

## Recognition of the Crisis not really difficult

- Denial
  - The ignorant
    - No sense of what the Church was like before V-II, no point of comparison
  - The willfully blind
    - Those who desperately want everything to be fine
      - Progressives – who prefer the chaos to a normally functioning Church, are trying to break things down and reform according to their own pleasure
      - Conservatives – think that to salvage infallibility, or the nature of the Church, etc. – we have to claim that there is no post-conciliar crisis, everything is fine; some abuses, perhaps, but fundamentally, no serious problem
        - Incidentally – Pope Francis has done a lot to disabuse these conservative of their illusions

## There have been crises in the Church before?

- Yes, of course, lots of them
- The universality of this crisis is what makes it unique, and that it reaches the highest levels of the hierarchy, in fact descends from the hierarchy

## Effects of the Crisis

- Loss of faith
  - A great many people who call themselves Catholics don't believe basic truths regarding faith and morals
- Holy Eucharist (Pew Research Center 2019)
  - 1/3 of American Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence.
  - "About six-in-ten (63 percent) of the most observant Catholics - those who attend Mass at least once a week - accept the Church's teaching about transubstantiation.
  - Among this most observant group of Catholics, roughly one-third (37 percent) don't believe that the Communion bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ (including 23 percent who don't know the Church's teaching and 14 percent who know the Church's teaching but don't believe it).
  - And among Catholics who do not attend Mass weekly, large majorities say they believe the bread and wine are symbolic and do not actually become the body and blood of Jesus
- Moral issues (PRC 2015)
  - 76% of American Catholics think the Church should allow use of birth control
  - 62% think priests should be allowed to marry
  - 62% think that those who divorce and remarry should be allowed to receive communion
  - 59% think women should be allowed to become priests
  - 46% think the Church should recognize homosexual marriage
- Internationally
  - Among German Catholics:
    - only 43% believe in the Resurrection;

- of the 19% who attend Mass, only 55% believe in the Virgin Birth and only 44% accept papal infallibility – 8% higher than the worldwide percentage.
  - In France:
    - only 12% of Catholics claim to definitely believe in hell, with 72% outright denying its existence,
    - 7% believe that Catholicism is the only true religion,
    - 34% of regularly practicing Catholics in France believing that Muhammad was a prophet.
  - Even in the conservative Swiss canton of Valais, 81.3% of Catholics believe all religions lead to heaven.
- These are serious doctrinal deviations among large numbers of people who call themselves Catholics in developed, wealthy countries
  - And yet deviations are practically non-existent in Catholics who attend the Traditional Mass – who observe those things done before V-II the beginning of the present crisis
    - 2% of TLM-attending Catholics approved of contraception vs. 89% of NOM Catholics.
    - 1% of TLM Catholics approved of abortion compared to 51% of NOM attendees.
    - 99% of TLM Catholics said they attend Mass weekly vs. 22% of NOM.
    - 2% of TLM goers approved of “gay marriage” as opposed to 67% of NOM.

#### Vocations

- Official number of documented departures from the priesthood, 1964-2004: 57, 580
- Organizations that work w/ departed priests give estimates 80,000 to 100,000
- Btw 1965 and 2002, the number of U.S. seminarians decreased 90%
  - Often hear of closing seminaries
- Great reduction of numbers pursuing religious life
  - Used to be the backbone of Catholic education
  - Very few brothers and sisters left teaching in school, many of those remaining very old
  - Total # of sisters in U.S. dropped from 180,000 in 1965 to 75,000 in 2002

#### Papal admissions of a Crisis

- **Paul VI**

“The Church is in a disturbed period of self-criticism or what would be better called self-demolition.” (Dec 7, 1968)

“Through some secret fissure, the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God...It was believed that after the Council a sunny day in the Church’s history would dawn, but instead there came a day of clouds, storms, and darkness.” (June 29, 1972)

“The opening to the world became a veritable invasion of the Church by worldly thinking...we have perhaps been too weak and imprudent.” (November 23, 1973)

- **John Paul II**

“We must admit realistically and with feelings of deep pain...heresies in the full and proper sense of the word have been spread in the area of dogma and morals...” (February 7, 1981)

“European culture gives the impression of ‘silent apostasy’” (July, 2003)

- **Benedict XVI** (one month before his election)

“Should we not also think of how much Christ suffers in his own Church? How often is the holy sacrament of his Presence abused, how often must he enter empty and evil hearts...What little faith is present behind so many theories, so many empty words! How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to him...What little respect we pay to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where He waits for us, ready to raise us up whenever we fall... Lord, your Church often seems like a boat about to sink, a boat taking in water on every side.” (March 25, 2005)

Despite these admissions, the popes have had major role in causing the crisis.

- Acting in uncatholic ways
  - Praising the United Nations
  - Assisi prayer meetings
  - Kissing the Koran
- Permitting the heretics to remain in good standing while condemning traditionalists
  - Henri de Lubac – made a cardinal by JPII
    - Teaching practically equates nature and grace
  - Hans Kung
    - So off the wall that he was finally forbidden to teach, but remains a Catholic in good standing
  - James Martin
    - Promoter of homosexuality, trendy left-wing causes; remains in good-standing
  - German bishops flirting w/ open schism
  - Archbishop Lefebvre
    - Censured and condemned for adhering to Tradition

Pope Francis

- Logical conclusion of this crisis
  - Did not come from nowhere
  - Appointed archbishop and cardinal by JPII
  - Impossible someone like him could be in power w/o V-II having happened

Pachamama

- Amazon Synod – hideous idol – the earth Mother
  - Incan origin
  - October 4, 2019 – Vatican gardens, pagan ritual performed centering on these idols
  - People prostrated themselves before the idols
    - The Vatican denied it, but the video is public
    - After the ceremony, one of the idols was presented to Pope Francis, who blessed it and in return “was given a pagan necklace, an offering of soil to Pachamama, and a Tucum ring” – a black wooden ring with an occult spell cast on it, symbolizing spiritual marriage with Pachamama and often taken as a symbol of Liberation Theology .

- The ceremony lasted about ten minutes, but the statues continued to appear throughout the Vatican over the course of the synod, being carried in procession and placed on the main Altar of St. Peter's Basilica on October 7 where the Amazonians, with Pope Francis and other Bishops, offered prayers in a circle around it.
- Others were set up in the Church Santa Maria Transpontina, from which they were removed and thrown into the Tiber by a layman.
- Clear violation of the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment
  - Could we imagine such a thing prior to Vatican II
  - No excuse can justify
- Amoris Laetitia
  - Apostolic Exhortation following synods on the family in 2014/15
  - Puts forward the possibility of giving communion to those Catholics who are divorced and civilly remarried
    - A situation the Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself says constitutes adultery
      - Matthew 19, Luke 16
  - "it is can no longer simply be said that all those in any 'irregular' situation are living in a state of mortal sin and are deprived of sanctifying grace... [such situations realize the] far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families...in a partial and analogous way"
  - "In certain cases, this can include the help of the sacraments. Hence, 'I want to remind priests that the confessional must not be a torture chamber, but rather an encounter with the Lord's mercy'... I would also point out that the Eucharist 'is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak'"
    - Our Lord apparently needs to get w/ the times...
  - On June 29, 2016, a commission of forty-five theologians reviewed the document and condemned nineteen propositions of the document, of which eleven were deemed heretical.
  - Next, a group of forty signed a *Correctio Filialis*, sent on August 11, 2016, and published on September 24.
  - Finally, a "dubia" of five questions was presented by Cardinals Caffarra, Burke, Brandmüller, and Meisner on September 19, 2016, to which no response was given.

Archbishop Viganò's summary of the origin of the modern crisis:

"If the pachamama could be adored in a church, we owe it to *Dignitatis Humanae*. If we have a liturgy that is Protestantized and at times even paganized, we owe it to the revolutionary action of Msgr. Annibale Bugnini and to the post-conciliar reforms... If we have come to the point of delegating decisions to the Bishops' Conferences – even in grave violation of the Concordat, as happened in Italy – we owe it to *collegiality*, and to its updated version, *synodality*. Thanks to *synodality*, we found ourselves with *Amoris Laetitia* having to look for a way to prevent what

was obvious to everyone from appearing: that this document, prepared by an impressive organizational machine, intended to legitimize Communion for the divorced and cohabiting, just as *Querida Amazonia* will be used to legitimize women priests (as in the recent case of an “episcopal vicaress” in Freiburg) and the abolition of Sacred Celibacy”.

The Church has been turned on its head

- Chaos, scandal, the open contradiction of OLJC Himself
- Numbers indicate loss of faith, lack of practice, lack of respect for Church’s moral teaching, and fall in vocations, unparalleled in Church’s history
- We are in the midst of THE Crisis – the greatest yet to afflict the Church
  - And, as will be seen, it comes from the disastrous attempt to marry the teaching of the Church with the thinking of the modern world at V-II