## More thoughts on Clericalism....

#### "The Spirit of Clericalism is an evil that is present in the Church today"

That's not how I expected to lead this commentary when Father Hurley asked us to look into and comment on Clericalism. At first, I had to look up the definition just to make sure I knew what it meant:

**Clericalism** is the application of the formal, church-based, leadership or opinion of ordained clergy in matters of either the church or broader political and sociocultural import.

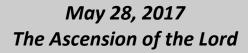
By definition, Clericalism sounds just fine. I have a great respect for the Magisterium, and believe in its real necessity toward insuring good theology that is consistently applied and taught throughout the Catholic Church. That's a whole separate matter that is not to be confused or joined to my opening quote. I guess now is as good a time as any to give credit where credit is due; the opening line is a quote from Pope Francis. It was part of his Homily in a mass that was attended by members of the council of Cardinals.

Pope Francis was warning "pastors of the dangers of becoming <u>intellectuals of religion</u> with a morality far from the Revelation of God." He went on to say ""There is that spirit of clericalism," he explained: "Clerics feel they are superior, they are far from the people"; they have no time to hear the poor, the suffering, prisoners, the sick".

In my opinion, the "issue" with Clericalism in not something just reserved for the clergy. All of us, to some extent, are influenced by our surroundings, our environment, our community. Our scope and perspective is quite often limited to our own exposures.

When you are limited in who you see, what you do, and what you are told, you become, or maybe you remain, ignorant to what is outside your environment. I have had my own arrogance struck down time and time again when I chose to operate outside my own little world. It appears this may also hold true for some Clergy as well. They are a product of their closed environment. I don't blame the church alone for the problems of Clericalism pointed out by Pope Francis. We, the laity, are just as much to blame.

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#### **Mass Intentions**

Week of May 29, 2017:

\*\* 9:00 am Mon.: Memorial Day

7:30 am Tues.: ELC teachers and staff (sp int)

6:00 pm: Wed.: People of the Parish 7:30 am Thurs.: People of the Parish

10:00 am Fri.: Healing Mass

5:30 pm Sat.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)
\*\* NO 8:00 am SUNDAY MASS

10:30 am Sun.: Pentecost Sunday (outdoor mass)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.

#### **Prayer Intentions**

Steve Regnier Father Noonan
Jerry Fulton, friend of Lonnie Graeber
Betsy Elise Brown, granddaughter of Tammi Schmitt

### Pray for the Repose of the Souls

Celia Purser Anne Benandi Hugh Mark Courville, cousin of Jane Hipp Kevin McQuitty, brother of Kathy Mathews Becky Irby, mother of Bo Irby and Susan Irby

Adoration This Week: Monday– Thursday 8:00 am– 12:00 pm Wednesday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm Friday — 8am—10am

#### **New Announcements**

\*\*\* Healing Mass— Join us this Friday, June 2nd at 10:00 am. Senior Adult Brunch following in the Family Life Center.

\*\*\*Join our US Armed Forces Ministry to pray the rosary for our country and the men and woman serving our country. Meet Saturday, June 3rd in the chapel at 4:45 pm.

\*\*\*PENTECOST WEEKEND CELEBRATION: June 3rd/4th, 2017— Our weekend mass schedule will be: Saturday at 5:30 pm in the church and our outdoor mass at 10:30 am on the hill with parish picnic. All food and water will be provided. You may bring your own cooler. There will not be an 8:00 am mass. Also, since everything is outside, we will not have Children's Liturgy or the Nursey for the 10:30 mass.

\*\*\* Women's Guild Information: General Business Meeting— Monday, June 5th— 7pm in the Family Life Center Room107/108

Adult Bingo Night: June 9th— 7:00 pm. \$5 a card, Cash prizes for winners. Adult beverages and snacks will be served.

All adults welcome!

\*\*\* St. Richard's Catholic Church is sponsoring Walk 4 Life: June 10, 2017— Walk will begin at 8:00am at St. Richard. Walk is 4 miles long and will end at St. Richard with brunch at Foley Hall. Call 601-956-8636 for registration information.

\*\*\* 40 Hours of Adoration— June 16th— 18th in the Family Life Center. Sign up will begin next weekend at Pentecost.

\*\*\*Parents of First Communion students are reminded to pick up their child's banner on the table in the vestibule. Thank you!

\*\*\*Food Pantry: Please consider that some families require greater food assistance during the summer months when children are not getting meals at school. The Food Pantry welcomes all nonperishable food in unbreakable containers. During the summer months, donations of quick-preparation food such as breakfast cereals, boxed juice, boxed rice and pasta dinners, canned and packaged soups, etc., are especially welcome. Gift cards, checks, and cash are also welcome. We will deliver your donations to the South Rankin Food Resource Center in Richland or the Stewpot Food Pantry in Jackson on an alternating basis. We also accommodate occasional direct requests for food assistance by members of the local community.

### Reminders

- \*Saint Paul Early Learning Center is searching for Part Time afternoon Assistant Teachers who have a love for children and learning. Please call Jennifer Henry at 601-292-2876 if you are interested.
- \*Assisi Learning Center is accepting application for a secretary at their school. Must have experience in office work and knowledge of computer programs. If interested, please call 601-856-9494 to set up for an interview.
- \*If you would like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special event, altar flowers and Blessed Mother flowers can be reserved through our website. You can find it under to *Registration Forms* tab.
- \*Nursery and Children's Liturgy available at the 10:30am mass. The Nursery is located in the Early Learning Center (enter through the cafeteria before mass). Children ages 2-5 will be called up during the mass for Children's Liturgy.

#### • continued from page 1

A year ago I was asked to sit on a diocesan panel discussing and responding to the child abuse scandal within the church. A moderator asked me, "Do you trust your children with your Priest?" I basically said that I didn't trust anyone with my children until I had developed a relationship with them and felt comfortable to do so. The moderator asked another person on the panel that same question, that person looked at me, scoffed and said, "Absolutely!" As a Catholic I have a responsibility to do so! It was a struggle for me to keep my mouth shut, but I did. I understood his perspective even if I didn't agree with it. As laity, we often don't allow Clergy to be human first. We often put our Pastors on pedestals and are unwilling to engage in difficult dialogue. Lord knows I don't have that problem. It's not because I think I am better than Father Hurley. It's because I respect him enough, and am comfortable enough with our relationship to treat him as I would anyone else. If I disagree with him, I have no problem saying so. And along those same lines, Father Hurley challenges ALL OF US to engage him, and respond with our thoughts and opinions. Case in point, how often does his Homilies contain questions for us to answer....out loud? You don't see that in every Catholic Church, do you? If our Pope is addressing the issues of Clericalism from his perspective, we have a responsibility to address is from ours as well. Engage in our religion, be an active participant, EVANGALIZE, and speak up when needed. If we don't, then I am afraid the Church as we know it will continue to dwindle away.

Mark Twain once wrote, ":Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

I couldn't agree with Mark more, and maybe the spirit of his quote is a solution to the problems with Clericalism. ALL OF US, Clergy and Lay, are called to get out of our comfortable corners, engage with others ("the poor, the suffering, prisoners, the sick"), and use what we learn to inform our own conscience...inside and outside the church.

I'm pretty sure of one thing, the evil of Clericalism that Pope Francis warns about will continue if we, the laity, remain passive.

—Thomas Harris

Weekly offering for May 21, 2017: \$15,558 2nd collection this weekend is for Catholic Communications

2nd collection next weekend: MS Catholic Newspaper

#### **Altar Flowers**

(included with our baptismal font display)

In memory of Doris Shaw & Ricky Moore
~ Sherri Dunnaway

#### Altar Flowers for next weekend

In honor of Rodney Hipp, Cecelia Carlton, and Gail Cado (RCIA Team) \*Following Christ Sessions will begin on Tuesday, June 6th for all who have completed a Discovering Christ Session. Visit our website for the complete list of dates and to register. If you are interested in a daytime session, please call the office.

\*Registration will close <u>THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 31st!</u> Please sign up or call the office so we will have your information. POLK'S DISCOUNT P

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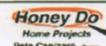


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