

August 17, 2022

(Via email to all known or public email addresses for every active priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and/or published general email address for parishes)

Your Excellencies Archbishop Rozanski & Bishop Rivituso; and Vicar Fr. Chris Martin
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, MO 63119

Re: Prayerful plea for ALL priests in advance of your “Day of Reflection”
regarding “All Things New” (“ATN”) – August 19th, 2022

Your Excellencies & my brothers in Christ:

I am compelled by The Holy Spirit, Canon 212 and Matthew 18 to send this directly to each of you, as my brothers in Christ. Just as I did when I emailed prior to the Chrism Mass (see attached), I welcome any fraternal correction, and hope that if any such correction comes, you will also put your name, and signature, before Almighty God, as I have done. I am praying with you, in support of ATN and our Archdiocesan leaders.

As I was typing a draft of this on the eve of The Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a national publication (The Atlantic) published an op-ed spewing anti-Catholic bigotry following the “Spirit of this Age.” The author not only called the Rosary “extremist” (comparing it to the violence of an AR-15 rifle), but also condemned Bishop Olmsted’s wonderful defense of the faith “Into The Breach.” As Bishop Olmsted correctly noted (and we certainly know), The One True Faith is the anecdote to the “Spirit of this Age,” not the disease. And Satan surely knows his enemy, Our Blessed Mother and “HER” Rosary. I wonder if we will see a rebuke from the USCCB or any of the successors of the Apostles? Or any comment at all, about such “tone” or bigotry?

That is precisely why I am compelled to write to you in advance of your “Day of Reflection” this Friday. Show-Me State Catholics will indeed continue to fervently pray the Rosary for the conversion of our leaders, including within the USCCB. I know you all will as well, and perhaps it will be your very own prayers, which will call His Excellency Archbishop Rozanski to greater conversion, and will help save the soul of Vicar Fr. Chris Martin, by ensuring that ONLY the Holy Spirit (and NOT the “Spirit of the Age”) guides ATN here in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.¹

Compelled as I believe I am, I will not reiterate all that I have stated publicly on www.stlcatholics.org. It is there for the world to see, since faithful Show-Me State Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis have not been given the opportunity to be heard, nor to raise honest and prayerful questions. One can only hope that that changes after your Day of Reflection.

¹ One famous quote from St. John Eudes comes to mind: “Any innovation in matters of faith is extremely pernicious and utterly damnable!” Do we honestly wonder what he would think of “Families of Parishes”?

In my now-more-than-30-years of dealing with the abuse crisis in the Church, I have often struggled to grow closer to Christ and His Spotless Bride, knowing what I know, and having experienced what I can never “un-know.” During that time, I have studied Episcopal mottos and coats-of-arms, seeking to better understand how a particular Bishop (as a Successor of the Apostles) could state such a motto “in word,” while his “deeds” were clearly contrary. And the bearing of false witness against anyone that dared to even ask questions about that was a common denominator. It has been a painful process, just as it has been for so many good & holy priests, who really are much more the victims of the overall abuse-of-authority crisis, than even the faithful flock. I am sure all of you know that personally, in ways I would likewise not comprehend.

I hope each of you reflect upon “serving The Lord with gladness” on August 19th. Modernist or sinful man might try to make it solely “with gladness”.....but that would be preaching a false gospel, and bearing false witness. We should be joyful Catholics (“with gladness”), but only because we are “serving”.....and then only IF we are serving “The Lord,” not serving the world, nor the “Spirit of this Age.”

Sacred scripture is always prophetic. But this past Sunday’s Gospel may well be even more prophetic than we know, regarding ATN, and for your Day of Reflection. Salvation for any one of us (including His Excellency Archbishop Rozanski) depends upon our being called to conversion, back to the True Teachings of Holy Mother Church, even if some call that “divisive.” Even within The Church, we need only look at the “German synodal way” to know where the “spirit of the age” will take us. Are we willing to prayerful reflect upon Proverbs 27, and how “iron sharpens iron”?

Perhaps it is also prophetic that you will be meeting on the Feast Day of St. John Eudes. The Treasury of our One True Faith is obviously richer even than the 196-year history of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Maybe all of you knew St. John Eudes, but I had never heard of him before I prayed in preparation for August 19, 2022 in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO. What a splendid example for us all, but perhaps particularly for each of you, since he is not only a canonized Saint (ie. officially recognized by the “authority” of Holy Mother Church), but one who founded Orders, cared for the faithful flock during times of plague, and formed good & holy priests. Surely such formation would include speaking the truth about ATN, no matter the consequences.

Please allow me to end with perhaps the best Episcopal motto I have seen in 30+ years. It is the motto of our former Archbishop Robert Carlson. No doubt many or most of you know it before I even type it. Certainly it will testify (for, or against, us), in regard to ATN, when we each face our particular Judgment before the Throne of Heaven:

“Before the Cross, there is no defense”

Your true brother in Christ,

Ken R. Battis