Ad Veritatem

Volume 5 Issue 9

Official Publication of the St. Thomas More Society

September 2000

SEPTEMBER MEETING: World Youth Day: What's It All About?

How Do I Know the True Church?

Fr. Hugh Barbour, O. Praem, Ph.D. Our Chaplain



John Flynn (a litigation partner at Nossaman Guthner Knox and Elliott) and Father Steve Corez will be our speakers at the September meeting. They will discuss "World Youth Day: What's It All About?" Father Corez is an associate pastor at St Edwards Catholic Church in Dana Point and recently returned from the World Youth Day in Rome. John attended the World Youth Day in Paris France in 1998. Both speakers will share personal and spiritual experiences from their respective events. The universal comment of attendees is that the presence of the Holy Spirit is palpable — virtually visible — at these events!

Reservations are not required. For more information, contact Dave Belz at (949) 347-0447 *dbelz@kuhnbelz.com*, or Anne Lanphar at (714) 800-3225 *alanphar@firstam.com*. \$\Pi\$

QUESTION: How can I trust the claims of the Catholic Church without knowing all her theology and without being able to justify some of the

dark chapters in her history? How can I have an assurance that the Catholic Church is Christ's Church when there are so many facts and details I cannot know?

ANSWER: The question you ask has deep roots in a wider cultural problem that must be overcome. Many modern theologians, such as Karl Rahner, assert that no one can really master theology any more because the information to be

The True Church (Continued on page 2)

"More was merry to the end because his good humor was not simply a matter of temperament; it was deeply theological, rooted in the cultivated virtues of a faith lived in the present moment, a hope that did not depend on appearances, and a charity rooted in eternity."

Thomas More from
A Portrait of
Courage
(pg 222)

Editor's Note:
"Ad Veritatem"
is Latin for
"toward the truth".

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

TOPIC: "World Youth Day:
What's It All About?"
SPEAKERS: Ft Steve Corez &

John Flynn, Esq. WHEN: Lunch (\$10) Mtg

Noon Wed. Sept. 20th

PLACE: First American Title 3 First American Way, Santa Ana

Inside This Issue:

Chaplain's Message	Page 1
Jubilee 2000	Page 3
Spiritual Corner	Page 7
Catholic Web Sites	Page 8
From the Writings of More	Page 9
Pope's Jubilee Prayer	Page 10
From the Library	Page 12

Page 2 Ad Veritatem

(Continued from page 1) The True Church

digested is too great for one person, and that the Church can no longer make universal creeds or catechisms because of the complexity and diversity of both the world and academic disciplines. This assertion, however, is not true.

Since the time of the Protestant Reformation, many in the West have been afflicted by what the Holy Father calls "philosophies of suspicion." This means that the first question many people ask is not "What is this?" or "Is it true?" but, rather, "How can I know for sure?"

Protestantism was born out of this attitude, a modernist and unbiblical approach to divinely revealed Truth. The whole thrust of Protestantism is to establish an unassailable personal authority to determine truth and to give the individual an absolute assurance of his salvation.

We've all heard the standard evangelical Protestant questions: "Have you been saved?" and "If you died tonight, do you know if you would go to heaven?"

The problem is, these are the wrong questions to be asking. They are certainly not the questions Jesus and St. Paul and the other Apostles asked their hearers. The more crucial question is: "How do you know that what you believe is true?"

The normal, serene approach appropriate for human nature is to assume that knowledge, and knowledge of the truth will lead to happiness and salvation. If one examines the Sacred Scriptures, those who have faith accept God's word in simplicity because they are used to accepting what is presented in a reasonable and authoritative way. They ask questions: "How can this be since I know not man?" "Can a man return to his mother's womb?" "Then who can be saved?" They ask such questions because they are reasonable and want explanations, not because they are driven by anxiety about their salvation. The biblical man knows that the truth will make him free and will lead him to salvation. so he seeks truth first trusting that happiness and salvation will follow: "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life," said St. Peter just after our Lord pronounced the most unprovable and mysterious words he ever uttered, in the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel, words which Protestants cannot accept on their clear meaning. St. Peter professed the truth in the hope of salvation. He did not say first, "I am a sinner in need of a savior," but "Depart from me, I am a sinful man." First came the objective fact, the holiness of God and His truth, and only then the gift of salvation. Protestantism "poisons the well" by

The True Church (Continued on page 7)

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Ad Veritatem Editors: Anne Lanphar Ron Gable

SIMPLE TRUTHS



Fulton J. Sheen

"Never before in the history of the world was there so much wealth, and never before so much poverty; never before was there so much power, and never before so little peace; never before so much education, and never before so little coming to the knowledge of truth.

This latter discrepancy is the Scriptural sign of 'perilous times.'" †

Ad Veritatem Page 3



Jubilee 2000!



OPEN THE DOORS TO CHRIST



- 1. What is the Jubilee?
- 2. Why the Jubilee of the Year 2000?
- 3. The Meaning of the Jubilee Logo
- 4. How Christians celebrate the Jubilee
- 5. How to gain the Jubilee Indulgence
- 6. The history of Jubilee Years
- 7. The Message of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

1. WHAT IS THE JUBILEE?

t is a **special call** to understand better the mystery of the Incarnation: **Remember that God loves you;** for love of you Jesus became man 2000 years ago. Remember then to love every person as Christ loved us: "Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do so to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Mt 7:12).

Everyone — on the occasion of the Jubilee, the anniversary of Christ's birth — is called to reflect on God who is Love. Love will lead you to Him, and to peace in your own heart.

You who are a Christian — which means follower of Christ — have you found a time of inner silence to ask yourself the reason for this great celebration? "Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor 6:2).

The Jubilee or Holy Year is:

- a year of spiritual renewal;
- a year in which to meet Christ personally;
- ▼ a year filled with the abundant Love of God and for God, of generous mutual love toward all.



Note: All quotes not otherwise attributed are from the Apostolic Letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* of Pope Paul John II on the Jubilee of the Year 2000. Page 4 Ad Veritatem



Jubilee 2000!



2. WHY THE JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2000?

t is significant that the calculation of the passing years begins almost everywhere with the year of Christ's coming into the world. On the threshold of the new Millennium Christians need to place themselves humbly before the Lord and examine themselves on the responsibility which they too have for the evils of our day.

What should be said about the worldwide state of human society in the electronic age?

And what about the witness of Christians in the world today? "The jubilee celebration should confirm the Christians of today in their faith in God who has revealed himself in Christ, sustain their hope which reaches out in expectation of eternal life, and rekindle their charity in active service to their brothers and sisters."

It is easy to complain about the evils that affect the world: but what do you personally do to bring about good? The jubilee is the occasion that the Lord gives you to renew your own life and to bear witness to your faith.



3. THE MEANING OF THE JUBILEE LOGO

he symbol is a good representation of the worldwide character of the Christian message: the center, in blue, indicates the earth, with the Sign of the Cross en-

veloping it. **The five doves** of different
colors represent the
five continents. A
light shines from the
center of the Cross
to indicate Christ,
"true light of the
world," as also indicated by the words:
"Christus hen,
hodie, semper":



Christ yesterday, today and forever.



The way the doves are joined together indicates the spirit of unity among God's children, and reconciliation among peoples. The Cross recalls that Christ died for the salvation of all, and the three colored lines bring to mind the mystery of the Trinity.

Ad Veritatem Page 5



Jubilee 2000!



4. HOW CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE

n the Jubilee Year Christians will stand with the renewed wonder of faith before the love of the Father, who gave his Son, 'that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' (Jn 3:16)"

What is needed:

1. A Thorough Revision of our Lives as Baptized Christians

What am I making of my life? What do I live for? Can I really call myself a Christian?

What do my actions say? Is my faith alive? How do I consider other people? Do I remember the words of the Gospel:

"For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses himself?" (Lk 9:25)

2. Sincere Repentance

The Lord cannot be deceived; each one has something to repent of: "The joy of every Jubilee



is above all a lay based upon the forgiveness of sins, the lay of conversion."

"There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Lk15:10).

3. A Firm Resolution

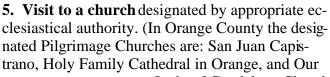
"I will arise and go to my Father... (Lk 15:18) as a response to the invitation, "Repent and believe in the Gospel (Mk 1:15); "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:28)

5. HOW TO GAIN THE JUBILEE INDULGENCE

n indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins, already forgiven as far as the fault is concerned. **The Jubilee is a** year of "grace" for our inner renewal. The conditions for gaining the indulgences, as indicated in the Bull of Indication of the Jubilee Year, are:

- **1. Sacramental Confession**, leading to a genuine conversion of heart.
- **2. Holy Communion** "The year 2000 will be intensely Eucharistic."
- **3.** A pilgrimage, to recall that "The whole of the Christian life is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father."
- **4. Prayers** The Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary,

Glory Be, according to the Pope's intention.



Lady of Guadalupe Church in La Habra.)

6. wa pri ald yo and be on

6. Charitable works, towards the sick, those in prison, the elderly who are alone, abandoned children, young people in trouble, and all who are in need, because Christ is in each one of them (Mt 25:34-46)



Page 6 Ad Veritatem



Jubilee 2000!



6. THE HISTORY OF JUBILEE YEARS



he Church has endured for 2000 years. The Jubilee

or Holy Year has been celebrated in the Church for centuries. At present it is held every 25 years. There are also "special" jubilees to mark significant occasions.

Ordinary Holy Years:

1300	Boniface VIII	1675	Clement X
1350	Clement VI	1700	Innocent XII &
1390	Urban VI &		Clement XI
	Boniface IX	1725	Benedict XIII
1400	Boniface IX	1750	Benedict XIV
1425	5 Martin V	1775	Clement XIV &
1450	Nicholas V		Pius VI
1475	5 Paul II & Sixtus IV	1825	Leo XII
1500	Alexander VI	1875	Pius IX
1525	5 Clement VII	1900	Leo XIII
1550	Paul III & Julius III	1925	Pius XI
1575	5 Gregory XIII	1950	Pius XII
1600	Clement VIII	1975	Paul VI
1625	5 Urban VIII	2000	John Paul II
1650	Innocent X		

Jesus said: "I am the door" (Jn 10:7). He is the **HOLY DOOR** "where the just may enter" (Ps 117:20). This is the "passage" that leads to Life, once the "door of the heart" has been opened.

THE JUBILEE of the Year 2000 was proclaimed by the Bull "Incarnationis Mysterium," and begins on Christmas Eve 1999 with the opening of the Holy Door by the Pope in Saint Peter's in Rome; subsequently the Holy Doors in the other patriarchal Basilicas in Rome will be opened.

Likewise, in all the cathedrals of the world — and especially in Jerusalem — the Jubilee will begin with a special liturgical celebration.

7. THE MESSAGE OF THE GREAT JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2000

he aim of the Jubilee is clearly defined: "Everyone ought to focus on the primary objective of the jubilee: the strengthening of faith and of the witness of Christians."



This is a call to everyone to:

1. KNOW THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT MORE, AS WELL AS MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER.

We can't love someone we don't know. And so we need to make a personal commitment to:

- **A.** read the **Scriptures**: "Christians should turn with renewed interest to the Bible;"
- **B. deepen** our knowledge of Catholic doctrine by "studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church;"
- **C.** take part in the **Liturgy** especially in Mass.

2. BEAR WITNESS TO OUR FAITH:

- **A.** with **Christian commitment** in our personal lives, in the family, in society, in our work, and in the Church:
- **B.** through **works of charity**: faith without works is dead:
- C. by offering to God our sufferings, uniting them to the saving Cross of Christ.



Ad Veritatem Page 7



Scriptural Corner:

32"But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Take heed, watch and pray for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at mid-night, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—36lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Watch." Mark 13:32-37

Comment from the Navarre Bible*:

33-37. "Watch": since we do not know when the Lord will come, we must be prepared. Vigilance is, above all, love. A person who loves keeps the commandments and looks forward to Christ's return; for life is a period of hope and waiting. It is the way towards our encounter with Christ the Lord. The first Christians often tenderly repeated the aspiration: "Come, Lord Jesus" (1 Cor 16:22; Rev 22:20). By expressing their faith and charity in this way, those Christians found the interior strength and optimism necessary for fulfilling their family and social duties, and interiorly detached themselves from earthly goods, with the self-mastery that came from hope of eternal life.

*The Navarre Bible, an edition of Sacred Scripture prepared by members of the Faculty of Theology of Navarre University, consists of the New Vulgate, the Revised Standard Version and commentaries. \$\diagrapsilon\$

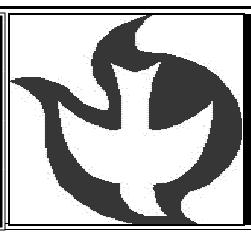
(Continued from page 2) The True Church

ing into the world." For those who need proof of the we need to seek no further." Christian faith by miracles, or insist on proof withserene, and very Catholic advice:

"It is a well-known fact, related in pagan histobeginning with a doubt as to whether man can know ries, that the whole world worshipped idols and perany truth at all, and then resolving it with a "leap of secuted the faith of Christ; yet now behold . . . the faith" which cannot and must not be explained ra- wise, the noble, the rich and the powerful have been tionally. Catholicism assumes man's orientation b- converted at the words of a few simple poor men ward the truth as part of his nature and presumes that who preached Christ. Now was this a miracle or was the evidence, the testimony of the prophets and it not? If it was, then you have what you asked for, a saints, their miracles and teachings, is sufficient to miracle. If you say that it was not a miracle, then I justify accepting the gift of faith which is offered to say you could not have a greater miracle than the all by "the light which enlighteneth every man com- conversion of the whole world without miracles, and

This miracle happens every day, all over the out miracles, St. Thomas Aguinas has this masterful, world. Ultimately, that is all any of us needs to know about the Catholic Church. \$\P\$

PLEASE MARK YOUR **CALENDARS** NOW!



The St. Thomas More Society Retreat will be on November 10-12, 2000 at Marywood Information will be mailed. For more information. contact Deborah Knefel dpknefel@socal.rr.com

Page 8 Ad Veritatem

Catholic Web Sites

www.jubil2000.org/index.uk.html

you are in the Vatican The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

LIVING THE JUBILEE

THE JUBILEE & YOUTH

THE JUBILEE HYMN

THE INDULGENCE

THE JUBILEE MASS

AROUND THE WORLD

THE POPE

JUBILEE CALENDAR

THE PILGRIM'S CARD

JUBILEE HISTORY

JUBILEE INITIATIVES





Thought for the Day

When Your Hut is Burning...

The only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for

God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his

little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stung with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened

by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island.. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

> It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Paul wrote, "... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether

living in plenty or in want" (Philippians 4:12).

Remember next time your little hut is burning to the ground - it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God... ♥

Ad Veritatem Page 9

Ad Risum Vertere Veritatem*



*Latin for "To turn truth into laughter"

DEAD DOG

A farmer named Mulldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with his pet dog, and when the dog died after many a year, Mulldoon went to the parish priest and he asked, "Father, my dog is dead. Could ya be sayin' a Mass for the creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not, we cannot have services for an animal in the church, but there's a new denomination down the road. No tell-

ing what they believe. Maybe they'll do somethin' for the creature."

Mulldoon said: "I'll go right away. Do ya think \$50,000 is enough to donate for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed: "Glory be to God, Mulldoon! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?!" \$\dagger\$



From the Writings of Thomas More

MORE ON PRAYER

After making this personal appeal, More shows in one of his artistically crafted sentences how the attentive reader will profit from a prayerful meditation on the scene he has chosen.

For if we do this carefully: contemplate Christ prostrate in prayer, a ray of that light which enlightens every man who comes into the world will illuminate our minds so that we will see, recognize, deplore, and at long last correct, I will not say the negligence, sloth, or apathy, but rather the feeblemindedness, the insanity, the downright block-headed stupidity with which most of us approach the all-powerful God and instead of praying reverently, address Him in a lazy and sleepy sort of way; and by the same token I am very much afraid that instead of placating Him and gaining His favor we exasperate Him and sharply provoke His wrath.

What More does in this one sentence exemplifies what he does in the book as a whole. He tries to get his reader to see the real meaning of Christ's "ordinary" human actions. If we truly see what they reveal and if we imitate them, we will not be negligent, slothful, or apathetic; we will not act stupidly; we will not go through life in a lazy, sleepy sort of way. When we compare our way of praying with that of Christ, we realize how

we too often let our "thoughts wander wildly during prayers, frantically flitting about in a throng of absurd fantasies." Unlike Christ, who is prostrate before God and wholly absorbed in his prayer, we let "our actions ... betray that our minds are wandering miles away." With his earthy and humorous irony, More tries to help us see the absurdity of this way of praying. In embarrassing contrast to the way Christ prays, "we scratch our heads, clean our fingernails with a pocketknife, pick our noses with our fingers, meanwhile making the wrong responses." How can we not be "ashamed to pray in such a deranged state of mind and body—to beseech God's favor in a matter so crucial for us...?"

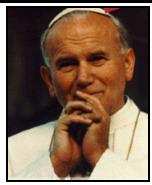
Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage By: Gerard B. Wegemer (Pg. 206) ♥

Page 10 Ad Veritatem



Prayer of His Holiness John Paul II for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

Blessed are you, Father, who in your infinite love, gave us your only-begotten Son. By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate in the spotless womb of the Virgin Mary and was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.



He became our companion on life's path and gave new meaning to our history, the journey we make together in toil and suffering, in faithfulness and love, towards the new heaven and the new earth where You, once death has been vanquished will be all in all.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

By your grace, 0 Father, may the Jubilee Year be a time of deep conversion and of joyful return to you. May it be a time of reconciliation between people and of peace restored among nations, a time when swords are beaten into ploughshares and the clash of arms gives way to songs of peace.

Father grant that we may live this Jubilee Year docile to the voice of the Spirit, faithful to the way of Christ, diligent in listening to your Word and in approaching the wellspring of grace.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

Father, by the power of the Spirit, strengthen the Church's commitment to the new evangelization and guide our steps along the pathways of the World, to proclaim Christ by our lives and to direct our earthly pilgrimage toward the City of heavenly light.

May Christ's followers show forth their love for the poor and the oppressed; may they be one with those in need and abound in the works of mercy; may they be compassionate towards all, that they themselves may obtain indulgence and forgiveness from you.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

Father, grant that your Son's disciples, purified in memory and acknowledging their failings may be one, that the world may believe. May dialogue among the followers of the great religions expand, and may all people discover the joy of being your children.

May the intercession of Mary, Mother of your faithful people, in union with the prayers of the Apostles, the Christian martyrs, and the righteous of every people and every age, make the Holy Year a time of renewed hope and of joy in the Spirit for each of us and for the whole Church.

Praise and glory to You, Most Holy Trinity, you alone are God most high!

To you, Almighty Father, Creator of the universe and of mankind, through Christ, the Living One, Lord of time and history, in the Spirit who makes all things holy, be praise and honor and glory now and forever.

The Pope's Jubilee Prayer



Amen! &

Page 11 Ad Veritatem

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Page 12 Ad Veritatem



From the Library





ROME SWEET HOME

Our Journey to Catholicism
By: Scott & Kimberley Hahn

The well-known and very popular Catholic couple, Scott and Kimberly Hahn, have been constantly traveling and speaking all over North America for the last few years about their conversion to the Catholic Church. Now these two outstanding Catholic apologists tell in their own words about the incredible spiritual journey that led them to embrace Catholicism.

Scott Hahn was a Presbyterian minister, the top student in his seminary class, a brilliant Scripture scholar, and militantly anti-Catholic ... until he reluctantly began to discover that his "enemy" had all the right answers. Kimberly, also a top-notch theology student in the seminary, is the daughter of a well-known Protestant minister, and went through a tremendous "dark night of the soul" after Scott converted to Catholicism.

Their conversion story and love for the Church has captured the hearts and minds of thousands of lukewarm Catholics and brought them back into an active participation in the Church. They have also influenced countless conversions to Catholicism among their friends and others who have heard their powerful testimony.

Written with simplicity, charity, grace and wit, the Hahns' deep love and knowledge of Christ and of Scripture is evident and contagious throughout their story. Their love of truth and of neighbor is equally evident, and their theological focus on the great importance of the family, both biological and spiritual, will be a source of inspiration for all readers.

"One of the beautiful and bright-shining stars in the firmament of hope for our desperate days is this couple, the Hahns, and this story of their life and their conversion."

- Peter Kreeft, Author, Back to Virtue

Publisher: Ignatius Press ISBN: 0898704782 Price: \$11.95 🕏

AD VERITATEM

St. Thomas More Society 28202 Cabot Road Suite 215 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 Attn: David Belz dbelz@kuhnbelz.com

Our Next Meeting:

WHEN: Wednesday September 20th @ NOON (Lunch) \$10

<u>TOPIC</u>: "World Youth Day: What's It All About?"

SPEAKER: Fr Steve Corez and John Flynn, Esq.

PLACE: First American Financial Headquarters

Lender's Advantage Bldg., 3 First American Way, Santa Ana

FOR INFORMATION: Anne Lanphar 714 800-3225 alanphar@firstam.com or Dave Belz @ 949 347-0447 dbelz@kuhnbelz.com

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