the “one mediator” which has God’s approval would put an end to the unscriptural practice of pray-

ing to the “saints” as mediators. As we have noticed already, Catholics are not limited by what God’s word says. They have “tradition” for just about anything they choose to do. And, they choose to do many things contrary to God’s inspired word.

With regard to Mary, if you have listened to Catholic services you will recall that you often heard the mention of Mary more than the mention of Christ. In fact, it has not been very long ago that a group of Catholics were trying to bring about some kind of rule that would have elevated Mary above Christ. The Catholics claim that Mary was “sinless throughout her life.” They also claim that Mary “remained a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus.” These claims are false.

“1. WHAT IS THE HOLY EUCHARIST? The Holy Eucharist is a Sacrament which contains the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ under the appearance of bread and wine. A more complete definition would be; ‘The Holy Eucharist is a Sacrament and a sacrifice.’ In it, our Lord Jesus Christ, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine, is contained, offered and received.”

“4. EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN CHRIST SAID: ‘THIS IS MY BODY,’ AND, ‘THIS IS MY BLOOD’? (a) By these words the entire substance of the bread and wine was changed into His Body and Blood. We call this change ‘Transubstantiation,’ which means the change of one substance to another, and different, substance. (b) The appearances of bread and wine remained even after the substance had been changed. By these appearances we mean the color, taste, weight, shape, and whatever appears to the senses.”

The description of the “Holy Eucharist” sounds like what the dictionary calls “malarkey.” The “bread and the wine” are changed into the body and blood of the Lord. Yet, its appearance hasn’t changed, and that means its color, taste, weight, shape, and whatever appears to the senses. How do the people know this change has taken place? They must simply accept what they are told. Otherwise, they could test both the body and blood and see that it had not been changed. Someone suggested that if Christ is a literal “door,” (Jno. 10:7, 9), he might be more inclined to believe that the body and blood of Christ →

are literal.

“9. WHAT ARE RELICS? Relics are souvenirs of keepsakes of the saints or of our Lord. For example, particles of the true cross, parts of the clothing or bodies of saints, or something belonging to the saints.”

“10. WHY DO WE HONOR OR VENER-ATE RELICS? We honor relics because of their sacred association, just as we honor the remains of our national heroes, flags, etc.”

History records all manner of most outrageous claims of “relics.” As an example, I read one account of a claim that milk from the breast of Mary was in existence as a relic. Since Catholics are taught to believe whatever they are told, we can see why they believe things which are unbelievable.

We are concluding the references from the source referred to above. We have referred to only a few of the scores of items that are contained in that source, but we want to address some matters which have occurred within the Catholic Church in very recent times. However, before we turn our attention to that we do want to mention one other matter.

Most of the people whom I know are aware of the activities of many Catholics, such as drinking, gambling, etc. From a tract entitled “THIS IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH,” by Richard Ginder, bearing the Imprimatur of Francis J. Spellman, D.D., Archbishop of New York, we learn that such is upheld by the Catholic hierarchy. Under the heading of Regulations we note the following words:

The Catholic Church has never been puritanical. We are not against the careful use of alcoholics, for instance, nor tobacco, dancing, card-playing, or gambling. In themselves, these things have their place when used moderately as stimulants or as recreation. They can be abused, it’s true, but that should be no reason for banning them altogether.

A few years ago, when we lived in Farmington, Missouri, I visited a picnic type of activity which was raising money for a Catholic school. Gambling, including poker and blackjack, was in full swing. Of course the law just looked the other way with regard to this violation of the law. A priest that was having some part in the activity, making some sort of a speech, was very, very drunk. During World War II I was in training for the Maritime Service. A number of the

young men were Catholics. After drinking and carousing until late hours on Saturday night, they would force themselves to go the sunrise mass to make every thing right. But how about God?

In the remainder of our discussion we shall discuss present Pope and his celebration of 25 years as Pope. We will also have something to say with reference to “Saints,” and the canonizing of “Mother Teresa.” Another item to be discussed will be the hundreds of cases of sexual abuse by priests, and some efforts to cover up such evil. We shall also give a list of sources which provide much more detailed information about the Catholic Church. We trust this will be helpful to those desiring more information about the Catholic Church.

#### THE PRESENT POPE — JOHN PAUL II

Recently, the present pope celebrated his 25th anniversary as pope, an office and position which is wholly unknown to God’s revelation to man. At least 50,000 people attend the mass on St. Peter’s Square. This pope is the first non-Italian pope in 465 years. He is from Poland.

In a Newsweek article by Kenneth L. Woodward, Oct. 20, 2003, he speaks of the “The Fast Track to Sainthood.” Woodward says: “For the 25th anniversary of his election to the papacy, John Paul has called all 195 Cardinals of the church to join in the celebration — including 30 new ones who will receive their red hats.” The highlight of the week’s activities will be the beatifying of “Mother Teresa.” No one has been beatified in such a short time of just seven years. The shortest record up until this time was said to be 17 years, I believe.

John Paul II is said to be more conservative than many other popes have been. Conservative, liberal or whatever, just think of the spiritual and political influence that this mere man has had. There are said to be 64 million Catholics in the U.S., and many, many millions in the rest of the world.

Here is a man who is so presumptuous as to claim himself to be the “vicar” of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ here on earth. That is, he claims himself to take the place of Christ, to have the power and the authority of Christ. How in the world can so many people be duped in that which involves the well-being →

of their souls eternally? The power he claims is such that Catholics teach that God’s word alone is not sufficient. Of course, if it were accepted that God’s word is all-sufficient as it claims to be (2 Tim. 3:16-17), there would be no pope on earth. A pope is something completely unknown to God’s word.

The Catholics have long claimed the power to perform miracles. History records literally hundreds of claims of miracles performed by Catholics. If they have power to perform miracles, why don’t they at least do one more to revive the pope, which is said to be near the end of his life? God’s word speaks of “lying wonders,” and until I have seen a miracle performed by Catholicism, that is the category in which I will place the reports of their miracles. But some people will believe anything.

#### CATHOLICISM AND SAINTHOOD

In the New Testament the word “saint” has reference to all Christian. It simply means one who has been set apart from the world. It is so used dozens of times. This is not so at all with the Catholics. Men of this religion have come up with a man-made teaching and practice that makes only the ones who qualify according to their changing rules, what they call a “Saint.” Again, this is something completely unknown to God’s word, that is, a “saint” as Catholics use the term. Their erroneous practice has influenced the wrongful use of the term by many who aren’t Catholics. We’ve all heard the expression, “Does he think he is a saint?”

To become a Catholic “saint,” one has to be “canonized.” That is, one must meet certain qualifications to be canonized. Britannica (Vol. 2, p. 810) says the first saint was Bishop of Augsburg, who was made a saint by Pope John XV in 993 A.D. At one time it was necessary for one to be dead 100 years in order to qualify for canonization. In the early 1960s Pope Paul VI shortened the time that was necessary.

“MOTHER TERESA,” CATHOLICISM’S LATEST “SAINT.” We’ve already mentioned that the beatifying of “Mother Teresa” breaks the record as to the time required. It might be observed that for people who trust their souls to a man-made religion, one thing might be seen as an advantage. That is, rules and regulations may be changed any time the hierarchy in con-

trol chooses. In the article from Newsweek referred to above, Mr. Woodward has some interesting information about “Mother Teresa” becoming a saint.

Father Brian Kolodiejchuk was the coordinator of the team which investigated Mother Teresa’s requirements for sainthood. He is quoted as saying, “I felt like I had God, the church, history — even Mother Teresa — looking over my shoulder.” It is said that as with all candidates for sainthood, the church required a “divine sign” in the form of a posthumous miracle. With all the claims of miracles by the Catholics it surely wouldn’t be hard to find a so-called miracle for any number of people. It is quite interesting to note the following evidence presented in behalf of Mother Teresa. How can one believe such? Yet, millions do.

The following is what is said to meet Mother Teresa’s requirements with regard to a “miracle.”

Among many miracles of intercession claimed, Sarno picked one in which a Hindu mother, Monika Beresa, came to the sisters suffering from a life-threatening stomach tumor. The sisters prayed to Mother Teresa for a cure and pressed a religious medal that she had touched to Beresa’s abdomen. Five hours later the tumor had completely disappeared.

Such claims as the above are quite typical. A good question to be asked is, “If miracles like this are actually performed, why aren’t millions more performed? It is so emotionally depressing to see the great numbers in India who are in need of cures.

SAINTS DECANONIZED. A most poplar saint with Catholics was St. Christopher. He was the “patron saint” of travelers, and in the 20th century, of motorists. Britannica says, “Though one of the most poplar saints, there is no certainty that he existed historically.” “In 1969 his name was dropped from the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church...” Of Saint Nicholas [Santa Claus] it is said, “Nicholas’ existence is not attested by any historical document.”

If such popular saints as St. Christopher and Saint Nicholas are figments of imagination, how can Catholics believe in all the other saints? Who knows how many other saints have no historical record that they ever existed? →