

THE HONEST CONCERNS

OF AN HONEST PERSON!

The Remnant

Editor, The Remnant: This is a copy of a letter I recently sent to Pope John Paul II. Feel free to publish it if you wish.

Your Holiness: Elizabeth Fluehr
Omaha, Neb.

Please help me. I am 34 years old and have three children, ages 5, 3, and 1. The spiritual decisions I must make are critical not only for myself, but for my children, also.

Holy Father, you are demanding that we do not follow Archbishop Lefebvre, that if we do we are threatened with excommunication. But, where else are we to find the truths and the sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church?

Am I to endanger my faith and the faith of my family by participating in local "Catholic" churches and schools where ideas such as these are taught?

-Mary was not a virgin.

-We are already saved during this life on earth.

-Contraception is not an important issue - we may follow our own consciences.

-We are not saved as individuals, but as part of the "community".

-Baptism is not necessary to enter heaven.

-We should allow Protestants to share Holy Communion.

-The consecration of the bread and wine is done only as a symbolic act. There is no transubstantiation.

-There is no hell. And if there is, God has never sent anyone there.

According to news reports, you have promised to make available to us the Tridentine Mass. If this is in any way left to the discretion of our local bishop, there will be absolutely no Tridentine Mass in the Omaha archdiocese. Our bishop does not hide his hatred for the Tridentine Mass, and simply ignored our respectful requests for the Mass under the 1984 Indult.

Even if the Tridentine Mass were made available, the problem goes much deeper. I do not seek the old Mass out of some sentimental attachment to it. Instead, I seek that Mass because it helps me hold on to the complete, unchanging truths of the Roman Catholic Church, the only faith founded by Christ. Even if local priests were trained to say the Tridentine Mass, do you believe they would suddenly also start protecting and defending the Catholic faith? I do not believe so.

So, these are my choices:

-be united to a so-called Catholic Church which denies so many traditional Catholic beliefs

-be excommunicated and labelled schismatic by following Archbishop Lefebvre.

-stay home and teach my children their Catholic faith without benefit of the sacraments and in total isolation.

I hope you will understand my dilemma. It is a dilemma faced by many thousands of traditional Roman Catholics. We are dismissed as being divisive, when in reality our intentions are to uphold the one, holy Catholic and apostolic faith we love.

I would so very much appreciate a response to this letter!

In Jesus and Mary, Elizabeth Fluehr
Omaha, Neb

July 1988