

" . . . Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"

The
DISCERNER



Professor
John E.
Dahlin

CONTENTS

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 3

- 2** The Catholic Church and American Politics
- 5** Questions Answered from God's Word
- 7** Scriptural Light on "The Search for Bridey Murphy"
- 11** The Exaltation of Mary by The Roman Catholic Church
- 15** Did You Know?
- 16** Puzzling Questions and Discerning Answers

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND AMERICAN POLITICS

* *John E. Dahlin*

Throughout the 325 years of American History, since the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts, the Roman Catholic Church has been a minority religious organization. During the first 150 years it was negligible in its influence. Even as late as 1815 there were only 100,000 Roman Catholics in the United States. Only one Catholic signed our Declaration of Independence. Of our first great nine institutions of learning, none was Catholic. It is since the middle of the Nineteenth Century that the Roman Catholic Church has gained power and influence in our country. The latest tabulations reveal that we now have about 33 million people here within the fold of Catholicism. While it remains still a minority group in comparison with Protestantism, the fact

is, that it is three times stronger than the largest single Protestant denomination in our country.

In recent months outstanding Catholic Prelates have indicated that they no longer recognize the United States as a Protestant country. It is still necessary however, for the Catholic hierarchy to exercise considerable restraint over here, since the non-Catholic population is five times greater in numbers. But the long record of our Protestant history and heritage is slowly but surely being weakened by a growing Catholic power in the United States.

How is the Catholic Church seeking to gain increasing power and influence in the United States? First of all, it is entirely clear that an attempt is being made through an ever increasing emphasis of its edu-

COVER PHOTO

We introduce in this issue Professor John E. Dahlin of Minneapolis whose picture appears on the front cover. This writer has been a pastor in the mid-west for many years and is now the Chairman of the Department of Political Science at Northwestern College. Professor Dahlin is a member of the Evangelical Free Church, teaches a large Bible class at Park Avenue Covenant Church, and serves in many pulpits as interim pastor and prophetic lecturer.

Last summer Professor Dahlin made an extensive tour of Europe and the Holy Land. This trip, together with his rich experience in the pastoral and educational fields, has made this writer a highly esteemed member of the Religion Analysis Service Board, on which he has been serving these past two years.

educational activity. At the present time there are 4 million Catholics enrolled in their massive public school system. In other words, Catholicism has four times more children and young people enrolled in its school system than all the other non-public schools in this land. Recently the Roman Catholic hierarchy in America issued a manifesto in which it made an impassioned plea for government grants and aid to its 11,000 church schools. This manifesto was so misleading and dangerous that the document was answered by responsible Protestant spokesmen. Should the Catholic Church succeed in securing vast funds, Federal and State, for its educational program, it will cause the expansion of its school system beyond anything we are capable of anticipating. So long as the Catholics are unable to avoid paying for the maintenance of the public schools in addition to their own schools, the burden will continue to be stupendous for them. It is conceivable that their educational program will eventually be recognized, at least to the extent that federal funds will be granted them. Since all church schools in America are pressed for funds, it is possible a change will be made in this respect; if so, the Catholic church will be the greatest beneficiary.

Moreover, the Catholic church is constantly seeking to create a favorable impression upon our government in shaping its political policy favorably to Catholicism everywhere. While it failed to gain an accredited American ambassador to the Vatican, due to unanimous Protestant opposition, it did somehow succeed in securing a Roman Catholic ambassador from the United States to Italy. Roman Catholic influence has been exceedingly effec-

tive in hindering Protestant Missionary Work in all of Latin America. In arguing the point that non-Catholic missions lead to hemispheric disunity, many key persons in the state department have been influenced by this plausible propaganda. Had our government been more unbiased in this respect, Protestant missions would have made bigger headway in all of Latin America. Infiltration of Catholic influence has affected Protestant missions adversely. Even in such lands as Spain and Italy, our government has been pitifully weak in making its weight felt in favor of Americans doing missionary work in such Catholic strongholds. Since these lands have been dependent upon the United States for economic aid, we have never insisted when such aid has been granted, that those Catholic lands reciprocate in granting freedom for our missionary projects in these lands.

In America the Roman Catholics have gained phenomenal political power in many of the great metropolitan centers. Such cities as Chicago and Boston have for a long time been almost exclusively dominated by governments which have been by and large Catholic with respect to the personnel. In these major cities we have very large segments of naturalized citizens who have for the most part come from Catholic areas of Europe. As more of our major cities come under the control of Catholic politicians, so much surer the day will be when eventually we will see a Catholic President in the United States. The shrewdest politician we have in New York now is Governor Averill Harri- man's right hand man, Mr. Sapio, the dyed-in-the-wool Tammany Hall type of politician.

Not only has the Catholic influence been extremely powerful in the great city political machines, but it has infiltrated very strongly into the Democratic Party leadership. The readers of *The Discerner* might be surprised to know this, but it is a rather illuminating fact that every Democratic National Party Chairman since 1928 has been a Roman Catholic. I could name at least ten of them, from Raskob who managed the Catholic Presidential candidate in 1928 to Mr. Butler, the present Democratic Party Chairman. Such leadership is bound to aid the Catholics in their objective of capturing the great prize, the Presidency itself. While all this has happened in three decades, Dr. Gallup's public opinion polls show that the great majority of Americans would vote now for a Catholic for the Presidency, if all his other qualifications were satisfactory. This is significant in view of the disastrous defeat of Al Smith, the Catholic Presidential Candidate in 1928.

The full weight of Catholic influence has been brought to bear on the McCarran-Walters Immigration Act to change it substantially, with the purpose, of course, of opening our gates for hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Catholic countries. On this great issue many Protestant leaders have been blind, and so have some of our honorable Protestant politicians. The argument sounds plausible namely to be willing to aid the needy people (and particularly refugees from certain European countries) in coming to America. But the fact of the matter is, we would then be letting in nearly all Roman Catholics. In scarcely any Protestant country is the limited quota for that country filled to its capacity. The present law, while appearing discriminatory, does keep

the balance between Protestant and Catholic immigrants who are entering our country. A radical change in the Act would bring about a very great influx of Catholics to our country, thus breaking the balance.

Had the Roman Catholic Church manifested more flexibility in its doctrinal views, as well as in its political program, protestants would have had less reason to be alarmed. The fact is, never in Church History has so extreme Catholic doctrines and pronouncements come as in recent generations. A century ago the Pope proclaimed the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Then when Italy became politically unified in 1870, and the Papacy lost power over so-called Papal states, the reigning pope came forth with the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Papacy. And about three years ago the present Pope pronounced officially the doctrine of the Bodily Assumption of Mary into Heaven. And just now at the 80th birthday of the Pope, the international ruler seems to be prepared to come forth with the most extreme of all Catholic Doctrines, namely that of declaring Mary as being the Co-Redeemer with Jesus Christ. It is highly possible that the next Democratic Convention could get into a dead-lock, and if that happens, the most logical candidate of that Party for the Presidency is the popular Roman Catholic of Ohio, who is serving his fifth term as governor of that state. Governor Lausche will be the favorite son candidate at the next Democratic Convention by his own state. The South would accept him because of his conservatism in politics. We may be much nearer than we believe or ever wish to believe to the day when a Catholic will occupy the exalted office of the

(Continued on page 15)

*QUESTIONS ANSWERED FROM GOD'S WORD

1. WHICH IS THE TRUE CHURCH?

The "true church" consists of all those throughout all ages who have had their sins forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ, and who will live forever in heaven with Him. The Bible speaks of these people as being "the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written (enrolled) in heaven." (Hebrews 12:23)

Thus it may be seen that the "true Church" is not a world organization, but rather it is the great fellowship of all those who are united by their common faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of their lives. Peter refers to this fellowship of believers in Christ by addressing his second letter "to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 1:1)

2. WHICH CHURCH IS FOUNDED ON THE ROCK?

The Church founded on the rock is the Church which is founded on Jesus Christ. Peter believed this, for Peter said in his first letter "behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded." (I Peter 2:6) This could refer to no one except Jesus Christ, the Saviour. [For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. I Cor. 3:11]

Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus, who were members of the Church, saying "ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and with the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." (Eph. 2:19-20)

3. HAS THERE EVER BEEN A SINLESS PERSON ON THE EARTH?

Only one! That was Jesus of Nazareth, who was the eternal God made flesh. All others are sinners, and "There is none righteous, no not one." (Rom. 3:10) Jesus Christ is the only spotless, sinless person who has ever walked upon this earth. It is true that Mary, the virgin mother of our Lord, was "highly favored" and "blessed among women," but she too was born of natural generation and even she was a sinner. In Luke 1:47 she said, "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

4. DID JESUS DIE FOR ALL MY SINS?

Yes, for all your sins. If He paid for all your sins, how many are left to be removed by the waters of baptism? None! How many are left to be dealt with by a piece of bread supposed to be transmuted into the body of Christ? None! How many are left to be paid for by your going and suffering for an unspecified time in an imaginary place called Purgatory? None! "The blood of Jesus Christ his (God's) Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7)

* These questions and answers are taken from "20 Questions about Protestants" and "20 Questions on Sin and Forgiveness" booklets, which may be gotten from The National Association of Evangelicals, 1405 G Street N.W., Washington, D.C.

5. HOW MANY SACRIFICES FOR SIN ARE NEEDED?

Anyone who studies the Bible will find the clear teaching that the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Son of God was sufficient to cover the sins of all mankind. In the book of Hebrews we read that Jesus was the "one sacrifice for sins forever." (Hebrews 10:12)

When a person's sins are forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ there can be no further sacrifice for sins, for the Bible clearly states "where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin." (Hebrew 10:18)

6. WHO IS OUR PRIEST?

A priest is one who approaches God to ask forgiveness of sin. It is clear from the Scriptures that Jesus Christ is our priest, being the only one who may approach God with us in behalf of our sins, for He alone has made atonement for our sins through the sacrifice of Himself on Calvary. The Bible says that Jesus has an "unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Heb. 7:24-25)

The Bible states that "Christ being come an high priest . . . obtained eternal redemption for us." (Heb. 9:11-12)

Since Christ is our High Priest the Bible invites us to approach God through Him, "Having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . ." (Heb. 10:21-22)

Furthermore, the Bible declares that, since every believer may approach God freely, and since a "priest" is anyone who approaches God, all believers in a very real sense are priests. John wrote to believers in Christ and clearly stated this fact: "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father . . ." (Revelation 1:5, 6) ["But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood . . ." I Peter 2:9]

7. TO WHOM SHOULD A BELIEVER CONFESS HIS SINS?

To God alone! It is required of a believer to set right a matter with a fellowman whom he may have hurt in his sin, but confession is made to God. There is no place in the Bible where a person is told to confess his sins to an authorized priest for the purpose of obtaining forgiveness. The believer knows only one Priest, and that is Jesus Christ. "We have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God." (Hebrews 4:14) He understands our needs, and through Him we may approach God directly. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15, 16) "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all . . ." (I Tim. 2:5, 6).

Neither human priest, though he be "authorized," nor virgin Mary, though she be "blessed among all women," has any place in the believer's confession. God invites the believer to enter with "boldness . . . into the holiest by the blood of Jesus." (Hebrews 10:19)

In the Bible we read that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I Jn. 1:9)

SCRIPTURAL LIGHT ON "THE SEARCH FOR BRIDEY MURPHY"

• *By Herbert V. Cuneday*

The beginning of this year (1956) has witnessed a great wave of renewed interest in both hypnotism and Spiritism as a result of the much publicized case of the alleged reincarnation of Bridey Murphy. It seems that a certain woman, while under a hypnotic spell, has given utterance to accounts of a supposed previous life lived many years ago over in Ireland. Within certain limits, those accounts seem to have been verified to the satisfaction of this woman, her hypnotist, and multitudes who have read of the incident. Numerous psychologists, psychiatrists, and others have sought to explain the phenomenon.

We are well persuaded that there is much fraud in most of the so-called metaphysical phenomena of our time. Nevertheless, it would be well for us to discern how an event such as this squares with the Word of God, in the event that there is any element of reality in it. A number of years ago the writer found several similar incidents cited in books on Spiritism, and sought then to know what answer the Scriptures have for this perplexing problem. We would like to share with you the light we believe God has given us on this matter.

The fact that similar and even identical accounts are to be found in purely Spiritistic books is worthy of note. The purpose of those records and this current wave of interest is one and the same, namely to establish the doctrine of the transmigration of souls and the reincar-

nation of persons who formerly lived. Needless to say, this does not stand in agreement with the Bible.

It is very important for us to sense that hypnotism is an occult phenomenon and more closely akin to Spiritism than most discerning folks have suspected. The imposed trance state found in hypnotism and the self-induced trance in the Spiritistic seance are both abnormal conditions of physical unconsciousness, and are not the same as the unconsciousness of normal sleep. In hypnosis, the hypnotic operator is said to be in vocal rapport (contact) with the subconscious mind of the person in the trance. In Spiritism, the medium is in a similar trance, while a being from the spirit world establishes vocal rapport with the spectators in the seance chamber. In both cases, the vocal organs of the unconscious person give utterance to the thoughts that are to be conveyed to the observers.

Confining our discussion to the Spiritistic trance medium for a moment, there is a very important question to be answered from the Word of God. Is that vocalizing spirit a disembodied (dead) person or is it another kind of spirit? Our glorified Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, declared in Revelation 1:18 (R.V.), "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold I am alive forevermore, amen; and have the keys of hades and of death." Death holds the bodies of men. Hades holds the souls of the lost dead. Jesus Christ holds the keys to both; and none of the souls of the dead are free to communicate with the

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living as Spiritism would have us believe.

A peek behind the veil of death in Luke chapter 16 shows us what prohibitions are binding upon the souls of both the saved and the lost after the death of the body. There, we are unmistakably told that the rich man knew he could not himself reach the ears of his brothers to warn them of their peril. Also we note that he was plainly told that only a resurrection would make it possible for Lazarus to leave paradise for that purpose. There is no suggestion nor slightest hint that Lazarus could appear in a seance to convey that message. That rich man had a burning word of warning for his living brothers; but it has never yet been heard in any seance. Here is proof that truth does not come through this nefarious channel.

If the departed dead cannot communicate with the living in the seance, then we are faced with another vital question. Who are the intelligent spirits that do carry on this traffic? The Scriptures call these spirits "demons" (Mark 1:32-34 R.V.). They are the agents of Satan, the great liar and deceiver. Satan is the greatest counterfeiter in the universe. He has myriads of evil angels and demons at his command. With these, he seeks to imitate the ministry entrusted to holy angels of God. The holy angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be the heirs of salvation" (Heb. 1:14). They guard, strengthen, encourage, and assist the believer on his pilgrim journey. As the arch-enemy of the souls of men and the great imitator of God, Satan has his evil angels whom he assigns to become familiar with the lives of men to harass, weaken, malign, discourage, and vex them. Thus he

seeks to hinder their salvation and accomplish their damnation. That assigned spirit or demon may continue to be familiar with a person from the cradle to the grave. We should note that the person himself may cultivate a familiarity with the demon to the point that he develops mediumistic powers. That individual then becomes what the Bible calls, "one that hath a familiar spirit" (Lev. 19:31). In modern Spiritism, that spirit is called a "control" or "guide." The Mosaic Law demanded the death penalty for this sin of necromancy (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 20:27; Deut. 18:11).

In the seance chamber, these demons take control of the medium and impersonate any deceased person with whom they have been familiar. Thus the sorrowing mother, wife, husband, sweetheart, or others are persuaded that they have been in actual contact with their departed loved ones. This diabolical deception has but one purpose, namely the enslaving and destruction of the souls of those who will give heed to these seducing spirits.

Now we have the key to understanding the truth about the "Search for Bridey Murphy." The hypnotist in the case has thought that he was in contact with the subconscious mind of his subject. In reality his entranced subject has shifted from an ordinary hypnotic trance into a mediumistic trance in which she has become the channel for a demon who was familiar years ago with the life of one he calls "Bridey Murphy." Now recounting the events of the life of that Irish woman, this demon has persuaded thousands of people that Bridey Murphy is reincarnated in the life of a woman who lives today in our own land. We should note that the most recent investigations by competent and im-

partial persons, have established the fact that the case is marked by conspicuous discrepancies and vagueness. This runs true to form in the work of impersonating demons. At times they are able to accurately divulge minute trivia, only later to indulge in the most exasperating vague generalities and inaccuracies. Nevertheless, the Bridey Murphy deception has fastened itself upon the hearts of thousands of intelligent persons. The fact that the book is a best seller, and that recordings of the audible conversations are in heavy demand, bears eloquent testimony to the truth of that statement.

God's Holy Word of Truth declares that just such things as this will be common occurrences as we approach the end of this age. In I Tim. 4:1, 2 we read, "Now the (Holy) Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (Demons, see margin); speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." This case of Bridey Murphy is a classic example of "doctrines of demons" operating on an international scale.

Reincarnation is not a doctrine that is the product of the human mind; but is a Satanic lie concocted in the heart of the "father of lies"—Satan. And it is taught directly to men by his lying spirits through the mouths of those who yield themselves to his diabolical control. Yes, demons use the vocal organs of men and women (without their aid) to speak and teach Satan's counterfeit of the new birth. If the Devil can persuade men that they will be re-born again, and again, and again, and be given repeated opportunities to better themselves, then he has effectively closed their ears to the one

message of salvation as it fell from Jesus' lips when He said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Remember that Satan has his false doctrine to oppose every true doctrine set forth in the Bible.

This same "doctrine of demons" was implanted in India long centuries ago. It is the central teaching of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Brahmanism. Any ant, bug, fly, rat, bird, beast, or fish must not be killed since any such creature might be a reincarnation of some dead relative. Their only heaven is the vain hope of breaking out of the endless cycle of rebirths (called karma into a state of oblivion or absorption into deity (known as Nirvana). In reality, America is being Satanically deceived by the ancient heathenism of India, clad in modern garb. Calling it by a respectable name does not change the fact that it is one of the "Doctrines of demons."

Truly, there is an increasing need for a clarion call to "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1). The conflict of the ages advances apace. The return of our Lord Jesus Christ draweth nigh. So also are we approaching the great day of Satan's globe-girdling deceptions, when with all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness" (I Thes. 2:9, 10), he will deceive the very elect if it were possible. These are days to be spiritually awake and alert.

We venture to say that the Bridey Murphy case may well be but the beginning of a series of spectacular demonic teaching missions to be given free publicity through radio, television, and the public press. Now that this case has had such wide

acclaim and the American public has been conditioned for more detailed "doctrines of demons," we may expect more of Satan's lessons that will serve to clinch the doctrines already taught. Satan will not be content with having his scholars learn only his elementary lesson. He will desire to teach his "advanced course" on this subject by bringing to public attention some person who can retell the events of several previous existences. Then, those who have almost accepted his first lesson will be convinced by the ones that follow.

The writer has read previews of that advanced course. We remember the case of a girl who, under hypnosis, traced her life in reverse through three previous "lives." In each "life" she was supposedly born in a different country—twice a woman, and once as a Frenchman who had committed murder. The span of each life followed in consecutive sequence. There had been birth, infancy, childhood, youth, adulthood, old age, and death; followed by a rebirth, infancy, and a complete repetition of the cycle into the fourth supposed reincarnation. Does this multiplication of Bridey Murphy's history prove the theory of reincarnation? To some persons it might seem to be conclusive evidence. But even Satan's lie multiplied by itself, does not become the truth. Here again, is the same principle in operation which we have seen in the Bridey Murphy case. Here is one demon speaking through a hypnotized girl and telling of three persons' lives to which he had previously been assigned, and now reviewed through the lips of this fourth person for the deception of his listeners. There is an answer of truth for everyone of Satan's lying wonders. No one need grope in

darkness, nor buy the Devil's counterfeit when God's currency of truth, and His light of life is to be had for the asking. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Reincarnation finds no support from the Scriptures. On the contrary, the Word of God is very plain in stating that, "It is appointed unto men *once to die*, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). For the sinner there is one birth, one life in the flesh, one death of the flesh, one judgment, and one endless eternity of woe in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8). But the one who receives the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, is "born again, not of corruptible seed; but by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:23). This is the genuine and only "new birth," without which no man can see the kingdom of God.

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THE EXALTATION OF MARY BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

By Rev. John Ingram and Lowell Davey

Satan's diabolical hand is clearly seen in his ancient manner of counterfeiting the teachings of God, our Heavenly Father. This counterfeiting is very often so clever that only the trained theological mind can detect the imitation of truth. A counterfeit dollar bill passes through many hands before it is recognized by the trained eyes of the police service.

Nullifying God's Word

Every false cult has one thing that is common to all. They lure the unwary seekers of truth with promises of Bible study and then they begin to indoctrinate them with teachings that are found in books of their own making. Is it any wonder that God has placed His warning throughout the Bible that no one is to add to it or take away from it. This warning is found in the beginning of His Word (Deut. 4:2), in the middle of His Word (Pro. 30:6) and at the end of His Word (Rev. 22:18). "Add thou not unto His Words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." (Pro-30:6) Yes, if God has a Book; you can be sure Satan will bring out a forgery of it. Think for a moment of Mormonism's "Book of Mormon"; Christian Science's "Science and Health," and Seventh Day Adventism's various writings by its founder, Mrs. White, just to name a few of the better known imitations of God's Word.

By Tradition

The Jews had their false writings in the Talmud which Christ rejected as traditions that nullified the Holy Scriptures. (Matt. 15). And like the Jews, the Roman Catholic religion has also nullified the commandments of God by her traditions—especially the traditional teachings about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Let us notice first the truth and then its counterfeit. The Word of God teaches that Jesus Christ, our Lord was conceived by the Holy Ghost, thereby not receiving the sinful nature of man inherited from Adam; that He lived a sinless and virgin life upon this earth for thirty-three years and then died on the cross as our Redeemer; and that after three days He rose from the grave and ascended into heaven where He is now seated on His throne as the great Mediator between God and man. (1 Tim. 2:5). Satan started early to imitate and counterfeit these truths of our Savior and from the fifth century until the present time, he has succeeded by the traditions of men in deceiving many millions of Roman Catholic souls (450 million in the world) into believing that Mary was conceived without sin, and lived a sinless and virgin life all her days, and that SHE died and later was assumed into heaven, body and soul, to sit on the throne prepared for HER as QUEEN of HEAVEN and MEDIATRIX OF MEN. Let us read a verification of this: "From her retirement in John's house, by constant supplication, the Blessed Virgin prepared for the role which, soon, ON HER THRONE OF GLORY in heaven, she would exercise much more fully as UNIVERSAL MEDIATRIX." ("A Life of Mary, Co-Redemptrix" by Peter A. Resch, S.M. S.T.D. Copyright, 1954,

The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis., Pages 85 and 91.) Certainly only one whose mind has been darkened by Satan would write such sacrilegious words as these.

Immaculate Conception

Let us take these false teachings about Mary one by one and see what the Church Fathers and the Scriptures have to say. First of all the Immaculate Conception: This is not the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, but rather the teaching that Mary was conceived without sin. The Roman Catholic laity are surprised to learn that this was made a Dogma of the Church as recently as 1854 A.D. A Dogma is supposed to be a divinely revealed truth, but a study of the history of this teaching shows otherwise. The Scriptures say that God is a God of peace and not of disorder (I Cor. 14:33). Yet in reading the Catholic Encyclopedia on this article, this is what we find: "In 1493 the DISPUTE was brought before the Council of Basile where the University of Paris, formerly opposed to the doctrine, proved to be its most ardent advocate asking for a dogmatical definition."

"After it had been DISCUSSED for the space of TWO YEARS before that assemblage, the bishops declared the Immaculate Conception to be a doctrine which was pious, consonant with Catholic worship, Catholic faith, right reason and Holy Scripture nor," said they, "was it henceforth allowable to preach or declare to the contrary." And here again we find: "But the attempts to introduce it officially, provoked CONTRADICTION and THEORETICAL DISCUSSION, bearing upon its legitimacy and its meaning, which were continued for centuries and were NOT DEFINITELY SETTLED BEFORE 1854." Isn't it strange indeed that they would admit that such arguing and bickering continued for centuries? But these are well known historical facts that could not be denied.

Opposition of the Church Fathers

Stranger yet, we find that some of her greatest Church Leaders and theologians would not accept this unscriptural teaching. For instance, this is what they admit about Saint Thomas Aquinas: "St. Thomas at first pronounced in favor of the doctrine in his treatise of the 'Sentences,' yet in his 'Summa Theologia' HE CONCLUDED AGAINST IT." "His great difficulty appears to have arisen from the doubt as to HOW SHE COULD HAVE BEEN REDEEMED IF SHE HAD NOT SINNED? This difficulty he raised in no fewer than TEN PASSAGES in his writings." St. Thomas had plenty of company in his disagreement with the Church because "St. Peter Damian, Peter the Lombard, Alexander of Hales, St. Bonaventure and Albert the Great ARE QUOTED AS OPPOSING IT." These great Roman Catholic scholars of the past would be branded as heretics if they were living today or else they would have to bow the knee to the "infallible" Pope of Rome. (These quotations taken from Catholic Encyclopedia Vol. VII, article "Immaculate Conception.")

Opposition of Scripture

(All Scripture Quotations from the Roman Catholic Confraternity New Testament). Since these Church Fathers were great students of the Scriptures they could not help being convinced that this teaching of Mary's sin-

lessness was false. The Word of God plainly states that "ALL have sinned." "There is NONE who does good, no, not even one" (Romans 3:10, 23). This would include our Lord Himself if God did not reveal that "He knew nothing of sin" (II Cor. 5:21) and "He did not sin" (I Peter 2:23). By the very holy and blessed life and ministry of our wonderful Lord we could easily infer that He alone was sinless. But the Holy Spirit does not leave it to our inference but rather plainly stated the sinlessness of our Savior. If Mary was sinless, why didn't the Holy Spirit reveal this doctrine JUST AS PLAINLY? And why would He wait until the "infallible" Pope of Rome made it the official teaching after centuries of arguing, bickering, and great confusion among the most brilliant minds of the ages? It is interesting to note what Mary herself has to say about her need of a Savior. In Luke 1:43 she says: "I glory in God my *Savior*." Mary could have said that she gloried in God her *Creator*, or *Heavenly Father*, but she used the title that shows her salvation from sin. As the Scripture says: "Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matt 1:21). The sinlessness of Mary, if it were true, would detract from the glory of God. The Lord Jesus was the FIRST AND THE ONLY person to be free from all sin and the Scripture says, "That in ALL things He might have the pre-eminence" (Col. 1:18 King James Version) or as the Roman Catholic Bible words it, "That in ALL things He may have the FIRST place." Naturally, since Mary was born before Jesus, *SHE* would have been the first sinless person upon this earth if we were to accept the teaching of the Immaculate Conception. And finally the Scripture states that we must pass through death because we have sinned. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23 and Romans 5:12). If Mary had not sinned, then why did she receive the wages of sin? Why did she die? There are only two exceptions to this rule and the Word of God clearly states who they were: Enoch (Gen. 5:24) and Elijah (I Kings 2:11 or the 4th book of Kings in Douay Version). Again, if Mary were an exception, God's Word would clearly tell us. Therefore, we can easily see why many of the Church Fathers rejected the Immaculate Conception story.

Yes, Satan's work of counterfeiting the truths of our holy Faith is seen clearly by comparing the Bible's teaching about Christ and the Roman Church's teachings about Mary. Let us compare:

TRUTH	IMITATION
Was Christ CONCEIVED without sin?	So was Mary. (Before Him)
Was Christ SINLESS?	So was Mary. (Before Him)
Was Christ EVER-VIRGIN?	So was Mary. (Before Him)
Did Christ HEAL?	So did Mary. (Lourdes)
Did Christ perform MIRACLES?	So did Mary. (Fatima)
Did Christ APPEAR to men after his death?	So did Mary. (St. Bernadette)
Did Christ RISE from the dead?	So did Mary. (Assumption of Mary)
Did Christ bodily ASCEND into heaven?	So did Mary. (Assumption of Mary)
Does Christ SIT on a throne?	So does Mary. (Her Coronation)

Does Christ PRAY for us?	So does Mary. (Mediatrice)
Does Christ MEDIATE for us?	So does Mary. (Mediatrice)
Is Christ KING?	So is Mary Queen.
Is Christ our MERCY?	So is Mary.
Is Christ our LIFE?	So is Mary.
Is Christ our HOPE	So is Mary.
Is Christ our ADVOCATE?	So is Mary.

Let us document these claims by a quotation from the "Hail Holy Queen," a prayer known to all Roman Catholics:

Hail, Holy *QUEEN*, Mother of *MERCY*,
 Our *LIFE*, our sweetness, and OUR *HOPE*.
 To THEE do we cry,
 Poor banished children of Eve,
 To THEE do we send up our sighs,
 Mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
 Turn then, MOST GRACIOUS *ADVOCATE*,
 Thine eyes of mercy toward us.
 And after this our exile, show unto us
 The blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus
 O CLEMENT, O LOVING, O SWEET VIRGIN MARY.

What amazing blasphemy against the teachings of Almighty God! We repeat, God's Word says that in *ALL* things Christ must have *first* place in doctrine and devotion. But wait! Can the leaders of the Roman Catholic system go further? Could they add blasphemy to blasphemy by their amazing non-scriptural claims of Mary's position in regards to mankind? Yes they could and they have! Now they are preparing the world for the monstrous claim that "WITH CHRIST SHE REDEEMED the human race"!!!! This can be verified by quoting the "infallible" Pope Benedict XV who said: "With her suffering and dying Son, Mary endured suffering and almost death. She gave up her Mother's rights over her Son to procure the salvation of mankind and to appease the divine justice. She, as much as she could, immolated her Son, so that one can truly affirm that TOGETHER WITH CHRIST SHE HAS REDEEMED THE HUMAN RACE." (As quoted by William G. Most in "Mary in Our Life." Page 21, P. J. Kennedy & Sons, Pub. Co.). Is it any wonder that Rome's theologians and devotional writers can now go to such ridiculous extremes as to say: "The short way to give God the greatest glory and to achieve personal holiness is THROUGH Mary, BY Mary, IN Mary, and FOR Mary." ("The Queen's Way" by Sister Mary Amatorao O.S.F. Copyright 1954; J. S. Paluch Co., Chicago, Ill., page 13.) We just stand back amazed and say with our blessed Lord, "FATHER FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."

Is it not true that we Christians should inform the poor, misguided people? For more material to enable you to witness to Roman Catholics, send for the booklets: "A Message to Roman Catholics" and "Catholic Bible Teaching About Mary" by the author, Rev. John Ingram. (902 Hennepin Avenue,) Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Price of each is twenty cents.)

The Catholic Church and American Politics

(Continued from page 4)

Presidency of the United States of America.

In politics, Roman Catholics are far more aggressive and determined than the Protestants have been. Their capacity to infiltrate into key positions in our principal Departments of the Government is nothing less than amazing. While no one in

the Protestant camp wishes to curtail the legitimate freedom of Catholics to maintain their religious practices in our country, it still behooves each one of us to be more realistic in these matters, so that a totalitarian system of religion won't overshadow our free Democratic Institutions of America.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Gordon Fraser

A chapel for the perpetual adoration of the virgin is maintained in Quebec City by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary?

White robed nuns of this order, in groups of four kneel in adoration of Mary in thirty-minute shifts day and night?

This has been perpetuated without a break since 1900?

DID YOU KNOW:

Laval University in Quebec is one of the oldest colleges in America? It is named after the first Catholic bishop of the Province?

It was organized as a seminary for priests in 1663 and was chartered by Pope Pius IX in 1876?

It houses the law school where every practising attorney in the province must attend?

DID YOU KNOW:

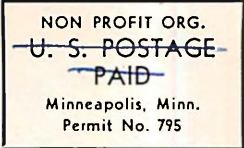
Self service wayside shrines to the virgin are commonplace in Quebec province?

Turnouts are provided for parking so that the tourist may purchase and light a candle for the virgin?

Shrines to Mary are conveniently located throughout the department stores of Quebec province?

The Catholic town of Lachute, Quebec, allows a protestant mayor to be elected periodically?

The present protestant mayor was threatened with impeachment in the summer of 1955 for insisting that the Union Jack be flown over the Papal Flag in the city park during a Catholic festival?



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PUZZLING QUESTIONS AND DISCERNING ANSWERS

By Pastor "Mac"

QUESTION—*Is it wrong for a Christian girl to go with a Catholic boy?*

ANSWER—I must be honest and say to you that it is not wrong, but I must also say that it is not wise! It may help you to know what our Catholic friends have to say about mixed marriages . . . "The Catholic church does not like her children to marry those who are not Catholics . . . Nor will she allow these marriages to take place at all until a solemn promise has been made by the two persons, the Protestant as well as the Catholic: First, that the Catholic, whether man or woman, shall have the fullest and freest use of the Catholic religion, and shall in no way be hindered from practicing it by the Protestant; secondly, that all the children of both sexes shall be baptized by a Catholic Priest, taken to the Catholic church, sent to the Catholic school, and in every way taught and trained in the Catholic faith; thirdly, that the Catholic shall never cease praying and using all other wise and lawful means for the conversion of the Protestant." (Extract from a Roman Catholic pamphlet, "Mixed Marriages," by Rev. G. Bampfield—International Catholic Truth Society, 407 Bergen St., Brooklyn II, N. Y.)

You can plainly see from this that you have nothing more than a "one way street." These facts must be faced early in your courtship days before your relationship becomes serious. I wonder also if you are acquainted with the ante-nuptial agreement to be signed by the non-Catholic party in a mixed marriage? This is a very serious agreement to sign and is just as legal as if you signed a deed to a piece of property! Here it is . . .

I, the undersigned, not a member of the Catholic Church, wishing to contract marriage with _____, a member of the Catholic Church, propose to do so with the understanding that the marriage bond thus contracted is indissoluble, except by death. I promise on my word and honor that I will not in any way hinder or obstruct the said _____, in the exercise of _____ religion and that all children of either sex born of our marriage shall be baptized and educated in the Catholic faith and according to the teaching of the Catholic Church, even though the _____ should be taken away by death. I further promise that I will marry _____ only according to the marriage rite of the Catholic Church; that I will not either before or after the Catholic ceremony, present myself with _____ for marriage before a civil magistrate or minister of the gospel.

Signature _____
Signed in the presence of Rev. _____
Place _____ Date _____

This really puts you in a straitjacket. I have never known a Catholic boy or girl who was willing to sign such an agreement in favor of the non-Catholic. If you are a real Christian girl who desires to please the Lord and be obedient to His Word, you could never sign such a marriage agreement!