

The Pope IS Different  
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Hello everyone and welcome to The Vortex where lies and falsehoods are trapped and exposed. I'm Michael Voris.

When it comes to the continuing Pope wars going on IN the Church .. it is shocking how many people actually compare cases of criticism of bishops and cardinals to the Pope.

The line of reasoning says .. it you can publicly criticize other clerics, why not the Pope? In fact, many people actually demand that we publicly castigate His Holiness.

This argument sidesteps the issue of the difference between the Pope and all other leaders in the Church – and here's the point that is shocking, they don't seem to understand or admit – the Pope IS different.

Precisely because he IS the head of the Church, the whole world looks at him and in their minds – Pope equals Church. He has a pre-eminence above all others. That's why there are these Pope wars going on in the first place – between those on the right and the left in the Church.

But it is precisely because he IS different, that his case must be treated differently – because to OPENLY and PUBLICLY go after the Pope is perceived as going after the Church Herself. Like it or not, that is a reality that those who pound on the Holy Father cannot ignore.

People who have public platforms do not simply get to ignore or dismiss the reality of the audience.

Our first duty as Catholics is to lead souls .. our own first .. to Our Blessed Lord by leading souls to the Church where He is fully present.

ANYTHING we do or say that may interfere with THAT sacred duty will be judged harshly. Not everyone in the world has the intellectual heft to understand some of the nuances involved in these things – not necessarily because they are stupid or something, but because they don't have their noses stuck in this 24 hours a day.

They aren't historians or philosophers or authors or theologians. THEIR faith is more tender, or perhaps they are recent converts to the One True Faith and this kind of public non-stop attacking, where the Pope is even mocked and coarse terms are applied to him like Pope Humble the First can damage their new found or tender faith.

Publicly, and in case anyone has missed that all-important framing adjective P-U-B-L-I-C there it is writ LARGE – Publicly criticizing the Pope is a spiritually dangerous road to be strolling down and making a living from.

Many many souls are either just coming to an exploration of the faith or just new in the faith and these little ones need protecting. Every Catholic MUST heed the words of Our

Blessed Lord who said, “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin! Such things must come, but woe to the one through whom they come!”

We take that Divine warning VERY seriously here. We will have to render an account of many things at our judgment, but hopefully – having placed doubts in people’s minds about the truth of the Church will not be one of them. It never finishes well, when Our Blessed Lord starts with the word, “Woe”.

But what about all the saints who said things about the Pope – corrected him when he was wrong? A fair question, absolutely. St. Paul corrected Peter about his personal failing. And of course, St. Catherine of Siena was no wall flower about her corrective counsel to the Pope.

But do you notice what they – as well as others – have in front of their names? S-A-I-N-T. And they weren’t declared saints by the Church BECAUSE they criticized the Pope.

They were declared saints because of their extreme holiness and heroic virtue. It was out of that wellspring that their corrections flowed. They didn’t make a living off papal criticisms.

St. Paul had a personal vision of Our Lord on the road to Damascus. And he lived the life of a martyr on his way to martyrdom.

And as for St. Catherine. This woman was SO holy that she had visions of God the Father. And to underscore her personal holiness, she was out one day tending to victims of a plague. She would routinely wipe the weeping wounds of those infected, great boils emitting puss.

On one occasion, she was so revolted by the sight and smell of one infected person that she hesitated and recoiled for an instant.

BUT, and here is the point – she convicted herself of not loving Our Lord enough, letting her human nature – quite understandably – overcome her calling by focusing on the grossness of the illness and failing to see Christ in this poor afflicted person.

She directly proceeded to wipe the puss from the person’s wounds and weeping boils, rinse the rag in a basin, and then DRINK THE WATER in the basin as a reparation for what she considered her sin.

That is the kind of person who is allowed to criticize the Pope publicly. So, any puss water basin drinkers out there – have at it – attack the pope.

The point here is this – no one is saying that this pope or any pope is beyond correction. That would be stupid, and it is not our position. Never has been. I can reveal, with some deliberate obscurity that we have already made our concerns known, but we didn’t get on a bullhorn and announce it to the world.

We – and this needs to be made ABSOLUTELY clear – We Will Not Pursue a Path That has the Great Potential to either prevent souls from coming to the Church or so weaken the faith of some souls that they leave the Church. Not gonna do it.

If you want to cancel subscriptions or send spiteful emails or cease your support – so be it. But we will never do anything that can cause doubt in the minds of the faithful or those looking at the Church.

And no – it is not the same as criticizing other leaders. Those leaders are NOT Peter. No one comes to the Church or leaves the Church because a Cardinal says something stupid, repeatedly.

The Cardinal does not stand in the shoes of the fisherman viewed by the public – rightly or wrongly, correctly or incorrectly, as the entirety of the Church. The Pope does.

That is a reality of the world that those who speak of these things cannot ignore. And another point to consider is this. Pay attention to all the very holy people in the Church right now – who have their private concerns NOT criticizing the Pope PUBLICLY.

If anyone could say anything – wouldn't Pope Benedict fit the bill. How about His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Burke. Or Bishop Athanasius Schneider who travels around the world promoting the restoration of reception of Holy Communion on the tongue.

There many, many holy souls in the Church, religious and lay, who have decided to hold their tongues again PUBLICLY .. offering no PUBLIC comments about His Holiness.

Holiness .. personal holiness it seems would be the price of admission into the game of Publicly Castigate the Pope – as our sacred history would bear out.

This doesn't mean that NOT publicly criticizing the Pope makes you holy, but it DOES mean, you better be a saint in the making – and well on the way – before you shoot off your mouth in the public square.

The Pope IS different – because he's the Pope. And no saints ever took to the airwaves and Facebook and the Internet to attack him.

There are ways to address the situation, and yes there are concerns. But this isn't the way. The potential cost to souls is – at the end of the day – simply too high a price to pay.

GOD Love you.

I'm Michael Voris