

DEMOLITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH V:
What Can Be Done?

<<STEADY CAM>>

Hello everyone and welcome to our all new program Dispatches .. this episode is the fourth part of a series of five we've called - The Demolition of the Faith.

I'm your host, Michael Voris. <<GREEN CAM>>

The Church in America is retracting in spectacular fashion.

First, parishes are closing in record fashion. A net loss of 2,000 in 20 years – a 10 percent decline.

Second, priests are advancing in age and dying. For the record, in 1967 we had nearly 60,000 priests, in 2012 we had roughly 40,000 priests - a 33 percent DECLINE. A net LOSS of some 20,000 priests and the RATE of loss is picking up steam. <<STEADY CAM>>

Third, religious orders are shrinking in extraordinary fashion. In terms of religious priests, in 1967 we had 23,000, in 2012 we had roughly 13,000 - a 45 percent DECREASE. A net LOSS 10,000 religious priests.

In terms of brothers, in 1967 we had 13,000 brothers, in 2012 we had 4,500 - a 65 percent DECREASE. We LOST 8,500 brothers. <<GREEN CAM>>

In terms of sisters, in 1964 we had 180,000 sisters, in 2012 we had 55,000 - a 70 percent DECREASE. We suffered a net loss of 125,000 sisters.

Fourth, diocesan seminaries have emptied out. In 1967 we had nearly 60,000 seminarians, in 2012 we had only 18,000 - a 70 percent DECREASE. A net loss of 42,000 seminarians.

Fifth, Catholic marriages have taken a nose dive. In 1971 we had nearly 430,000 Catholic marriages, in 2012 we had only 170,000 - a 60 percent DECLINE. A net loss of more than a quarter million - roughly 260,000.

Sixth, the number of converts is rapidly declining. In 1960 we had nearly 150,000 converts, in 2012 we had only 75,000 converts - a 48 percent DECREASE. A net loss of roughly 70,000 converts.

Seventh, the number of infant and adult baptisms is on a steep drop off. In terms of infant baptisms, in 1997 we had nearly 1,050,000 infant baptisms, in 2012 we had only 800,000 - a 24 percent DECLINE. A net loss of 250,000 infant baptisms. <<**STEADY CAM**>>

In terms of adult baptisms, in 1994 we had roughly 80,000, in 2012 we had only 43,000 - a 46 percent DECLINE. A net loss of 37,000 adult baptisms.

Eighth, the number of first holy communions and confirmations has plummeted. <<**GREEN CAM**>>

In regards to first communions, in 2001 we had roughly 900,000, in 2012 we had 800,000 - a 12 percent DECREASE. A net loss of 100,000 first communions in ten years – 10,000 less per year.

In regards to confirmations, in 2004 we had 650,000 confirmations, in 2012 we had only 620,000 - a 5 percent DECREASE. A net loss of 30,000 confirmations.

Ninth, the number of priests, brothers, and sisters teaching has hit rock bottom. In 1966 we had roughly 125,000 priests teaching, in 2012 we had 1,200 - a 90 percent DECLINE. A net loss of 123,800 priests teaching.

In terms of brothers teaching, in 1967 we had roughly 6,000 brothers teaching, in 2012 we had 698 - an 88 percent DECLINE. We LOST 5,300 brothers teaching.

In terms of sisters teaching, in 1964 we had 104,500 sisters teaching, in 2012 we had ONLY 4,000 - a 96 percent DECLINE! A net loss of 100,500 sisters teaching. <<**LOOP CAM**>>

In EVERY SINGLE PLACE we look .. the Catholic Church in America is in a death spiral.

It is now possible, very possible to envision a United States with no Catholic Church to speak of.

This begs two questions. First, how did we get here? And ... second ... what can be done about it?

In terms of the first question, how did we get here? Well ... we believe that there are many factors to blame from the sexual revolution ... to the feminization of Catholicism after Vatican

II ... to relativism ... to the abuse of the sacred liturgy ... to secularism ... to unfaithful and cowardly bishops and priests, and on and on.

Each of these .. to be certain has been both a cause AND a symptom of the Crisis.

Make no mistake about it, the Church in America has never faced this kind of situation - ever.

<<STEADY CAM>>

In terms of the second question, what can we peasant Catholics do to “right” the ship? And by peasant we mean ... faithful Catholics on the ground who are marginalized and put on, but yet understand the situation.

We must follow the command of Our Blessed Lord and fight .. meaning we must confront every trace of heresy and dissent we can .. both in the Church and the culture.

We must act. The time to fight is now. We must pour our very being into this battle if we want to wear the eternal crown in heaven.

The battle is personal. We are not concerned with a macro-view necessarily; after all ... we are nothing more than peasant Catholics wielding pitchforks. Despite that some of us use a sword and shield. <<LOOP CAM>>

It is up to the Pope and the Bishops to steer the ship. We’re only along for the ride in a macro-sense. Our battle lies in the micro or immediate situation only.

As you might have guessed it, we’re going to focus on personal holiness and only the people in your immediate circle. So, here’s the five step battle plan to get out of this bleak situation.

The first step is to LEARN THE FAITH. How in the world do you expect to triumph in battle when you don’t know enough about Catholicism, or how to defend it?

EXACTLY. It is like fighting without a sword. Make sure you take the time to learn it. A word of caution ... make sure the sources you are using are faithful to the Magisterium. <<GREEN CAM>>

The second step is to PRAY, FAST, and SACRIFICE for poor sinners. This is how you engage in battle with the principalities and powers of this world and what the Queen of Heaven requested of us specifically at Fatima.

Use these weapons. Become familiar with them. Make frequent use of them. After all, a man of prayer is a spiritually formidable force against evil.

The third step is to connect with other GOOD Catholics .. real Catholics and get INVOLVED in parish life in a GOOD PARISH .

Let's face it, we all have bad days. We need comrades to help us in dark times. We all need encouragement from time to time, especially in this sin-infested world. The Faith needs reinforcement. <<**STEADY CAM**>>

The fourth step is to FREQUENT THE SACRAMENTS. Listen, war is tough. We all need to rest and recharge. It is through the sacraments that we are able to do this.

The sacraments allow us to converse on a personal level with the supreme general - Jesus Christ. He will give us marching orders and the strength.

The fifth step is to engage the CORPORAL and SPIRITUAL works of mercy. These are commands from on high. We are called to love our neighbor.

We can accomplish this in a multitude of ways. In turn, when the works of mercy are completed ... we build up the Kingdom of God and win souls for Christ.<<**LOOP CAM**>>

In conclusion, there are many, many more things we could suggest such as start a Bible study that relies on a faithful Catholic source ... meet with and encourage young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood ... form a social group for young Catholics that upholds and supports the Church's teaching ...

support faithful Catholic apostolates who missionary work is the salvation of souls ... share a statue of Our Lady between your Catholic friends ... pray the Rosary in group settings ... gather together with other like-minded and faithful Catholics for spiritual AND social activities ... and pray the Stations of the Cross ... you get the point.

This is faith and good work in ACTION. The Church in America is in need of many souls. We can win the battle if we only try. We need to reclaim our ZEAL and our LOVE for Jesus and His bride the Church.

Our research has allowed us to see the Church as it stands now. We have looked at almost every aspect of Catholic life from religious life to sacramental life to Catholic educational life to the values and opinions of the Catholic laymen.

Almost every piece of information we have given you over the course of these episodes is from official Catholic sources. <<**GREEN CAM**>>

We do not claim to be prophets. We simply want to sound the alarm of the disaster that will befall us if nothing is done. And there is certainly a great deal of things that can and must be done.

The young in particular must come to realize that a special call to duty is placed on your shoulders. More than any other generation .. you teens and 20-somethings .. and even some 30-somethings have had to bear the brunt of the civilization of death and its crushing weight.

You need to seriously consider what you can do with your lives, what you have to offer to God that He has given you, to join in the battle. If you are still free of many of life's usual responsibilities of family and career – reflect deeply on what you can do with your life in the area of sacrifice and comradeship to stem this tide and win souls for Christ.

We are in a squall never before experienced in the life of the Church – not on this epic a scale. Are there others you can join with, in either the more accepted paths or the non-conventional paths to dedicate your lives as an offering to the Father for the good of the life of the Church? <<**LOOP CAM**>>

Remember that as the Church was being attacked by barbarians and Islam in those early centuries, enterprising men struck out and began living the life of the monastery – a life never thought of before.

What is old and accepted to us – was new and unexplored territory for them. Might you be able to offer yourself to God – to be the clay in the potter's hands to do such a thing.

This situation we find ourselves in can be likened to an enemy Army invading a great majestic city and destroying it. The buildings are in pieces and burning, people are dying and laying in the streets, smoke is rising, the enemy is about to clinch victory.

A few resilient inhabitants are still fighting, yes, in a building at the center of the city, but they are woefully outnumbered. The bullets are flying. The enemies are closing in. But these intrepid warriors - they won't give up. They're ready to give their lives. <<**GREEN CAM**>>

They keep trying to raise their earthly general on the radio, but NO response. They are in dire need of reinforcements; however, none come. The situation has grown perilous. They're down to their last magazine. The end appears to be moments away.

Another perhaps more simple analogy is this - like a candle that is slowly and steadily consumed until the flame just puffs out - so too is the life of the Church in America simply but certainly burning out.

It IS time for Catholics to realize the peril and respond.<<**STEADY CAM**>>

If nothing is done immediately - by 2050, there will be no Church in America to speak of, save a very small minority - like the case is now in so many other countries of the world.

Remember .. during the first centuries of the Church – the faith flourished on all three continents in the area surrounding the Mediterranean – Europe, Asia and Africa.

Thanks to Islam – and the unfaithfulness of many Catholics – it was laid waste in both Africa and Asia .. being forced back to essentially just the borders of Europe.<<**LOOP CAM**>>

Now a new threat has emerged and is winning the day – and the greatest enemy the Church faces today is the lukewarmness of her own sons.

Indeed – when the Son of Man returns, will He find faith on the earth?

God Love you. I'm Michael Voris.