

The Worldwide Assault on Christianity

by John Vennari

Modern Church documents encourage us to read the signs of the times. Anyone who does so honestly must admit that far from entering any sort of new springtime, we appear to be entering a period of darkness. The forces of evil are arrayed against the Church to so large an extent that, humanly speaking, the survival of Christianity is threatened.

We now face an assault against Christianity in once-Christian nations that would have been inconceivable only forty years ago. Even the *Christian Science Monitor*, writing from a Protestant perspective, noted the rise of “anti-Christian” sentiment in modern government and legislation.

The March 10, 2009 *Christian Science Monitor* wrote of “the arrival of an anti-Christian chapter in the post-Christian West”.

It observed, “Intolerance of Christianity will rise to levels many of us have not believed

possible in our lifetimes, and public policy will become hostile toward evangelical Christianity, seeing it as the opponent of the common good.”

The affronts against Catholic teaching take place in countless areas; many of these attacks are directed against the most basic principles of marriage, right to life, and other Catholic tenets. Here are some examples:

- In early August, 2009, Italy's highest court effectively ruled that there is no legal difference between a cohabiting couple and a lawful marriage;
- In Spain, in mid-August, the Minister of “Justice”, Francisco Caamano, said that “there is no room for conscientious objection” for doctors when it comes to abortion. This means doctors would “not be allowed” to abstain from taking part in abortion due to objections of conscience

- based on religious or humanitarian considerations;
- This past April, the European Union Parliament removed religious exemptions regarding the “marriage” of homosexuals, which means churches could now be forced to perform same-sex “marriages”. The April 11 *London Times* called this new provision “discrimination against Christians”;
 - Recently in Sweden, a Protestant Pastor preached against homosexuality, quoting the book of Leviticus. For quoting Leviticus in his own assembly hall, the pastor was given 30 days in jail;
 - In 2007, a Catholic bishop in the South American country of Colombia was sent to jail because he refused to allow a homosexual into his seminary;
 - In Wisconsin, USA, a new state provision requires that providers of health insurance include contraceptive services. The rule will force Catholic dioceses and other agencies to pay for contraception, which is a gravely immoral act;
 - Likewise, the Administration of the pro-abortion Barack Obama has threatened Belmont Abbey – a Catholic college in North Carolina, USA – with gender discrimination unless the college effectively abandon its Catholic principles and covers contraception in its employees’ health plans;
 - Julio Severo, a prominent pro-life family activist in Brazil – a Protestant – was forced in April to flee his homeland (with his pregnant wife and children) because the Brazilian government charged him with “homophobia”, due to statements he made about Brazil’s so-called “Gay” Parade in 2006.
- Julio Severo told *World Net Daily* news service that even though Brazil may not yet “criminalize” Christianity, *it does regulate* what biblical principle can and cannot be preached – and it bans biblical citations that disapprove of the homosexual lifestyle.
- Then on May 29, in once-Catholic Brazil, “Christian” TV programs that mention the Bible’s teaching against homosexual conduct may soon be banned from daytime

television by the Brazilian government. Such programs will only be allowed to broadcast after 11:00 pm. Already the Brazilian government has proposed that any such Christian programming should begin with a viewer warning that says this program is "not recommended for people under the age of 18."

Brazil's Justice Secretary told a newspaper that even though these Christian programs would be restricted to after 11:00 pm, "*the ideal is that they not be shown at any time.*"

This list could go on for pages, but the point is clear. Around the world, a brazen, anti-Christian spirit increasingly manifests itself in all areas of life. Each one of these unjust laws is a kind of persecution of Christianity that wars against Our Lord Jesus Christ, and wars against His influence in society.

These anti-life laws are also murderous and contrary to the natural law, as the forces for abortion, contraception, population control and assisted suicide are now stronger than ever before.

Catholics around the world are called upon to fight these monstrous evils. The

Sacrament of Confirmation makes us soldiers of Christ to combat against these affronts to Our Lord that not only further break down Christian civilization, but destroy countless souls in the process.

Members of the laity are praying, pleading, for their priests to lead the battle against these anti-Christian measures in whatever form they appear. Friendly dialogue with the enemy does not work. As Bishop Fulton J. Sheen used to say, "God hates peace in those who are destined for war."

A good place to start this battle is to encourage Catholics to pray the daily Rosary, as Our Lady requested at Fatima. Time and time again, devout souls praying the Rosary have won the grace from Heaven to beat back the enemies of Our Lord.

Our Lady at Fatima asked us to pray the daily Rosary, wear the Brown Scapular, offer our daily duty, and make the Five First Saturdays of Reparation. Any work we do in the social and political order will be weak and fruitless without the supernatural help Our Lady is so willing to give.

All Catholics are called

upon to stand and fight the enemy through whatever legitimate means we have. After prayer and the sacraments, Catholics are called upon to challenge anti-Christian laws, and defy anti-Christian politicians. This calls for true courage, but it is a duty that no true Catholic may shun.

If our salt loses its savor, we will be trampled under foot, warned Our Lord in the Gospel. As the examples given earlier indicate, this trampling is underway and will only worsen if we do not mount a firm, manful resistance.

Pope St. Pius X said it best when he exhorted Catholics to courage in the battle against the forces of evil. On December 13, 1908, at the beatification of Joan of Arc, Pope St. Pius X spoke ominous words that soft and comfortable Catholics (myself included) should take to heart.

“In our time more than ever before,” said St. Pius X, “the chief strength of the wicked, lies in the cowardice and weakness of good men... All the strength of Satan’s reign is due to the easy-going weakness of Catholics. Oh! If I might ask the Divine Redeemer, as the prophet



Pope St. Pius X warned, “All the strength of satan’s reign is due to the easy-going weakness of Catholics.”

Zachary did in spirit: What are those wounds in the midst of Thy hands? The answer would not be doubtful: ‘With these was I wounded in the house of them that loved Me. I was wounded by My friends, who did nothing to defend Me, and who, on every occasion, made themselves the accomplices of My adversaries.’ And this reproach can be leveled at the weak and timid Catholics of all countries.” **EC**