

Study for the Month of November 2013

The Papacy Series-Part X

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How the world is wondering after the beast of Revelation 13

Here are recent news updates from the media who are still largely ignorant of the Biblical prophecies on who the beast, antichrist, man of sin, and mystery of iniquity is,---and how, since after 1798, the healing of its near mortal “wound” inflicted by the capture, imprisonment, and death of Pope Pius VI at the hands of General Berthier of Napoleon’s French Republican Army in 538 A.D., 1260 years prior, has progressively been healing, including how “the whole world will wonder after the beast,” not Christ!

“The Francis effect: 5 ways the pope is resuscitating the Catholic Church.”

This was the headline of the news from The Week written by Peter Weber 11/12/2013 on <http://news.yahoo.com/francis-effect-5ways-pope-resuscitating-catholic-church-1407001>. (Notice the word used, “resuscitating”).

“Pope Francis has won converts—at least metaphorically—around the globe. His conspicuous humility, kindness, willingness to engage with critics and admirers alike, apparent lack of verbal inhibitions, and relaxed doctrinal orthodoxy make for a big *stylistic change* his two predecessors and the combined 25 years as pope. Not everyone is a fan of Francis, but the response has been largely, even enthusiastically, positive.

“With an organization as old and structurally conservative as the Catholic Church, it can be hard to measure concrete change. But pope Francis is making such an impression that observers have come up with a name for the impact he’s having on the church [Roman Catholic]: ‘The Francis Effect.’ Here are 5 ways the pope is shaking up the Catholic Church:

“1. The pope is filling back up the pews. Pope Francis is charming non-Catholics, and even atheists, but on Monday Italy’s Center for the Study of New Religions (CENSUR) showed that he’s popular with non-Catholics, too. CENSUR sociologist Massimo Introvigne found that after Francis was elected pope in March, more than half of the 250 priests in Italy he interviewed reported a significant boost to attendance numbers as disenchanted Catholics started to return to mass. ‘If we project those results nationally, and *if only half the parishes and communities in Italy have been touched by the Francis Effect, then we’re talking of hundreds of thousands of people who are returning.*’ Introvigne tells The Guardian. He adds that he noticed a rise in attendance right after Francis was elected, and assumed it might be fleeting, ‘but after six months I got more or less the same result.’ Introvigne tells The Guardian that the Francis Effect is being felt in *Britain*, too, where an impressive 65 percent of 22 cathedrals are reporting fuller pews in the age of Pope Francis

“There isn’t any data available for the U.S. yet. But John Gehring at CNN says in a country where *nearly 1 in 10 Americans is a lapsed Catholic*, you can ‘almost hear the ice cracking around a generation of disillusioned Christians [Roman Catholics, to be accurate] who have had a *hard time finding Jesus frozen under ostentatious ecclesial trappings and hypocritical moralizing* [italics mine].’ Pope Francis can’t refill America’s pews by himself, but ‘against stiff winds he is steering in the right direction,’ Gehring adds.

“If the Catholic Church hopes to inspire lapsed Catholics *and others* to embrace the faith [of Roman Catholicism] with renewed vigor, *it will require a radical return to the essence of Christianity*. Gospel means ‘good news.’ A smiling, good-humored pope stands in stark contrast to those dour-faced religious leaders who *act as gloomy scolds and spy threats around every corner* [CNN].

“2. Francis is taking pruning shears to the Vatican bureaucracy. The Roman Curia, or papal court at the Vatican, is a bureaucrat’s bureaucracy, its ossification and entrenched power legendary. Pope Francis---the first non-European pope in centuries---is taking steps to reduce its reach and clean house [meaning, it has been “dirty” with what?]. First he ramped up transparency at the Vatican’s super-secretive bank, the Institute for Religious Works [what a grand name for a bank!]. He’s also talking about decentralizing power to national bishops’ conferences. ‘The court is the leprosy of the papacy,’ the pope told Italian newspaper La Repubblica in September. With Francis in the Vatican ‘*there is something in the Roman air*,’ says Karl Stuebe at Britain’s Catholic Herald. *Catholic conservatives need not fear that he’ll upend longstanding doctrine*. No, ‘the real effect is that the *Vatican, that hauntingly complex curial closet of secrets*, becoming like a model diocese, abbey, or parish.’ [See Time brief explainer about how the Vatican Bank overhaul might help clean up the papal court:]

“3. Even the name Francis is staging a comeback. Since March, Francesco has become the most popular *baby name* in Italy, according to Enzo Caffarelli at Rome’s Tor Vergata University (Sorry, former No. 1 Lorenzo). Is that really the pope’s doing? Yes, says Caffarelli. ‘The name Francesco is the most popular name in newborns in Italy so far in 2013, and it is evident that the impact of the former Jose Mario Bergoglio is the main contributing factor to the name’s popularity.’

“There’s also been an sizeable uptick in the number of *public places* named for Pope Francis’ namesake, St. Francis of Assisi. Some 300 parks, piazzas, and other public places have been named after San Francesco, bringing the total number in Italy to more than 2,000.

“4. Pope Francis is changing America’s Catholic hierarchy. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is meeting in Baltimore this week to pick a new leader for the next three years. [This news report was dated 11/12/2013]. And ‘the more than 300 prelates will also be looking over their heads—and maybe their shoulders—to the Vatican to gauge what Pope Francis’ dramatic new approach means for their future,’ says David Gibson at Religion News Service. Francis won’t change the U.S. episcopacy overnight, adds Gibson, but he’s already having an impact on the USCCB.

“The so-called ‘Francis Effect’ is showing up in various ways, as *some culture-warrior bishops have moderated their language on gays and shifted their emphasis* to issues

such as immigration. On the other side, bishops who have struggled for years to highlight *the Church's social justice teachings* are getting a new hearing. [RNS].

“On Tuesday, the bishops elected Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky, as their next president, replacing New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Kurtz ‘comes from a background in social work and provision of social services,’ says Joshua J. McElwee at the National Catholic Reporter. Dolan's tenure, by contrast, was marked by fighting the implementation of Obamacare, ‘which the cardinal repeatedly said did not leave enough room for Catholic employers from providing contraceptive services,’ says McElwee.

“5. He writes letters and phones people personally. Pope Francis is famous for unexpectedly calling people up to offer his support, or condolences, or even set up an interview. Here's how Eugenio Scalfari (and an atheist), former editor of Italy's La Repubblica, recalls his first interaction with the pope, over the telephone: ‘I answered, and he simply said: ‘Good morning, its Pope Francis. You wrote me a letter in which you said you would have liked to meet me and get to know me, so here I am. Let's book an appointment. Is Tuesday OK with you? The time is a bit of a pain, 3 PM . . . is that OK?In 60 years of career as a journalist, I interviewed many important people, and I became friends with some of them. But never thought I could feel I would become a friend of a pope. [Scalfari, to NBC News]. But while his proclivity for ringing up random strangers had earned Francis the nickname ‘the Cold Call Pope,’ he also is a pretty proficient pen pal, says Bob Shine at the National Catholic Reporter. In fact, one letter from a Florence-based gay rights group, Kairos, ‘prompted the pope's recent warm remarks on *gay* people,’ Shine adds. If the pope is listening, and responding, ‘*everyone should be writing letters to Rome.*’

“If reaching out to the pope is effective, perhaps it is time for Catholics to reach out to their local leaders, namely, priests and bishops. *Sharing personal stories to replace philosophical constructs* with human faces and relationships *might lead to further conversions*.....Francis' pen-and-paper revolution is truly radical, and transforms hierarchy into personal relationships. It offers each of us a moment to speak to the pope and bishops as if they are our own parish priests [NCR].”

In <http://news.yahoo.com/u-bishops-select-leaders-pope-urges-focus-132216439.html> dated 11/10/2013 by Mary Wisniewski of REUTERS, wrote [emphasis mine]:

“BALTIMORE (Reuters) – U.S. Catholic bishops will choose new leaders at an assembly in Baltimore this week and possibly signal a new direction of the American [Catholic] church under the influence of Pope Francis. The conference begins Monday and *all eyes* will be on whether the new leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops continue vigorous opposition to gay marriage and to ObamaCare's contraceptive mandate or increase their push to help the poor and immigrants given Pope Francis' emphasis on social justice issues.

“The new leaders will also be preparing for an ‘extraordinary synod’ of Bishops in Rome to discuss teachings related to the *family*. The Vatican has asked bishops and parish priests around the world about the local views on gay marriage, divorce, and birth control ahead of the October 2014 meeting.

“‘Bishops have been stuck on the bunker fighting the culture war,’ said John Ghering, who was once in the Conference's communications office and is now Catholic program

director of Faith in Public Life, a liberal advocacy group. 'Pope Francis has said we can't just be known by what we oppose.' In an interview with a *Jesuit journal* published in September, Pope Francis said the church cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and contraception, and become more merciful and risk falling 'like a house of cards.' Russell Shaw, a writer on Catholic issues and a former spokesman for the conference, said he doesn't think the bishops will back off on social issues like gay marriage and abortion, just as Francis has reiterated church teachings on these subjects. *But they may shift their approach.* 'They may make a greater effort to couple what they say about issues like that with messages having a more pastoral tone, putting what they say about the questions of same-sex marriage in a context of authentic and pastoral concern for same-sex couples,' Shaw said.

"The bishops' conference has taken stands for *immigration reform and anti-poverty programs* under the leadership of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan the past three years. But it has been extremely vocal on 'religious liberty' ---protesting the Obama administration's mandate that required Catholic schools and hospitals to carry insurance that provides birth control, forbidden by church doctrine, for free. The push concerned some Catholics, who felt the church leaders had become too aligned with the political right. 'What's been in the foreground has been their campaigns on gay, marriage, abortion and their concerns on the contraceptive mandate,' said *Father Thomas Reese, a writer, who is, like Francis, a Jesuit.*

"THE ELECTION. The conference broke with tradition in 2010, electing the outspoken conservative Dolan to a three-year term as president of the U.S. bishops group over then vice-president Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, who was seen by some as more moderate. Conference observers believe bishops will follow tradition this time and choose the current vice-president, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky. Kurtz is viewed as a reliable conservative who is well-liked and effective. The vice presidency is a more open field, though Reese believes Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, a Mexican-born cleric may have an edge in part because he can speak Spanish, enabling him to speak to Francis without a translator. Reese said Gomez also would prioritize immigration reform, which should please moderates, and is conservative enough for conservatives. Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, chair of the group that has fought the healthcare mandate, and Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, who is known to ride a motorcycle and is considered strong on poverty and immigration issues, also are on the list. (Editing by Bob Burgdorfer)."

DRAMATIZING THE CAUSE OF THE PAPACY

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/pope-francisomafia's-hit-list-06300418.html>

By Thomas Bates, The Week

"Pope Francis has annoyed a lot of people during his eight months in the Vatican. Conservative Catholics have questioned his *commitment to doctrine*. Sarah Palin has blasted him as a liberal. And liberals have condemned him for refusing to endorse female priests and woman's right to abortion.

"Now Il Papa may have made an enemy that is actually dangerous: The mafia. Nicola Gratteri---and Italian prosecutor who has battled southern Italy's shadowy 'Ndraghetta crime syndicate---told the Italian daily Il Fatto Quotidiano that Francis' crackdown on

church corruption has made mobsters 'nervous and agitated.' 'If the bosses could trip him up they wouldn't hesitate,' said Gratteri, according to the Guardian. 'They could be dangerous.' The mafia has a lot to lose in Francis' clean-up. The Vatican Bank, which the pope has pledged to reform, has repeatedly been accused of laundering the mob's money. Some church officials are also suspected of helping crooks clean their cash through favorable property deals. Earlier this week, for instance, police sequestered Rome's luxury Grand Hotel Gianicolo as part of a seizure of more than \$ 200 million in properties and cash linked to the 'Ndrangheta. The hotel, previously a monastery, was allegedly sold to the mafia for \$ 7 million by a religious order in the 19902.

"The mafia that invests, that launders money, that therefore has the real power, is the mafia which has got rich for years from its *connivance with the church*,' said Gratteri. 'These are the people that are getting nervous.' While most mafiosi identify themselves as Catholic---88 percent of jailed Italian mobsters said they were religious in recent survey---that doesn't mean the Pope is safe from reprisals. Indeed the mafia has shown itself to be merciless when dealing with holy men who threaten their business. [How did the papacy deal with the holy people of God during the Dark Ages?].

"Last year, mobsters dumped a severed pig's head on the doorstep of Father Ennio Stamile, who had condemned the local mafia in his weekly sermons. The bloodied animal head was found with a piece of cloth stuffed in its mouth outside the priest's home in southern Italy. The message was clear: stop talking, or else.

"Priests who don't take the mafia's advice can end up paying the ultimate price. In 1993, Father Pino Pugliese, 56, was shot dead outside his church in Palermo, Sicily, after he urged locals to break the code of silence---omerta---and report crimes to the authorities. One of the hit men who gunned down Pugliese, Salvatore Grigoli, later confessed to the crime and revealed that the priest had greeted his killers with the words, 'I have been expecting you.'

"The following year, Father Giuseppe Diana, 36, was gunned down as he put on his vestments to celebrate Sunday mass. His crime? Urging parishioners to shun Naple's Camorra crime gangs. Shortly before his death, he testified to prosecutors investigating ties between the Camorra and local politicians and businessmen, and had *threatened to stop administering sacraments to known gangsters*.

"Okay, so it's still highly unlikely that the mob would take out the world's most famous Christian. But Francis might want to rethink his recent decision to dump his bullet-proof-glass-enclosed Popemobile." (End of quotes from websites and news bulletins)

In the foregoing, **the pope is referred to as "the world's most famous Christian."** In what sense? Biblically, he indeed is the (1) most *infamous* pretender to the office, authority, and mission of the one true Successor or Vicegerent of Christ---the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead or the "Trinity." Now, if this isn't the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, what is it? Let's consider the following:

See Matthew 9: 1-8, K.J. V. In these passages of Scriptures, Jesus heals a paralytic man whose paralysis was evidently the consequence or result of his sins. "And He

entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into His own city. And, behold, *they* brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing *their faith*, Jesus said to him, 'Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.' And behold, certain of the *scribes* said within themselves, **This man blasphemeth.**" And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go into thine house. And he [the healed paralytic] arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men."

There are several important points to be emphasized here: (1) Those who brought the paralytic to Jesus had faith in Him and demonstrated their faith in fact---by acting upon it. They physically bore in their hands their sick friend to Jesus for healing (2) Christ's first act was to recognize their faith by first *dispensing forgiveness to the sick man*, for it is evident that his illness was caused by or was a consequence of his sins. Sin, in the Bible (1 John 3: 4) is clearly defined as "the transgression of God's law"--not man's law, thus, only God can forgive sin. We *trespass* against each other, or we commit a *crime* when we break man-made laws, which, in many cases, are in harmony with the principles of the Decalogue such as the last six commandments, which are our duties to our fellow men. (3) after this Jesus commands the forgiven paralytic "to arise, take up thy bed, and go to thine house." Jesus did not lift the forgiven paralytic to his feet; rather, the forgiven paralytic had to demonstrate more faith—he had to believe, by obedience to Christ's command to raise himself up, take up or roll up his mat, and then *walk* back home, a forgiven and healed man. In another occasion of such healing, Jesus warned the he forgiven and healed person, "Go and sin no more lest a worst thing come to you." Not once saved always saved; not once in grace always in grace. There are definite unchangeable conditions for accepting and retaining God's forgiving and healing grace as promised in the gospel.

On blasphemy: Here the scribes accused Jesus of *blasphemy* --- not because He performed a miracle that only God can but because He *forgave sin*.

First, who were the scribes? A Bible Dictionary says a scribe was either a "1. A professional secretary who sat in the streets, and upon dictation, wrote letters, legal documents, etc., for hire. These scribes are still to be found on the streets in the Orient . . (2) A government official, who either had clerical duties or was a recording minister of state, called "secretary" in the RSV. Several such officers are mentioned by name in the OT . . . 3. A man who copied the Law and other books of the Scriptures (Jer. 8: 8), but more specifically a man who was proficient in teaching and interpreting the Bible. In the modern sense such a man would be called a theologian or a religious scholar. In the NT such a man was sometimes called *nomikos*, 'lawyer' (Matt. 22: 35; Luke 10: 25, etc.), or *nomodidaskalos*, 'teacher of the law' (Acts 5: 34, RSV; 1 Tim. 1:7). The first man to bear the title 'scribe' in this sense was Ezra, 'a ready scribe in the law of Moses' (Ezra 7: 6), who had consecrated himself to study and teach the law of the Lord (v 10). After Ezra's time scribes assumed influential positions among the Jews as teachers of God's Word. By the time of the Maccabees (2d cent. B.C.) they were recognized as an honored profession (1 Macc. 7:12). Some of the most famous scribes of Jewry, such as Hillel, Shammai, and Gamaliel I, lived at the time of Christ's birth and shortly thereafter. They were Pharisees and attempted to adapt the Law of Moses to the times in which they lived, but could not always agree, so different schools of thought developed. The subtle interpretations of the

Pharisees were considered by many to be of equal value to the Law of Moses, and Jesus bitterly denounced the sect's hypocrisy and misinterpretation of Scriptures which led the people astray (Matt. 15:1, 3; 23: 15, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33). Some of the scribes of Christ's day were influential members of the Sanhedrin and shared in the responsibility for His death (Matt. 26: 57-59; cf. chs. 16:21; 27:41). Later, some of these men also turned against the apostles and had a hand in their persecution (Acts 14: 5; 6:12). On one occasion a certain scribe expressed his willingness to follow Jesus (Matt. 8:19). "- *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary, Commentary Reference Series, Vol. 8, art. "Scribe."*

See **Matthew 26: 62-66**: "And the high priest arose, and said unto Him, Answerest thou nothing? What is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held His peace. And the high priest answered and said unto Him. I adjure (command, margin) thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the high hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven [i.e., during the partial or special resurrection, at the opening of the seventh plague Dan. 12: 1, 2]. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath *spoken blasphemy*; what further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard of *His blasphemy*. What think ye? They answered and said, *He is guilty of death.*"

On blasphemy: Here Jesus is accused by the Caiaphas the Jewish high priest and the Sanhedrin, the highest religious court of the Jewish nation, of being guilty of blasphemy not because He did any crime or mischief but because He declared Himself to be Christ, the Son of God, and thus, guilty of death!

See John 10: 22-39. "And it was at Jerusalem the feast of dedication, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then came the Jews round about Him, and said unto Him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But ye believe not, *because ye are not of My sheep*, as I said unto you [see 8: 47]. *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.* My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one. [see Ps. 2: 7]. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from My Father; for which of those works do ye stone Me? *The Jews answered Him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*"

On blasphemy: Here Jesus is accused of blasphemy by the Jews in spite of all the miracles and numberless good works He did for them in the name of His Father in heaven---but because He openly and clearly admitted to be *God Himself*, being an *ordinary man*, i.e., by their blinded perceptions. Furthermore, Jesus told them plainly that they would not believe He was the Christ because they were not of His own sheep, and that His sheep were assured of eternal life and that they would never perish because they were in His hand and in the hands of the Father, thus, no one is able to pluck them out of His hands!

Source: Facts of Faith by Christian Edwardson, (revised ed.) Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, TN., pp. 61, 62: Now, here are but samples of what the papacy,

“The little horn” or Daniel 7: 25 who was “to speak great words against the Most High”: ‘Pope Leo XIII in his ‘Great Encyclical Letters’ says: ‘We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.’ - p. 304. In this encyclical the pope has capitalized all pronouns referring to himself and to God. In a large, authentic work by F. Lucii Ferraris, called “Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica Juridica Moralis Theologica,” printed at Rome, 1800, and sanctioned by the Catholic Encyclopedia (Vol. VI, p. 48), we find the following statements regarding the power of the pope:

“The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man [the Jews accused Jesus of being an ordinary man!], but as it were God, and the vicar of God . . .

“Hence the Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth and the lower regions . . .

“So that it if were possible that the angels might err in the faith, or might think contrary to the faith, they [the angels!] could be judged and excommunicated by the Pope . . .

“The Pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief king of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also of the heavenly kingdom.’ – ‘Quoted in *Source Book*,’ (Revised Edition), pp. 409, 410. Washington, D.C.: 11927

The Catholic Encyclopedia says of the pope:

“The sentences which he gives are to be forthwith ratified in heaven.’—*Vol. XII, art. ‘Pope,’ p. 235.*

Pope Leo XIII says:

“But the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff [not the Holy Spirit, as Jesus Himself declared!]. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of the will to the Church and the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.’—*The Great Encyclical Letters*, p. 193.

Edwardson continues: ‘We leave it with the reader to decide whether or not these are ‘great words.’ St. Alphonsus de Liguori, sainted doctor of the Roman church, claims the same power for the Roman *priests*. He says:

“The priest has the power of the keys, or the *power of delivering sinners from hell, of making them worthy of paradise, and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgments of his priests.* . . . The Sovereign Master of the universe only follows the servant by confirming in heaven all that the latter decides upon earth.”—*‘Dignity and Duties of the Priest,’ pp. 27, 28. New York: Benziger Brothers., Printers to the Holy Apostolic See, 1888.*

Pope Innocent III has written:

“Indeed, it is not too much to say that in view of the sublimity of their offices *the priests are so many gods.*’ --- *Id., p. 36.*

Any true Bible student who loves God in Christ and His Word, Bible scholar or laymen, will shudder at such blasphemous claims!

And the lowly mafia is being trotted out as capable of harming the pope—the alleged vicar of Christ, “God Himself on earth”—so that it is being urged that he travel around in a bullet-proof popemobile??? How did Jesus Christ, God Creator incarnate, travel when on earth? Friends, Jesus humbly walked, and at least on two occasions, rode briefly on a humble ass [as a Babe in His earthly mother’s arms] and on “Palm Sunday” when He entered Jerusalem as king—but not as the Jews and even the disciples expected!! He did not fear any man, any religious or civil institution or organization for He is God in the flesh!

We quote once more from the Spirit of Prophecy below, written in 1884, regarding what we are currently witnessing—the return to power of the papacy!

“Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Romish Church. She can read what is to be. She bides her time, seeing the Protestant churches are paying her homage in their acceptance of the false sabbath, and that they are preparing to employ the very means which she herself employed in the bygone days. Those who reject the light of truth will yet seek they aid of this self-styled infallible power to exalt an institution that originated with her [not from God nor from the Bible]. How readily she will come to the help of the Protestants in this work, it is not difficult to conjecture. Who understands better than popery how to deal with those who are *disobedient to the church*?

“The Christian world will learn what Romanism really is, when it is too late to escape the snare. *She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men.* Throughout the land she is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. She is stealthily and unsuspectingly strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is soon to be given her. In the near future we shall see and we shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whosoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution.” – *E. G. White, Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 4, (1844), p. 397, Review & Herald Publishing Asso., Washington, DC 200039-0555, Hagerstown, MD 21740.*

In the chapter, “Making America Catholic,” Christian Edwardson wrote in 1943: “The Roman hierarchy knew that the older Protestants who had read about the persecutions of the Dark Ages, and who knew of the *inside workings* of the papal church, would never become Catholics. *Rome’s hope lay in capturing the younger generation.* If the papacy could cover up those dark pages of its history, when it waded in the blood of martyrs, and could appear in the beautiful modern dress of a real champion of liberty, as a lover of science, art, and education, it would appeal to the American youth, and the battle would be won. The *Jesuits*, who through years of experience in Europe, have become experts in molding young minds, are now establishing schools everywhere, that are patronized by thousands of Protestant youth. They have also undertaken the delicate task *Romanizing* the textbooks of our *public schools*, and books of reference, in order to cover up their past, and to whitewash the Dark Ages. That Romanists desire to cover up their past record of bloody persecution is acknowledged by that honorable Roman Catholic author, Alfred Baudrillart, Rector of the Catholic Institute of Paris.” (Continued next month)

