



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ® ** Knights of Malta **

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Chancellor's Update

Rescuing Christian Civilization

The May issue of The Chancellor's Update investigated the condition of today's society for an understanding and a possible solution to what is happening. An early Church Father Saint Bruno described how a devil, who had been cast out from a man by Jesus, found no rest away from his home, so he returned with seven other more wicked devils, each with a specialty, and the last state of that man was worse than the first. Saint Bruno believed that the seven capital sins could be overcome by the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost.

Following the death and resurrection of Jesus, His Apostles followed the injunction of Jesus to spread the good news of Jesus and to preach the Gospel. Accepting the Gospel by the people was often met with opposition because it often meant giving up lifestyles, which were enjoyed by the people, or differed from their society as directed by their current leaders. Some of the evangelists were martyred and others were chased out because the people were still loyal to their pagan gods.

Early Christians used the terms pagan and paganism, heathen and heathenism, to describe their fellow countrymen, who still held the old idolatrous beliefs and practices, especially in country places; one who does not acknowledge the true God and practices idolatry; natural religion tending to degenerate because unaided by the true religion, distorting the knowledge of God and gradually accepting belief in many false gods, resisting morality on uncertain principles and therefore degrading it.

The Church struggled for a thousand years to slowly substitute a Christian civilization for what had survived of the old pagan and later Greco-Roman civilization of more than five thousand years.

Even in the twentieth century some parts of the world were still pagan.

In recent times paganism is again reasserting itself, and the new neo paganism is worse than that which preceded Christianity. The new paganism rejects any distinction between right and wrong, law and license, and seeks to be a law unto itself.

Idolatry offers divine worship to anyone or anything but the true God. Idolatry was Israel's national sin. Idolatry and atheism are the greatest sins. They are a direct attempt to despoil and dethrone God and to substitute a creature.

Modern paganism came to the United States from Great Britain and is practiced by feminists, environmentalists and those seeking nonstructured spirituality. The largest modern pagan religious movement is Wicca, also neo-druidism, and does not sign on to an institutional religion.

This is the Nature of who/what today's Christians are fighting.

On the other side of contemporary religion, the Statistical Yearbook of the Catholic Church offers some information about religious activity in the United States. Catholic Baptisms in the year 2000 were 1,005,000 and in 2020 were 530,000. The number of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in 1951 was 8,000, educating 3.5 million students, in 2000 7800 schools, educating 2.6 million students and in 2020 5,981 schools educating 1.6 million students. Consider also the number of Catholic parishes which have closed or consolidated with other Catholic parishes. Where are all the Catholics?

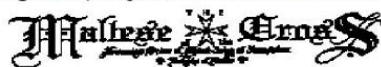
Saint Bruno recommended that the seven capital sins: lust, fornication, pleasure, pride, avarice, discord and uncleanness could be swept aside by utilizing the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, which most Christians received when they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. These gifts are the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord.

In addition, Catholics can request the help of Mary, the Mother of God, the Queen of Angels, by praying the Hail Mary, the Rosary and even a simple, sincere, honest, prayerful request for help.

Also, "Saint Michael the archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do thou, oh Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen."

Let us pray. "O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we call upon Thy Holy Name, and as suppliants we implore Thy clemency, that by the intercession of Mary, ever Virgin immaculate and our Mother and of the glorious Archangel St. Michael, Thou wouldst deign to help us against Satan and all other unclean spirits, who wander about the world for the injury of the human race and the ruin of souls. Amen."

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