

**Study for the Month of January, 2014**

## ***The Papacy Series-Part XI***

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## **The Papacy and the Roman Church Remain Unchanged**

Firstly, let all serious and diligent students of true Bible prophecy remember the following quotes from the inspired pen as we continue in what others refer to as the “Vatican watch,” i.e., observing officially-publicized and not-too-publicized yet authentic movements and activities of the current pope. Even those previously not interested in such matters simply because “they are not into religion” are sitting up and taking notice of how this present pope, Francis, seems to be suddenly achieving in a very short time what his living predecessor, the German, Benedict did not in terms of global attention and acceptance of an apparently “kinder and gentler” Roman Church.

“THE ROMAN CHURCH now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself with Christ-like garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the most high.

“The papacy is just what prophecy declared her to be, the apostasy of the latter times. 2 Thessalonians 2: 3, 4. It is a part of her policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose; but beneath the variable appearance of the chameleon she conceals the invariable venom of the serpent. ‘Faith ought not to be kept with heretics, nor persons suspected of heresy’ (Lenfant, volume 1, page 516), she declares. Shall this power, whose record for a thousand years is written in the blood of the saints, be now acknowledge as a part of the church of Christ?”

“It is not without reason that the claim has been put forth in Protestant countries that Catholicism differs less widely from Protestantism than in former times. There has been a change; but the change is not in the papacy. Catholicism indeed resembles much of the Protestantism that now exists, because Protestantism has so greatly degenerated since the days of the Reformers.

“As the Protestant churches have been seeking the favor of the world, *false charity* has blinded their eyes. . . . Instead of standing in the defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome of her their uncharitable opinion of her, begging pardon for their bigotry.

“A large class, even of those who look upon Romanism with no favor, apprehend little danger from her power and influence. Many urge that the intellectual and moral darkness prevailing during the Middle Ages favored the spread of her dogmas, superstitions, and oppression, and that the greater intelligence of modern times, the general diffusion of knowledge, and the increasing liberality in matters of religion forbid a revival of intolerance and tyranny. The very thought that such a state will exist in this enlightened age is ridiculed. It is true that great light, intellectual, moral, and religious, is shining upon this generation. In the open pages of God’s Holy Word, light from heaven has been shed upon the world. But it should be remembered that the greater light bestowed, the greater the darkness of those who pervert and reject it.

“A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God.” - Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy* (1911), “Liberty of Conscience Threatened” chapter, pp. 571, 572.

Inspiration clarifies what Daniel, Paul, and John prophesied of the last days so that none are left with any excuse that they did not understand or were warned nor were given an opportunity to know who the “Antichrist,” “the man of sin,” “the son of perdition” refers to and who or what “the beast of prophecy” are. Many are still confused at this late hour.

Once more: the former, refers to the papacy, the latter, “the beast,” the Roman or the “Romish” *Church* for that is her true origin, nature, spirit. The headquarters of this “Mother Church”--the City of the Vatican, is in Rome. Catholic means “universal” for it is a global church that once ruled the inhabited world during the Dark Ages or Middle Ages and will once more do so, briefly, towards the close of probation and the end of this world. John distinctly states this identification which the Protestant Reformers and every true, historian “with the mind of wisdom” will verify. John says: “And here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are the seven mountains on which the woman [the Roman Church] sitteth.” Verse 9. Rome is certainly known as the city of seven hills.

- (1) “the great whore that sitteth upon many *waters* with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” Verses 1, 2.
- (2) “a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” Verse 3.
- (3) This “woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour [the colors of the papacy], and decked with gold and precious pearls [see previous study of the Vatican’s wealth], having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.” Verse 4
- (4) “And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**” Verse 5.
- (5) “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus [will consider this in separate study of the Dark Ages of the 1,200 years, A.D. 598 A.D.-1798.]: and when I saw her I wondered with great admiration [great amazement, N.K.J.V.]” verse 6.
- (6) “The *waters* [see verse 1] which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are *peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*” Verse 15.

“It is a backsliding church that lessens its distance between the papacy.”- E. G. White, *Signs of the Times*, Jan. 19, 1894.

“Babylon is the symbol of an apostate church.” –Ibid, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 179

“The fallen denominational churches are Babylon.” – Ibid, *Evangelism*, p. 365.

“Through union with the world the church will become corrupt—a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”- Ibid, *Vol. 3, Review & Herald*, Feb. 16, 1895, p. 233. (See Revelation 18: 1-24 for full description!)

“In the *professedly Christian world*, many turn away from the plain teachings of the Bible, and build up a creed from human speculations and pleasing fables; and they point to *their tower* as a way to climb up to heaven. Men hang with admiration upon the lips of eloquence while it teaches that the transgressor shall not die [the very first lie of Satan, Gen. 3:4], that salvation may be secured without obedience to the law of God. If the professed followers of Christ would accept God’s standard, it would bring them into unity; but so long as human wisdom is exalted above His holy word, there will be division and dissension. *The existing confusion of conflicting creeds and sects is fitly represented by the term ‘Babylon,’ which prophecy applies to the world-loving churches of the last days.*” – Ibid, *Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 124.

“The churches, represented by Babylon are represented as having *fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power* against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” – Ibid, *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 117.

To have “the testimony of Jesus Christ” is to represent Him in thought, word, and deed such that all, including skeptics, naysayers and even the very enemies of Christ and the present, testing truths of the last days will acknowledge “that they had been with Jesus.” Such was the distinction given to the 120 disciples as they preached with power and performed signs and wonders after receiving the first or former rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Day of Pentecost. Acts 4: 13 (See chapters 1 thru 4).

“If we desire to understand the determined cruelty of Satan, manifested for hundreds of years, not among those who never heard of God, *but in the very heart and throughout the extent of Christendom, we have only to look at the history of Romanism.* Through this **mammoth system of deception** the prince of evil achieves his purpose of bringing dishonor to God and wretchedness to man. And as we see how *he succeeds in disguising himself and accomplishing his work through the leaders of the church*, we may better understand why he has so great antipathy to the Bible. If that Book is read, the mercy and love of God will be revealed; it will be seen that He lays upon men none of these heavy burdens. All that He asks is a broken and a contrite heart, a humble, obedient spirit.” E. G. White, *Great Controversy* (1911) p. 570.

After giving a frank statement of the many persecutions of which his church, the Roman Catholic) is guilty, Alfred Baudrillart, Rector of the Catholic Institute of Paris says , in the words of Mgr. d’Hulst:

‘Indeed, even among our friends and our brothers we find those who dare not look this problem in the face. They ask permission from the Church to ignore or even to deny all those facts and institutions of the past [as the infamous Office of the Inquisition] which have made orthodoxy compulsory.’ ‘*The Catholic Church; the Renaissance and Protestantism,*’ Alfred Archeveque Cardinal Baudrillart, pp. 183, 184 quoted in *Facts of Faith*, p. 243, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville 8, TN, U.S.A.

So we see here that the following major political platforms and issues being currently fought in the political arena, courts of justice, churches, and in the streets, namely, (1) abortion (2) same-sex marriage (3) immigration are, in actuality, Roman Catholic agendas which the political right are zealously prosecuting. Notice the following (1) in all these developments the Roman Catholic Church, through its human head, the pope, repeatedly referred to by the media without further qualifications, as “the Church,” does not invoke nor present the Bible or “It is written” as the basis of their decisions; rather, they constantly refer to the “church’s teachings” on this or that subject.

Every diligent student of the Holy Scriptures should note with concern and deep sadness how most of the journalists, highly educated and intelligent, dedicated to their career and discipline yet because of spiritual naïvete are clueless up to this late hour of earth’s history and the nearness of the close of probation, about the true nature of the great controversy between Christ and Satan and *their respective agencies on the earth* since the fall, as revealed in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. In fact, they have become a most effective agency and deadly tool of the Papacy in promoting her patiently and well-planned last day blitz to capture the once-Protestant churches, political and business leaders of the nations, and credulous hearts and minds of the vox populi—the “waters”—“*peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues*” (Rev. 17: 15).

For all intents and purposes, America is no longer a Protestant but a Catholic nation. This may come as a shock to many who have not taken to heart the saying: “Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty.” The changes happening and coming at blinding speed, as it were, to America, the land of the free, earth’s last remaining bastion and citadel for mankind’s most fundamental freedoms--civil and religious liberty to worship God according to the dictate of conscience, are practically but not quite gone, yet, but soon will. The Papacy has long prepared for this time and opportunity, particularly by the Jesuits. Secure and read for yourself the book *Facts of Faiths* (Revised edition) by Christian Edwardson, published by Southern Publishing Association, (1943) Nashville 8, Tennessee. In the chapter “Making American Catholic” Edwardson documents the following in pp. 248, 249: “At the First American Catholic Missionary Congress, held at Chicago, November 17, 1908, Dr. William Mc Ginnis outlined the program of the International Truth Society for making America Catholic: (1) By Romanizing our schoolbooks (2) by revising our books of reference, (3) **by controlling the daily press**, (4) by capturing the libraries.”

Hereunder are sample recent headlines and its stories as quoted from sources (all emphasis added):

**Headline: “THIS WEEK’S GAME CHANGER POPE FRANCIS IS THE ‘WORLD’S PARISH PRIEST’**

Source: <http://nwes.yahoo.com/39-week-39-dame-changer-pope-francis-39-14331796--abc-news> Date: 12/29/2013.

“Pope Francis became the leader of the [Roman] Catholic Church in March, *bringing to the Vatican a series of firsts: the first pope to choose St. Francis as a namesake, the first Latin American pope, the first Jesuit pope.*

“His conversational first words from St. Peter’s balcony asked the people to pray for him—a humble greeting *that captured many hearts*. The message he has spread since then—those of tolerance, equality and humanitarianism—make him ‘This Week’ game changer for 2013.

“This pope has *successfully, finally shattered the caricature of the church* that his predecessors have tried hard to do. What’s that caricature? That the church is kind of mean and dour and always saying no and always telling us what we can’t do and always telling us why we should be excluded,’ Cardinal Dolan said. ‘He’s saying, ‘Oh, no, come on in, the church is about warmth and tenderness.’”

“*Pope Francis efforts are clearly working.* In a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll, *92 percent of American Catholics* have a favorable opinion of the new pope, and 85 percent think he is moving the church in the *right direction*. [based on what?]. Cardinal Dolan said he knew Pope Francis would make positive change, but said the extent of his impact has been a pleasant surprise. ‘What we were after was a good pastor with a track record of solid administration, fatherly warmth, tender care for his sheep, for his people, and boy, we got that on steroids with Pope Francis. ‘*He’s the world’s parish priest,*’ Dolan said.

“*Pope Francis is a star among both the young and the old, speaking out in new ways that excite believers and nonbelievers alike. **Though he holds to the church doctrine*** [all should know what they are!], he strives to downplay what he calls the church’s obsession with *social issues*. *Pope Francis has made headlines for saying that atheists can go to heaven and when asked about homosexuality, responded, ‘Whom am I to judge?’”*

“**‘The teaching of the church is a timeless gift, you can’t change it, its ours, we inherit it, we’re given it, but the way we gift wrap it, the way we make it more attractive, and more compelling to the world, that can always change, and that’s what Francis is saying,’ Dolan said.**

“In Pope Francis’s first exhortation outlining his vision for the Church, he took a critical stance *at capitalism, denouncing society’s ‘idolatry of money’* and an economy that kills. ‘There’s only one God and money ain’t it,’ Dolan agreed.

“Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, the new head of the U.S. Conference of Catholics Bishops, reinforced that Pope Francis is *serious about Catholicism’s sacred tradition*. ‘He is giving us a *new zeal*, he’s giving us new expressions and a new method,’ Kurtz said. ‘*He is saying the same time-honored, beautiful message of Christ* [the same?], but in a way that is really touching hearts [what kind of hearts?]. But not everyone is touched. *Conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh said the pope’s recent criticisms of capitalism sound like ‘pure Marxism.’* Time Magazine, however, is not in the camp of pope criticizers, with the magazine recognizing Pope Francis’ widespread impact by naming him 2013’s Person of the Year. And the pope’s understated reaction? Most would say it was fitting. “*He doesn’t want to be the center of attention. He wants others to be the*

center,' Archbishop Kurtz said. 'Gosh, that's a great Francis affect, isn't it?' (end of news quote)

### **Headline: "A POPE AND HIS PEOPLE"**

Source: Glimpses, By Jose Ma. Montelibano, December 31, 2013/ Global Balita Opinion <http://globalbalita.com/2013/12/31/a-pope-and-his-people>

"We are celebrating the Christmas Season still, and Christmas Day has come and gone, but not the spirit, not at all the spirit. Most Filipinos are Christian [meaning, Roman Catholic], and even in the Muslim minority, and the Communist Left, have traditionally accepted this season as very special to *Christians* [both Catholic and Protestant/Evangelicals, etc]

"Pope Francis, too, gives Christmas and the Catholic faith a renewed spark. His personal actuation that has consistently translated to Papal action and exhortation may be *shocking to some Talibans in the Church hierarchy* but is causing many more Catholics more than just a sigh of relief. I personally believe that it is the *authentic love for humanity*, and especially for the poor, that serves as an armor for Pope Francis', that keeps him largely *irreproachable* by rightists and fundamentalists in the Church.

"And as Pope, Francis does not pretend that he can understand and speak for the limitless of God's love for mankind He created. By putting no boundaries, or partisanship, in God's love, Pope Francis veers away from judging, and being judgmental. Accepting his own sinful state (in other words, his humanity), Pope Francis places on a pedestal the importance of forgiveness. God's forgiveness of man, and man's forgiveness towards one another.

"More than just shunning way from pomp and gaudy protocol, Pope Francis takes the side of the poor and has become their primary spokesperson and defender. By distancing himself, and giving example for the Church as an institution to follow, *his moral ascendancy now allows Pope Francis to address the world of nations and leaders* and appeal for the poor. The appeal, though, is not only for sympathy, it is for radical change against what contributes to poverty—greed and institutional values that nourish it.

"The Pope has looked to the very institution and hierarchy that he leads yet firmly and clearly points out *the attitudes and practices that have corroded its purity and noble purpose* [??]. Catholics and non Catholics alike who have been *victims of the hypocrisy* [what about the numberless martyrs slaughtered by the Inquisition throughout Europe during the Dark Ages, starting with the Waldense?] so similar to the infamous Pharisees and Scribes of yore feel affirmed that their understanding of Chris and His teachings were, after all, sound. It has been a great source of puzzlement, and deep disappointment, that the very simplicity of the life of Jesus, His unwavering love for the poor, the sick, the oppressed, *seemed* to have been discarded for ornate churches and authoritarianism these represent.

"The evangelistic perspective so lovingly taught by Jesus Himself, exhorting all to love one another and using that love to draw each other towards a divine pathway had transformed itself to a grotesque application of conquest though fear and dictatorship [and the worst forms of torture and persecution ever recorded in mankind's history!].

For so long the challenge of conversion became the numbers game of recruitment. [Christ never recruited converts by force, compulsion, and false doctrine; He invited them and won them over by His pure love and righteousness]. It is, therefore, quite understandable that the more developed societies who have become less fearful of a God painted as vindictive [and who did such “painting” God and His character?—the Papacy itself and its doctrine of eternal torture in the alleged fires of hell!]. But in doing so, these countries who have been the earliest Christians and Catholics, have also been denying their presence to many churches and masses in Western Europe.

“In the Philippines, the same pattern of wanting influence by the [Roman] Catholic Church has been experienced. The percentage of Filipino Catholics has been reducing, and their solidarity alarmingly weakening, especially in a long-drawn and terribly divisive conflict over the reproductive health bill. The acerbic and belligerence image of high-profile bishops contrasted with the primary commandments of love and the Christian message of forgiveness, both of which define the hear of Pope Francis’s exhortations.

“The [Roman] Catholic Church in the Philippines, though, is most vulnerable when it come to the massive poverty, and long afflictions of the tens of millions of Filipinos. Landlessness, or theft of the land belonging to the natives of the country by the same Spanish crown that awarded the Catholic Church with vast tracts of land, has been pinpointed as the root cause of this massive poverty. The wealth of a land considered among the richest in biodiversity and creativity and talents of a people who have proven themselves in various fields around the world point out that poverty is not a natural state of the population. [? Jesus said, “the poor you will always have with you,” as part of the consequence of sin]. But most Filipinos remain landless while the Church cannot even begin to make public how much land it still owns after selling so much in the last several last decades?

“The papacy, then, of Pope Francis forces the Church to confront itself because he is going very visibly against *poverty* [which the Church created in large through its fundamental doctrines] to a point that he questions the wealth and practices associated with Church rule. The Pope is confronting the very issue that the hierarchy of the [Roman] Catholic Church in the Philippines [and in all parts of the world where they are the majority religion] has been turning a blind eye to---poverty [of material wealth yet crushing poverty of Bible truth!] that it has directly and historically contributed to [Indeed!]. The courage of a Pope [the first Jesuit?] to focus on reforming the Church has not weakened the institution but actually refreshes the faith of its members. It may upset the more vociferous among bishops in the Philippines but promises a new dawn [?] for Filipino Catholics seeking solace and peace from their spiritual pastors [instead on in Christ!!!].

“The Church hierarchy in the Philippines has long made pronouncements about being pro-poor but has never matched that intention with official behavior [Amen!]. It has *indulged in more politics and rhetoric* [because that is part of its real nature] that have pitted Catholics against Catholics [and Catholics against all those who reject their totally unbiblical and Christianized heathen doctrines and traditions] rather than inspire its flock to do battle against poverty [and against sin, Satan, temptation, and disobedience to God Decalogue]. Anti-corruption and Pro-choice issues have been the preferred causes, almost a *diversionary strategy* to avoid issues of poverty and hunger [and the its true nature as revealed in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation!]. That posture will

have to change with the leadership by example of Pope Francis [how about the example of Jesus, the Son of man and the Son of God, Savior of mankind?, and poor Filipinos have found a powerful champion [how grossly mistaken the judgment of those who are sadly ignorant of the prophecies of the Bible!]

“Politics and religion are mechanisms intended to promote well-being on earth and beyond earthly life [Jesus NEVER indulged in politics!] Yet, these two fields of human endeavor have cause so much conflict everywhere, not just the Philippines. The example of a Catholic leader embracing simplicity [outwardly] and pleading for the poor of the world [how about pleading that the people open the Bible and study God’s Word for themselves by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and angels?] may just yet be the spark that can tilt global concern and action to effective pro-poor intervention. But in the Philippines, should Pope Francis inspire Catholics to follow his example, *a new dawn will emerge, history will change its course, and the future will be full of hope.*” (end of news quote)

### **Headline: “POPE TO SET TO NAME CARDINALS TO REFLECT HIS VISION OF THE CHURCH”**

Source: Philip Pullella; Editing by Kevin Liffey (Reuters), <http://news.yahoo.com/pope/set-name--cardinals-reflect-vision-church-134436594-finance 1/7/2014>

“Vatican City (Reuters) – Pope is set to make the *most important decisions* of young papacy in the next few weeks by naming new cardinals—‘the princes of the Church’ who will help him set his future course and one day *elect* his successor from their number. A pope’s choice of cardinals is one of the clearest signals of the direction in which he wants the *1.2 billion-strong* Roman Catholic Church to go, and what type of *man* he wants to succeed him. “Francis immediately set about changing the Vatican’s *image* with his simple style after his election last March, so his choice of clerics to elevate on *February 22* is more eagerly awaited than usual. “He is expected to reveal his choices before the end of January so that preparations for the ceremonial ‘consistory’ can be made, but so far there have been few if any whispers of likely names. “In the past it was a fairly safe bet that archbishops of large dioceses or those heading Vatican departments traditionally headed by cardinals would get *the three-peaked ‘biretta’*, the red ceremonial hat that cardinals wear.

“But Francis, who renounced the spacious papal suite for a modest apartment in the Vatican guest house, and is driven around in a simple Ford Focus [American-made!] instead of a bullet-proof Mercedes limousine, has shown little regard for precedent or tradition. [Certainly not the “traditions” that they hold over the Scriptures!]. “He will feel very free to choose the people he thinks should be in those positions, regardless of what was done before,’ said Father Antonio Spadaro, the *editor of the Jesuit Journal Civitta Cattolica* who interviewed the pope last summer. ‘Certainly it will help us further understand where he wants the Church to go.’

“BENDING THE RULES. There are currently 14 vacancies in the College of Cardinals for ‘cardinal electors’: those who would be allowed to enter a conclave to elect a pope. Church rules in theory limit the number of ‘cardinal electors’ to 120. But Francis can decide to bend or even abolish the rule. “In any case, 10 cardinals who are now electors



will turn 80 during 2014, so Francis could appoint as many as 24 new cardinal electors and still have their number back to 120 by the end of the year.

“Apart from potentially shifting the liberal-conservative balance of the College, and elevating men whose personal abilities he values, Francis could also alter its geographical distribution. In a conclave that elected Francis last March, 60 cardinals were from Europe, even though the Church on the continent has been hardest hit by falling membership. Italy alone had 28. By comparison, there were only 19 cardinals from all of Latin America, a region with the largest Catholic populations, and 11 and 10 respectively from Africa and Asia, where the Church is growing fast.

*“Francis, previously archbishop of Buenos Aires, is the first Latin-American pope in history and the first non-European in 1, 600 years. Apart from naming new cardinal electors under 80, Francis is also expected to give the honorific title to a number of elderly churchmen in gratitude for decades of service. They are usually theologians or academics, and would not be eligible to enter a conclave.”* (end of news quote)

COMMENTARY: (1.) Jesus never referred to His true disciples and apostles as “princes of the church” but His co-laborers or co-workers (2) Jesus Christ as High Priest and King, as typified by Melchizedek, is the only Mediator and Advocate; He has no *pedigree*, meaning, no predecessor or successor in His work and office in the heavenly sanctuary. His Successor on earth in the closing work of the salvation of man is not a human being but the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead! Who of these media or journalist would dare ask Francis what his policy is towards those who the Papacy defines as “heretics?” Has it changed any since the Dark Ages? What about the infallibility of the pope? Its claim to be the vicegerent of Christ instead of the Holy Spirit? of being very God Himself on earth? Of its teaching on the state of the dead and the “soul”? Purgatory, Indulgences or paying money for the absolution of sin? Of Mary being the Mediatrix instead of Christ being the Mediator in the heavenly sanctuary? Of making saints of dead men and women in order for its votaries and adherents to pray to and through? It’s claim to have the authority to change “times and laws” of God’s commandments? Of its blasphemous doctrine that is at the very center of its apostasy called “transubstantiation” which teaches that the priest has the power to literally “bring the body of Christ down and convert it to wafers” every time he conducts the Mass while drinking literally fermented wine thus performing the service while inebriated!! Their sainted doctor, St. Alphonsus de Liguori, said that such powers of the priest make them ‘the Creator’s creator.’! Can there be greater blasphemy?

### **Headline: CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC ORDER MEETS TO TURN PAGE ON SCANDALOUS PAST**

Source: Reporting by Philip Pullella; Editing by Mike Collet-White (Reuters)  
<http://news.yahoo.com/conservative-catholic-order-meets-turn-page-scandalous-past-1514> Date: 1/8/2014

“VATICAN CITY (Reuters)- How can an order of priests go on serving the [Roman] Catholic Church and the faithful after revelations that the *man who founded it was a fraud who lived a double life* as a pedophile, womanizer and drug addict? “That is the dilemma facing the Legionaries of Christ, as the conservative religious order started a six-week meeting on Wednesday to write a new constitution and chart a future course that would put the stain of scandal behind it.

“The order once a darling of the Vatican because it *attracted more people to religious vocations and made sizeable financial donations to the Church*, has been in receivership since 2010. “At that point, former Pope Benedict appointed a personal delegate to run it while investigations were carried out and preparations made for upcoming changes.

“The order runs private Catholic schools and charitable organizations in 22 countries via its network of some 950 priests and 1,000 seminarians. It operates a Catholic university in Rome and *its lay movement*, known as *Regnum Christi*, has around 30,000 members. “Father Marcial Maciel, a Mexican who founded the order in 1941, *ran it like a cult rooted in secrecy* [how about the Jesuits?], according to former Legionaries. Members took a special vow promising never to criticize the founder or question his motives. *For decades the Vatican dismissed accusations by seminarians that Maciel has abused them sexually when they were young as 12. Pope John Paul II, who is set to become a saint in May, was a strong supporter*, appreciating the group’s ability to attract more people to clerical life than other religious orders. The order also has many wealthy conservative benefactors who saw it as a bulwark against liberalism in the Church. [“Liberalism” versus gross immorality in “conservatism”?]

“PERSONALITY CULT. - The Legion for *six decades* was a cult of personality built on lies and Maciel’s phenomenal fundraising,’ said Jason Berry, author of ‘Render Unto Rome-The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church’ and who has written extensively on the order. “In 2006, a year after John Paul’s death, a Vatican investigation concluded that the accusations of molestation that had been previously denied were true. Pope Benedict ordered Maciel to retire to a life of ‘prayer and penitence.’ [All others who have been convicted in a court of law and imprisoned!]

“Maciel died in 2008 at the age of 87, and the next year more Church investigations found that he had also fathered several children with at least two different women, visited with his ‘families’ regularly and sent them money for their upkeep. “The order has acknowledged that Maciel, who was also a *morphine addict*, had a ‘prolonged and stable relationship’ with one of the women. The purpose of the gathering, known as a ‘general chapter,’ is to write a new constitution for the order that will allow *to cleanse itself of Maciel’s lingering influence* [?] and elect new leaders. It is due to last at least six weeks. “At a Mass opening the gathering, Cardinal Velasio de Paolis, the papal delegate who oversaw the order for the past three years, said delegates had to find a ‘common path to healing’ and spiritual renewal.’ [Will they repent, confess their sins, and forsake them?]. ‘You have suffered the shame of being accused, viewed with suspicion and of being exposes to public opinion, even within the Church,’ he said. ‘Suffering has purified you, matured you.’ [The perpetrators being called the suffererers? Unbelievable!]

“Critics of the order say those who were close to Maciel had to have known about his *crimes* and should not be involved in decisions of the general chapter, which is being attended by the Legionaries superiors and delegates from around the world. “Some Legionaries still see Maciel as having been wrongly accused. People who left openly called it a cult,’ Berry said. “These issues should be resolved in sustained discussion with help from *trained therapists* [how about referring directly to the Holy Scriptures and the guidance and conviction of the Holy Spirit?]. *Unless the truth becomes a priority, how can you change a movement based on lies?*’ [This should refer directly to the Papacy and the doctrines of the Roman Church!]. “Pope Francis, who has called for a ‘deep renewal’ of the order, will have to approve its new constitution.” (end of news quote)

