

Saint Benedict Center

The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

To Our Readers:

In this period of "diabolic disorientation" within the Church, and diabolic assaults on all our fundamental values from outside the Church, we have **one** consolation: Our Lord's solemn promise that the gates of Hell shall not prevail. But this divine promise clearly contains two warnings: Satan would never cease attacking, and final victory is assured to the Church only — not to individuals or nations.

For exactly fifty years now, Saint Benedict Center has been shouting these warnings **from the housetops**. In 1942, we started waging war against Modernism, Liberalism, Communism and Indifferentism, for it was the Popes — the eternal Peter — who defined for us, and for the world, the issues at stake. Today, we continue to fight loyally and cheerfully despite the lack of protection and support given to us by the men raised up by Divine Providence to lead this war.

The reader will find in this, the 34th issue of our magazine, *From the Housetops*, a note peculiar to our Crusade — the note **hope!** This theological virtue, this gift from God infused at baptism along with its two heavenly sisters, faith and charity, is the hardest to protect in times like ours when so much happens that tends to extinguish it.

Hope will be found in the inspiring story of the Church from Peter to Athanasius, when the mighty power of Pagan Rome, despite the overwhelming odds in its favor, was unable to crush the infant Church of Christ. *Hope* will be found in the beautiful story of heroic Paul Comtois in neighboring Canada just thirty years ago; in the holy life of St. Thérèse of Lisieux just 100 years ago; in the lovable person of the saintly Patron of the Unemployed, just fifty years ago. And *hope* is nourished with the light shed on many current, confusing issues by Father Feeney's explanation of the Holy Eucharist. His article, "The Eucharist in Four Simple Mysteries," is an Athanasian defense of the **Central Mystery** of our Faith, against all of the attempts of our time to undermine it.

We hope and pray that there is much in this issue to please and propitiate the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We especially hope that the following pages will prompt prayer and penance by many readers, for who can doubt that the outrageous sins, the enormous blasphemies perpetrated daily in our country, and throughout the world, cry to Heaven for vengeance, and that nations may be annihilated, and that millions upon millions of people may go to Hell?

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Immaculate Heart of Mary, please hear our prayers! We **hope** that they are not too late!



In the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Bro. Francis, M.I.C.M.

from the
Housetops
MATTHEW 10:22

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FROM THE HOUSETOPS is published and distributed by *The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary* at Saint Benedict Center. The effort is made possible only by the helpful donations of our readers and supporters. For additional copies, a contribution of four dollars each is kindly requested. All tax-deductible donations, orders, or address changes may be sent to:

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The Story of the Church

Introduction

Sadly lacking in today's world is an adequate knowledge of the true history of the Catholic Church, and this appraisal applies especially to Catholics themselves. It is this void in understanding that is the underlying reason for the alarming exodus from the Church of so many people, young and old, into the ever-eager embraces of false "Christian" religions, the New Age movement, or plain old irrational atheism.

What is the cause of this lack of understanding among so many Catholics, not just of Church history, but of the Faith itself – its oneness, its beauty, its Divine origin? In our opinion, this serious fault can all be traced back to the lackluster, dull, uninspiring manner in which Religion has been taught in our Catholic schools for many, many years. Teaching the Faith was pushed aside as the primary objective and replaced by utilitarian subjects. Worldly success and making money became more important than becoming saints and earning supernatural merit.

And what caused this shift in emphasis in Catholic schools? We have to reply that it coincided with the rising tide of Modernism in the Church, when cynicism, uncertainty, and general debunking of things Catholic became the mode. The new heretics were determined that Catholics were no longer going to be taught that theirs is the only true religion, that one cannot get to Heaven without it – IF there IS such a place as Heaven!

The deadly results are now visible for all to see – uninformed and uninspired Catholics abound! And their number, to be sure, will increase, for those among them who are today's parents continue to send their children to "Catholic" schools which are virtually permeated with Modernist thought. The end-product is predictable – more Modernists, convinced heretics of the worst order.

Forty-five years ago, this terrible impending tragedy was clearly foreseen by Father Leonard Feeney. In an effort to stem the tide of mediocrity in Catholic education, he promoted the publication, by Saint Benedict Center, of many factual and inspirational books and monographs dealing with the Faith, the Church and her doctrines, the Popes and the Saints.

Sister Catherine (Catherine Goddard Clarke) was the principal historian at the Center. She was an authority on her subject in her own right. She taught all of the history courses, and Father and she were the authors of most of the books published. As teachers, both of them were incomparable.

With this issue of *From the Husetops*, we initiate a series of articles entitled **The Story of the Church** taken from Sister's writings. We consider them to be the finest fruits of her labors. We will present the articles just as she wrote them in 1954, occasionally adding comments, as needed, to provide emphasis and/or continuity between parts.

And now, not as complete Church history, but as the inspiring truth that is the essence of all that history, let us begin **The Story of the Church**.

Part I – Saint Peter to Pope Saint Damasus I

(33 A.D. to 373 A.D.)

Peter the Rock

For nineteen hundred and twenty-one years, Saint Peter and the Popes who have descended in unbroken succession from him have never ceased to feed, with the life-giving Sacraments and doctrines of the Catholic Church, the sheep whom Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, left to their infallible guidance and in their keeping. That this will be so until the end of time, we know, because He Who can neither deceive nor be deceived has given us His promise of it.

And that Saint Peter, the Apostle who loved Jesus and whom Jesus chose to be His Vicar upon earth, lives again in the Popes who have succeeded him, we know from the story of the Church. The story of the Church, lovingly and justly told, is a glorious one, in spite of all that its enemies have done to becloud it. There enfolds for those who read it with eyes that see, a story of conflict so fierce, so cunning, so unrelenting, so rewarding, so glorious, so magnificent that never is it possible

for those who have thus glimpsed it, ever again to give their minds to any lesser loyalty.

The story of the Church is the story of struggle for the hearts and the minds of men. It is the story of the struggle of Peter against Caesar, of the Spirituality against the encroachments of the Temporality. It is, above all, the story of the conflict of the Blessed Virgin Mary against Lucifer, the Father of Lies, for the souls of men. "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel." (Gen. 3:15.)

The story of the Church is vital and living, because the Church is vital and living – and loving and teaching and fighting. We are the Church Militant! And we can ever be sure that weakness and compromise have replaced the spirit of watchful combat when we see the intensity of the Church's battle against the dark forces which beset her – and which will always beset her – in

any way relaxing. Our Lord's promise to His first Pope that the gates of Hell would never prevail against His Church tells us clearly that the gates of Hell, presided over by the mighty intelligence of the fallen Lucifer, would make every effort to prevail against her.

It was not Our Lord's way to belittle Lucifer, Lucifer whose name means *light bearer* – the *light of knowledge bearer*. Jesus spoke of Satan as "the prince of this world," both to give the devil his due and to warn us not to underestimate the enemy. For Lucifer did not lose the blazing gifts which are an integral part of him when, after his terrible battle with Saint Michael, he was hurled forever into Hell. He still retains in the natural order his marvelously brilliant intellectual powers, the awareness of which led him to desire to be like unto God – the identical temptation of every proud and accomplished mind ever since.

Pope Leo XIII, who died in our own century, in 1903, had a vision during his pontificate of Lucifer and his devils. He saw their fearful triumphs in all the countries of the world in the days soon to come. He beheld their evil glee and unholy mockery as they ravished the Mystical Body of Christ, stilled heavenly espousals in the hearts of maidens, muted the voices of priests and bishops, imprisoned the Popes, and silenced the song of monks



Pope Leo XIII

and nuns in monasteries and convents grown empty of vocations.

The vision, given the Holy Father one morning after his Mass, was so beyond bearing, so overpowering in its sheer unrelieved, inexpressible evil, that it stopped the heart of Christ's Vicar. The Pope lost consciousness. His frail body sank to the floor. The physicians who rushed to him could not, for long moments, hear the beat of his heart or feel the throb of his pulse. When they were about to pronounce him dead, he awoke, in great labor and groaning, in overwhelming pain of spirit.

He told, as much as such things lend themselves to words, what it was that he had seen. He told that