



SSPX

Tradition : An Allegory

Continued from the inside

there." But her shrine was certainly no longer beautiful.

A great earthquake struck. The shrine collapsed, and when the rubble was cleared, only the head and chest of the statue remained. Even this was heavily cracked. Mud was smeared across, and the face of the statue was barely recognizable as even human. But people cleaned the debris and placed the statue on a makeshift pedestal and said, "That's okay. The statue is still there."

No one ever bothered to replace the makeshift pedestal with something nicer, for no one possessed the devotion to do so. When travelers would pass through the village and see the broken, sullied statue, they felt neither devotion nor awe but intrigue, and they would ask the locals what it was. Villagers would say, "It was a statue that was important to our ancestors, and we keep it out of respect for the vague memory of its former beauty." When asked why they don't get rid of it, the villagers would reply, "It is a historic piece worth reserving for its own sake as reflection of their worship of that goddess Arledy." They no longer knew what they were saying. –

The Faith that gave the True Church her beauty also gave a Mass that was adorned with artistic treasures which caused even non-Catholics to marvel and gain a sense of awe seeing it, has slowly been stripped.

Over centuries, devotion waned, people came to Mass, and prayed, but not understanding or interested in contemplating the depths of that liturgy and Faith.

Society changed and the earthquake of Vatican II and its aftershocks brought down the Mass. "The organic, living process of growth and development over centuries, and replaced it—as in a manufacturing process—with a fabrication, a banal on-the-spot product." So wrote Cardinal Ratzinger (who was later elected Pope Benedict XVI).

An idealistic man can try to tolerate the Mass stripped of its "nonessential" and cling to his Faith, thinking he can weather all the ravaging inflicted upon civilization's most treasured heritage. He will say that "a person with strong faith should be able to resist all that." But no one else has this Platonic, integral faith. They have lost it.

Faith exists in a culture, in a society, not simply in the mind of an individual who conceives of an abstract faith that can push through all liturgical and ecclesiastical abuses. Faith is cultural too, and when we lose enough of those "non-essential" elements, there will be casualties.

St Peter rightly warns "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goes about seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist ye, strong in Faith: knowing that the same affliction befalls your brethren who are in the world." (1 Pt 5.8-9).



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

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Priests' Weekday Residence



Schedule and Information

Mass

First Fridays — 7:00 P.M.
Saturdays — 8:00 A.M.
Sundays — 9:00 A.M.

Confessions

Saturdays — 7:30 A.M.
Sundays — 8:15 A.M.
and by appointment

Other Sacraments

Marriages must be arranged with the pastor at least 6 months in advance.

For Extreme Unction, or Sick Calls, or other concerns consult the pastor.

For Sacramental Emergencies call 022 522 8171 or 06-281 3976.

Blessings

Leave items on the vestibule table with your name on them. They will be marked 'blessed' after they have been blessed (usually the next day).

Catholic Enquiry Classes

Consult the pastor to arrange for classes in preparation to enter the Church.

Other Nearby Occasional Mass Locations :

Hamilton

4 Comries Road
Terry Goodall — 07-855 1790
First, Third and Fifth Sundays
Confessions — 1:30 P.M.
Mass — 2:00 P.M.

Whangarei (Maungatapere)

1182 State Highway 14
Melanie Bain — 027 347 2384
Second Sunday of the Month
Confessions — 1:30 P.M.
Mass — 2:00 P.M.

Bank Transfer information for Donations

Westpac (Whanganui Branch)
Society of St Pius X, General Account
03-0791-0293304-00

Indicate : "IHM Church"
*Also, send your name and donation number to
info@sspax.org.nz or 06-344 3814*

Tradition : An Allegory

Once upon a time there was a small village with a shrine dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There was great devotion, and all in the village joyfully helped in its upkeep, furnishing, decoration and the various ceremonies there. Fresh flowers adorned the shrine and the its famous statue. The structure remained in good repair. The marble statue of Our Lady was frequently polished and dusted. Stonemasons and carpenters applied their talents to building a beautiful,

ornate shelter.

It was the gem of the village. For hundreds of years it called pilgrims and locals alike, inspiring piety, love, devotion. Locals visited it daily, but also folks passing through the village. Some who passed through were not Catholics, but always marveled at the devotion and Faith of the village as well as the artistic beauty of the shrine and statue.

As time passed on, however, society changed, and the village changed as well.

A Super-Liturgical June

During the month of June there will be many extra Masses and ceremonies in Auckland, which we hope you will take advantage of :

Fr Laisney visits for Pentecost and stays through Tuesday for a teachers' conference.
On 10 & 11 June : Mass at 7 A.M.

Mass on Friday, 14 June at 7 P.M.

Sunday, 23 June : a Eucharistic Procession to Solemnise the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Confirmations

Msgr Bernard Fellay will come in August to Whanganui for Confirmations. He stop through Auckland. He could be asked to offer the Sacrament. Any who wish to receive Confirmation, contact Fr Palko as soon as possible.

The shrine lost some of its former luster, yet devotion was just as strong as before. Fewer came on a regular basis for visits, even if some did come. Flowers were more scarce, but some offered on the bigger feast days.

Then one day, the hand of our Lady broke and went missing. No one knew who did it, but they said, "That's okay. Our Lady is still there, and the shrine we have built in her honor is still beautiful."

As the cities grew larger and society changed more people began to move out of the village. Less care was shown towards the shrine. The paint began to fade, then chip off, and the wood was no longer polished and greyed as its finish chipped off. But people said, "That's ok. Our Lady is still there, and the shrine in her honor is still beautiful."

Years passed and with age the statue of our Lady began to crack. Soon other parts of the statue began to fall off. Vandals and impious beggars stole offerings left at the feet of the statue. People stopped their offerings, fearful that they would go to waste. But the

Announcements

Fourth Sunday Second Mass Trial

Beginning 26 May, there will be a second Mass at 5 P.M. on the *fourth Sunday of the month* in Avondale. This is experimental for three months, according to the permission of the SSPX Superiors.

Mass will be cancelled if no faithful arrive by 5 P.M. This Mass will continue after July only if sufficient people take advantage of it. Please invite other Catholics who would normally take advantage of an evening Mass to IHM.

Easter Communion

Catholics are obliged by Church precept to receive Communion worthily at least once between the First Sunday of Lent to Trinity Sunday. If necessary, they must make a good confession. This binds under pain of grave sin.

people said, "We can make offerings in our hearts, and our Lady is still there."

But now the shrine was a shadowy echo of its former self. No one bothered to clean the statue of our Lady anymore. In moments of honest conversation, people wondered why it was even there. They knew their forefathers were faithful Catholics, and they themselves still professed to be Catholic, but no one understood the vigor and dedication that former generations had put into the shrine's appearance. Some even would cynically say that all of that effort could have instead been spent to help the poor. "The Church cares for the poor and tells us to do this. Works of love directed to one's neighbor are the most perfect external manifestation of the interior grace of the Spirit." Out of a sense of many generations of social expectation and momentum, they assured themselves that the presence of the statue signaled their own virtue, and they said to themselves, "That's okay. Our Lady is still

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