

REBELLION AGAINST CATHOLIC PRIESTLY CELIBACY

Christ Hering (c) 1974

Celibacy

Man has been created with certain urges and needs for which God Almighty has also prescribed legitimate ways and means of satisfying them. To suppress and deny those is to rebel against nature and invite considerable physical and mental harm.

One of those Man's needs and urges is the sexual urge which has to be naturally satisfied. No God-sent and logic religion would deny and prohibit the satisfaction of this human urge but only through unnatural and harmful means.

One of the prerequisites and strict conditions for a Catholic priest is Celibacy, the dictionary meaning of which is single life - unmarried state of living. Of late this has been causing great upheaval and rebellion in the Catholic world. According to the semimonthly AWAKE of April, 22- 1970, a report is quoted from Paris by the Melbourne Herald stating 'A group of 425 French Catholic priests today condemned the authority of the church, and demanded the right to marry'. Roman Catholic cardinal John Wright of Pittsburgh said that the Church's strong stand on celibacy was a major factor in the dropping number of Catholic priests. Catholic writer Daniel Callahan says: "One of these new circumstances is a recent and accelerating decline in the number of candidates for the priesthood. The situation is already acute in some parts of the world. During the Second Vatican Council, a Brazilian bishop, Peter Koop, stated 'We have to make a choice right away; either to multiply the number of priests, both celibate and married, or look forward to the collapse of the Church in Latin America'".

In the March 5th 1973 issue of Newsweek (U.S.A. popular ~~weekly~~ ^{weekly}) it is reported that a sociologist Jose Lpez-Alegria, a popular professor at the Jesuits Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, had been suspended from the society for two years and ordered back to Spain. He has been banned from teaching in any University supported by the Vatican and forbidden to talk to the press.

His sin for the punishment was a publication in Spain last December of a controversial autobiography, 'I BELIEVE IN HOPE', in which he attacked the Papal authority to Vatican wealth, calling for radical reform of the entire Church structure. In one passage, he writes 'Pope is not infallible, He can make and has made errors'

What has alarmed and upset the Pope most was Diez- Alegria's judgements on religious ~~XXXX~~ vows - especially priestly celibacy. In discussing his own sex life in his autobiography, he admits to sexual tensions and in a veiled reference to masturbation, concludes that there is nothing wrong with solitary sex. If the Catholic church continues to demand celibacy of its flergy, he argues, " we may well provoke the creation among us of an authentic factory of the insane"

The strange thing about Celibacy is that it did not originate from Jesus Christ nor from any apostle but it is a deep-rooted tradition since the fourth century. A former high-ranking Catholic theologian Charles Davis said " The taboo was not Christian in origin, it is a very ancient one in the history of religion. Its introduction into Christianity was part of the general shift toward paganism.. The insistence upon celibacy was reinforced in the Middle Ages by concern to keep Church property from passing under secular control" (AWAKE - Aprill 22-1970)

Islam came as a natural religion and complete code of life. Whilst it has guided its priesthood to adopt dignified manners, it has not cut off man from woman- be he priest or otherwise. It has not encouraged on the contrary condemned the surpression of sexual urges. Inorder to eradicate and discourage the social illls of prostitution and homosexua_lity so commonly prevalent in the world today, it has even permitted polygamy- plurality of wives on certain conditions.

Thus if the clergy and the priesthood class is expected to fulfil their primary duty of guidance of mankind on right path leading to virtous and noble life, it is only fair not to subject them to mental tensions and physical dissatisfaction.

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