

THE PROBLEM WITH SHOWING CATHOLIC PRIESTS REALLY HAVE AUTHORITY

The Catholic Church says that the apostles got power to make priests and bishops from Jesus and they in turned ordained people and they ordained others and so on to the present day. Outside of this chain no valid ordination takes place. It says ordination is a sacrament.

The New Testament says that only a prophet can call a man to be a priest. Aaron was called that way. "No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." (Hebrews 5:4). Roman Catholic priests feel called but that means nothing. It does not mean they really are called.

Just as the Church has found that many marriages are invalid – and these are the few it was able to know about – obviously there must be invalid ordinations as well. The Council of Trent made it official Catholic teaching that a sacrament can only be conferred by intending to at least do as the Church does. "If anyone shall say that intention, the intention at least to do what the Church does, is not required in ministers while performing and giving the sacraments then let him be accursed" (Session VII, Canon 11). So an unbelieving bishop can validly make new bishops as long as his intention is this: "I don't believe this stuff but if there is anything in it then I intend to make this man a true bishop and give him grace." Obviously, then ordinations done by a bishop like this should be repeated to be on the safe side. What if because of his unbelief he can't intend to consecrate? What if he thinks, "What a superstition this rite is! I am so sure there is no power in it and I can't give any and I don't even intend to." Can you trust a man who goes through the motions to have a suitable intention?

The Roman Catholic Church decreed with Pope Leo XIII that since Anglican bishops though intending to ordain priests didn't believe in ordaining priests to celebrate Mass the ordinations were invalid. For Roman Catholics, Anglican bishops and priests are really not ordained at all. The Catholic Church re-ordains them unconditionally as if there is no doubt that the orders they got before were fake.

The decree would imply that unbelievers cannot give real sacraments. The Church says they cannot give real ordination. Inconsistently, though it may recognise their baptisms.

There is nothing the Church can do to guarantee that you are getting a real sacrament. The Church says that it trusts in God to protect her from such disasters as ministers giving invalid ordinations. When God lets the Church be bothered with invalid marriages and lets it be fooled by false popes why be so sure? The Church has admitted to excommunicating people and groups unfairly causing grave division in the Church by its invalid excommunications. This does even worse damage than the consecration of fake priests and fake bishops.

Suppose somebody is invalidly baptised. If that person becomes a priest or bishop that person will not be a true priest or bishop. Church law is that the sacraments can only be validly received by a baptised person. If a priest is invalidly ordained he cannot become a valid bishop for it is necessary to be a priest first. The doctrines surrounding the sacrament of ordination are so ridiculous that one must question the sanity or normality of any man that becomes a priest.

Protestant baptisms cannot be valid in the eyes of honest Catholics. A valid baptism must be done with the intention to let God put grace into the child. Even an atheist or Jew can do this. Not believing in God does not mean you can't think, "I am totally sure I am right that there is no God. But if there were I would want this rite to let him help the child with his grace." Protestantism consecrates the child to the doctrine of total depravity which means the child is not being consecrated for God. Thus the many priests and bishops of the Catholic Church who had been baptised as Protestants are not really ordained at all.

FINALLY

We can be sure that the Catholic priesthood as created quite a mythology around itself in the pursuit of social standing and glory. But that is all it is: lies and mythology.

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