

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387, 01-5611390



29 January 2017

POPE FRANCIS STRIKES A BLOW FOR CHURCH 'LIBERALS'



Pope Francis has struck a blow for "reform" within the Catholic Church by weighing in on the side of the progressives against the traditionalists in a "condom row" involving the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Both the order and the Vatican confirmed that Pope Francis had accepted the "resignation" of the order's Grand Master, Englishman Matthew Festing, who had been involved in an internal row about the distribution of condoms. The ancient Order of

Malta, which dates from the 11th century Holy Land crusade, is these days a charitable order which has 13,500 members, 25,000 employees and 80,000 volunteers, who provide health care in hospitals and clinics worldwide.

The order also enjoys some of the trappings of a sovereign state, since it issues its own, stamps and passports, whilst it maintains diplomatic relations with 106 states, Holy See included, as well as enjoying permanent observer status at the United Nations.

This most recent row began last December when Grand Master Festing sacked the order's No. 2, Grand Chancellor, German Abrecht Freiherr von Boeselager.

Supported by conservative US Cardinal Raymond Burke, a regular critic of Pope Francis and the order's patron, Mr Festing argued that Mr von Boeselager had been guilty of a serious breach in that he had allowed the order's Malteser International group to become involved in the distribution of condoms via anti-HIV and family planning programmes.

Both Mr Festing and Cardinal Burke argued that the use of condoms was in breach of Catholic teaching, emphasising that no Catholic organisation should find itself involved in the distribution of condoms. Catholic church teaching does not allow the use of condoms as a means of birth control, arguing that abstinence and monogamy in heterosexual marriage is the best way to stop the spread of Aids.

Both Mr Festing and Cardinal Burke had argued that Mr von Boeselager had committed an irredeemable breach by allowing the ancient order's charity works to become involved in the distribution of condoms. Subsequently, Mr von Boeselager appealed to the Pope who, in turn, just before Christmas set up a five member commission to look into the dismissal. Now, however, even before his own commission could report to him, the Pope has acted, prompting Mr Festing's resignation and striking a blow for his own "merciful" pastoral approach to some of the Church's hardline moral teachings.

Vatican observers argue that this dispute was between reformers who want the Order to concentrate on its charitable works and traditionalists "not on the same page as Francis".

The Pope is unlikely to feel huge sympathy for an organisation, some of whose members mix huge historical and diplomatic "European" privilege with both high finance and hardline traditionalist theology.

Cardinal Burke, the order's patron, was critical of many of the potential reforms to Catholic teaching regarding the family, marriage and divorce discussed at the two Vatican Synods on the family in 2015 and 2016. He was one of four cardinals who signed an open letter to Francis last autumn questioning new guidance allowing priests to decide on a case-by-case basis whether divorced and remarried believers should be able to receive communion. In the meantime, the Vatican this week confirmed that it will appoint a "personal" papal delegate to run the Order of Malta until such time as a new Grand Master can be elected. Grand Masters usually hold their position for life, prompting some to speculate that this week's events represent something of a Vatican takeover.

Courtesy Paddy Agnew, Irish Times

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Suspicious as the Master was of knowledge and learning in matters divine, he never missed a chance to encourage the arts and sciences and every other form of learning. So it was no surprise that he readily accepted an invitation to address the university convocation. He arrived an hour ahead of time to wander about the campus and marvel at the facilities for learning that were quite nonexistent in his own day. Typically, his convocation speech lasted less than a minute. He said: "Laboratories and libraries, halls and porch and arch and learned lectures ---- all shall be of no avail if the wise heart and the seeing eye are absent."

From "One Minute Wisdom" by Anthony de Mello

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NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 22 January 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p185

2nd Collection: p221

Share: p50

Family Offering: p325



Remembered at Mass

Recently deceased:

Carmel Kelly, Teresa Walsh

Sat 6pm: Daniel O'Neill, Philip & Bernadette Kinsella, Christina (Dina) Lynch, Edward & Catherine Walsh, Marian Gernon, Thomas Grogan Snr., John & Rosanna Halpin, Tommy Delaney & Son Derek.

Sun 11.30: Anthony Phillips (Month's Mind) & Birthday Remembrance, Claire & Pat Cushen, Sheila Quinn, Edward & Alice Shirley, Thomas Grogan Snr.



The Aware Resilience Series 2017

This year's fundraising Talk takes place on Thursday, 16th February 2017 in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin 8. The speaker will Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. Reception at 7.00pm followed by resilience lecture at 7.30pm and Q&A. Tickets cost (€25) and all funds raised go to Aware Nationwide Support. For more information contact Mr. Drew Flood, Aware Fundraising Department on Tel: 01 086 -6069736 or 01 2374919 or www.aware.ie Thank you for your continued support.



Inchicore Parish

Our daily Lady of Lourdes Novena will run in the parish from the 2nd - 11th February, 10.00am & 7.00pm. Anointing of the Sick in the parish will take place on Saturday 11th February 11.00am and Torchlight Procession after 7.00 pm Mass. Led by Fr Brian de Búrca, OMI. All welcome.



World Day of the Sick 2017

For the 25th World Day of Prayer for the Sick, Pope Francis proposes that we join in the prayer of praise of Mary with the theme: Amazement at what God has accomplished: "The Almighty has done great things for me..." (Lk 1:49) In the Archdiocese this day of prayer will be marked with a celebration of the Eucharist during which the *Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered in St. Gabriel's Church, Dollymount, Dub 3 on Sunday 12 February 2017 at 3.00 p.m.*