

**Mary's School of Prophecy**  
**The Church and the Scandal of Sexual Abuse**  
**By Pope Benedict XVI – Pt 4**

On this program this afternoon which is January 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, we will continue our study of Pope Benedict's what I call his encyclical and here is the title of it, "The Church and the Scandal of Sexual Abuse by Pope Benedict XVI". I think he published this, this past summer and it got quite a bit of attention at the time, and I had meant to do a program on it then, but I never got around to it, but I thought it would be a good thing for us to study it here on Mary's School of Prophecy. And we have looked at the first two sections, and so we will start his third section on this program. The first section was a discussion about how the sexual revolution took over the entire world in the 60's and leading up even until today. Then in the second part he talked about how it affected the Church and the priests in the seminaries and so on. I believe in this third part he is going to offer a few suggestions for solutions.

Well first of all we have to say our prayer. We always say a prayer to Our Lady of All Nations. She is the Protectress of this class. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now Your Spirit over the earth. Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations that they may be preserved from degeneration, disaster and war. May the Lady of all Nations, the Blessed Virgin Mary be our Advocate, Amen. And as I always find out, Our Lady of All Nations proves that Mary is not a globalist; all nations plural.

So I think we will now start. We will look at the next verse. This is the beginning of his part 3 now, and I believe Pope Benedict is going to give some possible solutions to the problem of the Church which many priests failed in their temptations of the sexual revolution, which of course we all know, and in a way we can look at it as a good thing, because we got the rotten apples out of the bushel. So here is what I call paragraph 52.

52 What must be done? Perhaps we should create another Church for things to work out? Well, that experiment has already been undertaken and has already failed. *(I believe Pope Benedict was referring to the Protestant Reformation here.)* Only obedience and love for our Lord Jesus Christ can point the way. So let us first try to understand anew and from within [ourselves] what the Lord wants, and has wanted with us.

Now he doesn't explain here what happens if the Pope takes the Church away from us. He is not considering that possibility. So let's look at the next paragraph.

53 First, I would suggest the following: If we really wanted to summarize very briefly the content of the Faith as laid down in the Bible, we might do so by saying that the Lord has initiated a narrative of love with us and wants to subsume all creation in it. The counterforce against evil, which threatens us and the whole world, can ultimately only consist in our entering into this love. It is the real counterforce against evil. The power of evil arises from our refusal to love God. He who entrusts himself to the love of God is redeemed. Our being not redeemed is a consequence of our inability to love God. Learning to love God is therefore the path of human redemption.

And I would have to say that's very true. I find nothing to disagree with Pope Benedict on that paragraph. Paragraph 54:

54 Let us now try to unpack this essential content of God's revelation a little more. We might then say that the first fundamental gift that Faith offers us is the certainty that God exists.

55 A world without God can only be a world without meaning. For where, then, does everything that is come from? In any case, it has no spiritual purpose. It is somehow simply there and has neither any goal nor any sense. Then there are no standards of good or evil. Then only what is stronger than the other can assert itself. Power is then the only principle. Truth does not count, it actually does not exist. Only if things have a spiritual reason, are intended and conceived — only if there is a Creator God who is good and wants the good — can the life of man also have meaning.

And I'm sure all of us have pondered these things in our minds many times. I know I have, and anytime I entertained thoughts of atheism when I was younger, I would try to carry it through; anytime you're in college these days you're going to be buffeted by adverse philosophies, but I always came back to the Catholic faith. I mean what else is there? I mean it's just impossible to believe in a void where there is no God. You have a void in your heart if you believe that. Okay let's continue with what the Pope says. Paragraph 56:

56 That there is God as creator and as the measure of all things is first and foremost a primordial need.

57 But a God who would not express Himself at all, who would not make Himself known, would remain a presumption and could thus not determine the form [Gestalt] of our life. For God to be really God in this deliberate creation, we must look to Him to express Himself in some way. He has done so in many ways, but decisively in the call that went to Abraham and gave people in search of God the orientation that leads beyond all expectation: God Himself becomes creature, speaks as man with us human beings.

58 In this way the sentence "God is" ultimately turns into a truly joyous message, precisely because He is more than understanding, because He creates - and is - love. To once more make people aware of this is the first and fundamental task entrusted to us by the Lord.

And I think we have to say that all of that comes right out of a catechism and that's the heart of our faith as Catholics really. Paragraph 59:

59 A society without God — a society that does not know Him and treats Him as non-existent — is a society that loses its measure. In our day, the catchphrase of God's death was coined. When God does die in a society, it becomes free, we were assured. In reality, the death of God in a society also means the end of freedom, because what dies is the purpose that provides orientation. And because the compass disappears that points us in the right direction by teaching us to distinguish good from evil. Western society is a society in which God is absent in the public sphere and has nothing left to offer it. And that is why it is a society in which the measure of humanity is increasingly lost. At individual points it becomes suddenly apparent that what is evil and destroys man has become a matter of course.

Of course that's why I say Western civilization is doomed. We are the tree in Daniel 4 which is chopped down. It's bountiful, it's glorious, but it has lost its compass as Pope Benedict says, and then the tree in Daniel 4 is cut down by order of the Watcher and the Holy One who represent the two prophets, Enoch and Elijah. In other words the tree is cut down by order of Almighty God, and the stump if you remember of the tree is banded with a band of iron and a band of brass, and that symbolizes the One World Government and the One World Religion which will put a stricture on Western civilization, because we have lost our compass.

Paragraph number 60:

60 That is the case with pedophilia. It was theorized only a short time ago as quite legitimate, but it has spread further and further. And now we realize with shock that things are happening to our children and young people that threaten to destroy them. The fact that this could also spread in the Church and among priests ought to disturb us in particular.

And of course that has been the tragedy of the last 15 - 20 years especially in the Church, and of course in all society if you follow QAnon at all, and I won't get into that because that's pretty controversial. Next paragraph, 61:

61 Why did pedophilia reach such proportions? Ultimately, the reason is the absence of God. We Christians and priests also prefer not to talk about God, because this speech does not seem to be practical. After the upheaval of the Second World War, we in Germany had still expressly placed our Constitution under the responsibility to God as a guiding principle. Half a century later, it was no longer possible to include responsibility to God as a guiding principle in the European constitution. God is regarded as the party concern of a small group and can no longer stand as the guiding principle for the community as a whole. This decision reflects the situation in the West, where God has become the private affair of a minority.

And as I say, that will be the downfall of the tree in Daniel 4. Also Mystery Babylon in the Book of Revelation, the same entity and we can expect to be burned with fire in one hour by the Scarlet Beast. Paragraphs 62 and 63:

62 A paramount task, which must result from the moral upheavals of our time, is that we ourselves once again begin to live by God and unto Him. Above all, we ourselves must learn again to recognize God as the foundation of our life instead of leaving Him aside as a somehow ineffective phrase. I will never forget the warning that the great theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar once wrote to me on one of his letter cards. "Do not presuppose the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but present them!"

That reminds me, did you ever see Pope Francis carry the crucifix? It is comical. When I was an altar boy, we were always told to raise the crucifix as a standard in front of the procession, very important. If you watch Pope Francis, he uses it as a walking stick. I kid you not.

Paragraph 63;

**63** Indeed, in theology God is often taken for granted as a matter of course, but concretely one does not deal with Him. The theme of God seems so unreal, so far removed from the things that concern us. And yet everything becomes different if one does not presuppose but present God. Not somehow leaving Him in the background, but recognizing Him as the center of our thoughts, words and actions.

So there is an important theology lesson from Pope Benedict, and how right he is.

Paragraph 64:

**64** God became man for us. Man as His creature is so close to His heart that He has united himself with him and has thus entered human history in a very practical way. He speaks with us, He lives with us, He suffers with us and He took death upon Himself for us. We talk about this in detail in theology, with learned words and thoughts. But it is precisely in this way that we run the risk of becoming masters of faith instead of being renewed and mastered by the Faith.

**65** Let us consider this with regard to a central issue, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Our handling of the Eucharist can only arouse concern. The Second Vatican Council was rightly focused on returning this sacrament of the Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ, of the Presence of His Person, of His Passion, Death and Resurrection, to the center of Christian life and the very existence of the Church. In part, this really has come about, and we should be most grateful to the Lord for it.

Well I certainly kind of wonder what Pope Benedict is talking about. I would say the Second Vatican Council opened the floodgates to bring in degradation to the Holy Eucharist. Really I mean that was the goal, but all of the ways in which we gave honor to the Eucharist were destroyed after the Second Vatican Council. The tabernacle always used to be in the center of the Church, the prime spot. That's where the Eucharist was, but it was after Vatican 2, the tabernacles were shuffled off to the side. People received only on the tongue because it was out of reverence. We never took the Body of Christ in our hands, we lay people, and we always knelt. How is standing for Communion give more reverence rather than kneeling? So I don't know what Pope Benedict is talking about here.

Next is paragraph 66:

**66 And yet a rather different attitude is prevalent. What predominates is not a new reverence for the presence of Christ's death and resurrection, but a way of dealing with Him that destroys the greatness of the Mystery. The declining participation in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration shows how little we Christians of today still know about appreciating the greatness of the gift that consists in His Real Presence. The Eucharist is devalued into a mere ceremonial gesture when it is taken for granted that courtesy requires Him to be offered at family celebrations or on occasions such as weddings and funerals to all those invited for family reasons.**

**67 The way people often simply receive the Holy Sacrament in communion as a matter of course shows that many see communion as a purely ceremonial gesture. Therefore, when thinking about what action is required first and foremost, it is rather obvious that we do not need another Church of our own design. Rather, what is required first and foremost is the renewal of the Faith in the Reality of Jesus Christ given to us in the Blessed Sacrament.**

Well that sounds good but Pope Benedict seems to eschew the possibility of schism here. What happens if the Pope has taken the Church away from us, which is exactly what I believe has happened. So let's look at the next verse, paragraph 68.

**68 In conversations with victims of pedophilia, I have been made acutely aware of this first and foremost requirement. A young woman who was a [former] altar server told me that the chaplain, her superior as an altar server, always introduced the sexual abuse he was committing against her with the words: "This is my body which will be given up for you."**

There's a priest who's going to Hell. Paragraph 69:

**69 It is obvious that this woman can no longer hear the very words of consecration without experiencing again all the horrific distress of her abuse. Yes, we must urgently implore the Lord for forgiveness, and first and foremost we must swear by Him and ask Him to teach us all anew to understand the greatness of His suffering, His sacrifice. And we must do all we can to protect the gift of the Holy Eucharist from abuse.**

So I think we'll stop there. We haven't completed the section 3 of Pope Benedict's encyclical, but certainly that was horrible abuse that Pope Benedict described

there. I hesitated whether even read it over the air or not, but I think things like that have been occurring and we have to face the facts.

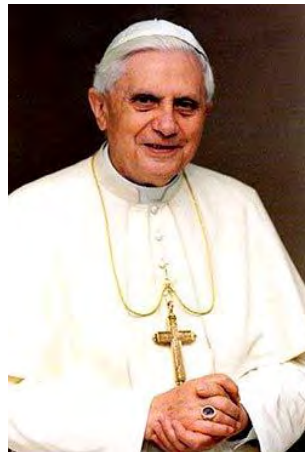
Okay the next class will be on Friday and we will finish up Pope Benedict's encyclical at that time. So I will say good night and God bless everyone and may all of you have a very blessed evening.

\* \* \*

### **Links:**

Full text of Benedict XVI essay 'The Church and the scandal of sexual abuse - <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/full-text-of-benedict-xvi-essay-the-church-and-the-scandal-of-sexual-abuse>

Pope Francis uses crucifix as walking cane - <https://youtu.be/WdpL-SVklwo?t=4049>



*Pope Benedict XVI*