

The Church Has Never Been Larger

Many state that we cannot be the true Church, because we have so few followers. At one time it appeared there were only a very small number. There are several answers to this question. First of all, the Catholic Church has never been larger. Most of us forget our basic catechism. The Church consists of three parts, the Church Triumphant in Heaven, the Church Suffering in Purgatory and the Church Militant on earth. When we die, we join one of two churches, the Catholic Church in heaven or purgatory or the Satanic Church in hell. As Saint Augustine points out the his City of God, there are two groups on earth and thus two groups in the next life. Here on earth he calls us the *City of God* and the world, the *City of Satan*. This may be why Saint Paul reminds us: *And be not conformed to this world: but be reformed in the newness of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and the acceptable and the perfect will of God.* ¹ And so let us take heart that we are in a large church.

But should it bother us that so few accept the truth? The answer is, absolutely not, except for the pain that unbelief causes Almighty God. *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who is against us?* ² I would rather be alone with God with six and a half billion people against me, than have these six and a half billion people with me against God. It is worldly thinking that there is *safety in numbers*. This principle holds true when swimming, not with the major decisions of our life. Our decision to be with God is our own and should be influenced by anyone else in the world. Saint Paul goes further: *But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach a gospel to you besides that which we have preached to you, let him be anathema.* ³

Saint Augustine says: ⁴“*Many a time have they fought against me from my youth up*” (ver. 1). *The Church speaketh of those whom She endureth: and as if it were asked, "Is it now?" The Church is of ancient birth: since saints have been so called, the Church hath been on earth. At one time the Church was in Abel only, and he was fought against by his wicked and lost brother Cain.(4) At one time the Church was in Enoch alone: and he was translated from the unrighteous.(5) At one time the Church was in the house of Noah alone, and endured all who perished by the flood, and the ark alone swam upon the waves, and escaped to shore.(6) At one time the Church was in Abraham alone, and we know what he endured from the wicked. The Church was in his brother's son, Lot, alone, and in his house, in Sodome, and he endured the iniquities and perversities of Sodom, until God freed him from amidst them.(7) The Church also began to exist in the people of Israel: She endured Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The number of the saints began to be also in the Church, that is, in the people of Israel; Moses and the rest of the saints endured the wicked Jews, the people of Israel. We come unto our Lord Jesus Christ: the*

¹Romans 12:2

²Romans 8:31 ³

Galatians 1:8

⁴on the Psalms (128):

Gospel was preached in the Psalms. (8) ... For this reason, lest the Church wonder now, or lest any one wonder in the Church, who wisheth to be a good member of the Church, let him hear the Church herself his Mother saying to him, Marvel not at these things, my son: "Many a time have they fought against me from my youth up." Notice there were times, when the Church was reduced to a **single individual**.

And we have been warned of a time when men *will not endure sound doctrine*, ⁵ that is, they will abandon the Church! The Prophet Isaias speaking of our time says: *And they that remain of the trees of his forest shall be so few, that they shall easily be numbered, and a child shall write them down.* ⁶ And Saint Athanasius, consoling his people, who were suffering under the Arian persecution, tells us: *Even if Catholics faithful to Tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Jesus Christ.* And what better consolation can there be than to be a member of the True Church? The only thing better would be to be infallibly certain we were going to Heaven.

We cannot become prideful, thinking *I am a Catholic, I have Heaven insured to me.* Let us remember that there are two classes of people, Catholic and non-Catholics. We must number ourselves among the Catholics. Among the Catholics there are two classes, the Church Militant and the Church Comfortable. ⁷ The first are living the Catholic way of life sufficiently to obtain heaven. The Church Comfortable have decided it is enough to call oneself a Catholic, nothing much further is needed. These are on the slippery slope to hell. And remember the worst places in hell are reserved for unfaithful Catholics. The only worse places are for unfaithful clergy.

And it is not enough to call oneself *Catholic* to be Catholic. There are many who call themselves *Catholic*, but have none of the marks of a Catholic. A Catholic first of all is baptized, but Baptism alone does not save us. Baptism makes us subjects of Jesus' Church, but if we do not submit ourselves to that Church, then we are not really Catholics, no matter what we may call ourselves. And this submission is two fold. First of all we must believe everything Jesus teaches us through His Church without question. Secondly we are required to be submissive to Jesus' representative on earth, the Pope, and associate with the other members of the Church in submission to the Pope. These minimums make us Catholic, but do not insure us of salvation. The next step is that we must live the Catholic Way of Life to the point that we avoid mortal sin and repent if we commit mortal sin. So let us join the Catholic Church in full submission to Jesus and His Vicar, the Pope. Let us also join the Church Militant and take up our cross daily and follow Jesus!

All the holy Fathers agree that after the death of antichrist the whole world will be converted, and although some of them assert that the world will last but a few days after his death, while others say a few months, some authorities insist that it will continue to exist many years after. St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Vincent Ferrer, St. Francis of Paula, and a number of other saints have predicted this ultimate universal conversion. ⁸ We cannot wait until the *universal conversion* for the world may end tomorrow.

⁵II Timothy 4:3

⁶Isaias 10:19

⁷The term *church comfortable* was coined by Pope Michael in his ebook [Truth Is One](#), which every Catholic should read and study. www.TruthIsOne.Homestead.com/downloadpage.html ⁸Saint John Eudes, page 319, [The Admirable Heart of Mary](#).

What, the world will end tomorrow. The world as a whole cannot end, *until all these things be accomplished.*⁹ However, when we die, the world will end in regard to us. Let us think in the morning, that we are not promised the evening and at night, we are not promised the morning. That day will come, when we must make an accounting of our whole lives. This is why we cannot put off our *conversion* until tomorrow, for we may not have tomorrow!

Until God inspires this universal conversion, let us work towards this goal in every way God presents to us.

Pope Michael

June 3, 2005

Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

⁹We cannot find the reference, but this was said of Jesus' Passion.