

MISSION OF DIVINE MERCY

TOPICAL LISTING OF RESOURCES

Below is a list of resources to help better understand the current crisis in the Church and MDM's response to it. The resources, organized by topic, include official Church documents, writings from saints, and the views of prelates, priests, religious, and laity. The crisis has engendered much controversy and so, not surprisingly, many of the views expressed in these resources will be controversial as well. *With that in mind, it should be understood that MDM does not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in these resources. Nor should their listing on our site be taken as agreement by the authors with our position and actions.*

1 Overviews of the Crisis in the Church and the Problem of Francis

While the current crisis in the Church did not begin with the Francis papacy, it is under and because of this papacy that the crisis has reached an unprecedented perilous stage. The works below help to sketch out the problems in the Church preceding Francis, but above all give an overview of how and why his papacy has so profoundly endangered the Church.

1.1 Gravino, John

- *Confronting the Pope of Suspicion* (Independently published, 2021).

"It's not that complicated. Replace divine law with pop psychology and disaster follows. [*Confronting the Pope of Suspicion*] connects the dots between Amoris Laetitia, Carl Rogers, theological dissent and sexual chaos in the Church. A short but profound read." **Jennifer Roback Morse, author of *The Sexual State: How Elite Ideologies Are Destroying Lives and Why the Church Was Right All Along*.**

"One of the most important Catholic commentators today. A brilliant Catholic philosopher and theologian." **John Zmirak, author of *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Catholicism*.**

1.2 Lamont, John R.T. and Pierantoni, Claudio, eds.

- *Defending the Faith Against Present Heresies*, (Arouca, 2021).

"Unquestionably the most important publication documenting and analyzing the many errors espoused and propounded by Pope Francis." **Peter Kwasniewski**

1.3 Lawler, Philip

- *Lost Shepherd: How Pope Francis Is Misleading His Flock* (Regnery Gateway, 2018).

"Philip Lawler has written the best researched and most carefully argued book to date on this controversial papacy." **Robert Royal, president of the Faith and Reason Institute**

"After giving Pope Francis every benefit of the doubt, Philip Lawler reluctantly concluded that there were serious problems with this papacy.... Lawler explains without exaggeration or histrionics why we must hope for a successor who can right the Barque of Peter quickly, before too many passengers lose hope or abandon ship." **Karl Keating, founder and president of Catholic Answers**

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1.4 Martin, Ralph

- *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward* (Emmaus Road Publishing, 2020)

“In this book Dr. Martin is squarely facing the serious crisis that is unfolding both in the Church and in the culture. He does so in an honest but fair manner and offers solutions that, if implemented, would do a great deal to restore health and strength to the Church, and allow it to be the light to the world it is meant to be. An important book that should be widely read.” **Cardinal Gerhard L. Müller, Former Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith**

1.5 Schneider, Bishop Athanasius

- *Christus Vincit: Christ's Triumph Over the Darkness of the Age* (Angelico, 2019)

“I highly recommend Bishop Athanasius Schneider's book-length interview....His Excellency's overview of modern Church history, the Second Vatican Council, the post-conciliar period, and the pontificate of Francis provides a full context for the arguments contained [in my book, *True Obedience in the Church*].” **Peter Kwasniewski**

1.6 Rist, John

- *Infallibility, Integrity and Obedience: The Papacy and the Roman Catholic Church, 1848-2023* (James Clarke, 2023).

1.7 Sire, Henry

- *The Dictator Pope: the Inside Story of the Francis Papacy* (Regnery, 2018). Sire is an English Catholic historian. The book is published under the pen name Marcantonio Colonna.

“A remarkable new book on the pope which is making waves in Rome and around the world....This volume is far more probing and detailed than anything that has previously appeared....When the head of the Church himself does not much feel bound by the tradition or impartial laws he has inherited, what then?...Any answer will have to reckon with the eye-opening material in this compelling book.”

Robert Royal, The Catholic Thing

“The most valuable service provided by the author of *The Dictator Pope* is the psychological portrait of Pope Francis: manipulative, hypersensitive, and often downright vindictive—certainly not the cheerful populist that his supporters make him out to be....For all the talk about a 'reformer pope,' the rhetoric about decentralization, and the promises of reform, the net results of this pontificate to date have been a climate of fear within the Vatican, a tightening of control, and a resurgence of the 'old guard' in Rome.”

Philip Lawler, author of *Lost Shepherd: How Pope Francis Is Misleading His Flock*

1.8 Ureta, José Antonio

- *Pope Francis's "Paradigm Shift"* (The American TFP, 2018).

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1.9 Vigano, Archbishop Carlos Maria and McCall, Brian M.

- *A Voice in the Wilderness: Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò on the Church, America, and the World* (Angelico Press, 2021).

"Archbishop Viganò is that rarest of mortal men: one who speaks the truth whatever the cost to his career or his standing with his fellow bishops. To be sure, his writings cast light on some of the darker corners of the institutional Church and on the abuses of some of its officials, but they are also suffused with hope by a prelate whose vibrant Christian faith shines through on every page." **Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute**

"Angelico Press has done an important service in gathering together in one volume Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò's stunning August 2018 Memorandum and his subsequent writings, in which he details his personal knowledge of how the Holy See has failed to deal effectively with grave immorality in the Church's hierarchy, particularly in the case of ex-cardinal Theodore McCarrick. Viganò decided in conscience to expose the ways in which clerical expediency, self-interest, and a misplaced desire to avoid public scandal have in fact done grave harm to the Church and her mission. These collected interventions give a clear insight into Viganò's thinking and allow readers to judge for themselves the cogency of his analysis of the causes, and the remedies, of the present crisis in the Church." **Fr. Gerald Murray, pastor of Church of the Holy Family**

1.10 Lamont, John

- <https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2023/11/pope-francis-as-public-heretic-evidence.html>

1.11 Pell, Cardinal George

- <https://www.cal-catholic.com/the-cardinal-pell-memo-in-full/>

1.12 Pentin, Edward

- <https://edwardpentin.co.uk/perspectives-from-rome-understanding-the-crisis-and-where-we-go-from-here/>
- <https://edwardpentin.co.uk/professor-rist-the-catholic-church-could-be-facing-a-crisis-worse-than-the-arian-controversy-of-the-4th-century/>

1.13 Thompson, Damian

- <https://unherd.com/2023/03/ten-terrible-years-of-pope-francis/>

2 Obedience to God and the Salvation of Souls Comes First: The Problems of Error, Corruption and Heresy in the History of the Church, and How to Respond Faithfully to Them.

Throughout Church history, there have been many instances when being faithful to God and His Church requires witnessing to problems in the Church. The problems can be manifold, from scandalous sinful behavior by Church officials, to unwise policy decisions, to the promotion of error and even heresy. How best to witness and respond to such problems has and will vary according to the type of problem and the circumstances. As always, the saints provide helpful models.

2.1 Kwasniewski, Peter

- *True Obedience in the Church: A Guide to Discernment in Challenging Times* (Crisis Publications, 2022).

"The present book of Dr. Peter Kwasniewski offers a valuable and timely theological clarification on the authentic meaning of obedience. This tract will bring peace of conscience to many perplexed souls and

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confirm their fidelity to the perennial doctrinal and liturgical tradition of Holy Mother Church."

Most Rev. Athanasius Schneider, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Mary in Astana

"Following the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas, Peter Kwasniewski puts forward timeless principles that can help us navigate the strait of true obedience in difficult times."

Fr. Thomas Crean, O.P., Author, *The Mass and the Saints*

"This wonderful tract provides solid principles for our discernment, especially relevant in the face of new assaults upon Catholic tradition, and it will strengthen our resolve to obey God in all things."

Fr. John Paul Echert, SSL, Pontifical Biblical Institute

"I am exceedingly grateful that such a son of the Church would assist us at this most difficult time to know how to respond to the many false and unreasonable dictates of a number of Her hierarchy. I consider True Obedience in the Church to be not only a must-read, but a healing balm of clarity for the Faithful."

Miriam Of The Lamb Of God, O.S.B., *Mother Miriam Live!*

2.2 Mattei, Roberto de

- *Love for the Papacy and Filial Resistance to the Pope in the History of the Church* (Angelico, 2019).

"Defends the legitimacy of criticizing, disagreeing with, or opposing Roman pontiffs, citing many historical examples." **Peter Kwasniewski**

2.3 Torres, Alex and Charles, Joshua

- *Persecuted from Within* (Sophia Institute Press, 2023)

"A Reflection on the Essentials of Christian Obedience: I believe this phrase get to the heart of this great book authored by Joshua Charles and Alec Torres. I use the word "heart" advisedly because the wonderful saints they explore all had obedience to God's Will at heart. St. Joan of Arc sought that highest level of obedience in her time as St. Athanasius did in his. Every saint has that in common: they seek the will of God at all costs, including their lives.

This is a timely book that should be at the top of every faithful Catholic's reading list as we navigate a time of great crisis and turmoil in the life of the Church. This volume presents us with a powerful gift, namely the reminder that whatever hardships these men and women endured in their earthly lives, they are now saints enjoying the eternal banquet of love with our God. Saving souls is what the Church, the mystical Body of Christ, is all about. The great saints profiled in this book model for us how our souls may be saved, no matter the persecutions, crises, and challenges we may face on this journey."

Bishop Joseph E. Strickland, Diocese of Tyler, Texas

"In times like these, where so many faithful Catholics are enduring a great trial that tests their faith, it is a precious thing to know that many, whom we regard as saints today, endured similar and painful persecutions, often from the very Church they loved. Joshua Charles and Alec Torres have written a marvelous and exceptionally helpful book that will both encourage and challenge faithful Catholics to model their response to our current crisis on the lives of saints who also endured the crucible of strife from clergy and fellow Catholics. Examining the lives of Saints such as St. Paul, St. Athanasius, St. Joan of Arc, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Thomas More and many others, our authors have amassed a rich deposit of testimony as to the proper and holy responses required of the faithful in times like these. Reading this book feels like being on a retreat! Go sell all you have to buy this book, it will bless you exceedingly."

Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor, Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian in Washington, D.C.

"This marvelous study of saints persecuted by the Church is not just a welcome and needed call for us to persevere in the face of often negligent and sometimes wicked clerical leadership. It's an invitation to grow in faith, to draw nearer to Christ in times of trial." **R.R. Reno, Editor, *First Things Magazine* and Author, *Return of the Strong Gods***

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2.4 Xavier da Silveira, Arnaldo

- *Can a Pope Be . . . a Heretic? The Theological Hypothesis of a Heretical Pope* (Caminhos Romanos, 2018).
- *Can Documents of the Magisterium of the Church Contain Errors?* (The American TFP, 2015).

2.5 Aquinas, St. Thomas

- “Whether a law is binding in conscience,” *Summa Theologiae*, I-II, 96, Art 4.

2.6 Bellarmine, St. Robert

- “On resisting a pope,” *De Romano Pontifice*, Book II, Chapter 29.

2.7 Francis of Assisi

- “Admonitions,” 3. Of Perfect and Imperfect Obedience, in *The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi*, tr. by Paschal Robinson, <https://sacred-texts.com/chr/wosf/wosf03.htm>

2.8 Newman, St. John Henry

- *The Arians of the Fourth Century* (Longmans, Green, and Co., 1908).
<https://www.newmanreader.org/works/arians/>

2.9 Feser, Edward

- https://edwardfeser.blogspot.com/2018/05/the-church-permits-criticism-of-popes_20.html

3 Prophecy in Contemporary Times

[From Fr. John Mary’s initial public statement]

Throughout history, God has raised up His Prophets for His people. They are called to warn them and wake them up. They are also called to give consolation and hope to His suffering children, who are discouraged and confused. Prophets are especially needed in difficult, confusing times, like ours today, when the normal channels of instruction aren't working well. They help bring *God's* light to guide our actions. There are many examples of this in the Old Testament, when the prophets had to denounce the corruption of the shepherds of Israel, the religious and civil leaders.... But prophecy is not limited to Biblical times. As the great Doctor of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas said, “at all times there have not been lacking persons having the spirit of prophecy, not indeed for the declaration of any new doctrine of faith, but for the direction of human acts.” We see this in many saints and mystics, such as, Francis of Assisi...Catherine of Siena...and John Bosco, all of whom experienced the prophetic charism in their lives. Heaven also speaks powerfully through apparitions like those of the Sacred Heart, and those of our Blessed Mother, [such as at] Guadalupe.... Does it not make sense that at this time when not only the world but the Church herself is suffering from grave confusion and corruption, God would continue to raise up prophets to help guide His people? Consider St. Faustina...Our Lady of Akita and Our Lady of Kibeho—different prophetic messages in very different circumstances but [all] providing guidance to the faithful and warning of coming dangers. St Paul's instruction is urgent for the Church today: “Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophecies, but test everything” (1 Th 5:19-22). Too often, we quench the action of the Holy Spirit by despising prophetic messages. But he also instructs us to test everything. There are also false prophets. Prophecy requires discernment and prudence. At the core of authentic prophecy is something that is essential for all of us, especially today: to listen to God. The pastors of the Church have a key role in guiding the Church. But to do this, they must themselves be humbly, faithfully listening to God. And accepting that God can speak whenever, however and through whomever He chooses.

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3.1 O'Connor, Edward

- *I Am Sending You Prophets, The Role of Apparitions in the History of the Church* (Queenship, 2007).

Fr. O'Connor is an emeritus professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

4 Infiltration of the Church in Modern Times: the Problems of Freemasonry, Communism, Secular Humanism, the Lavender Mafia and Satanism within the Church.

While the Church has always faced powerful spiritual foes (Lucifer and his minions) and powerful temporal foes (from Roman persecution and the rise of Islam to the Protestant Reformation and the rise of Communism), a distinctive character of the current crisis is how much damage comes from hostile opponents within the Church, a phenomenon particularly acute in the 20th and 21st centuries. For many Catholics this reality is hard to accept, but the evidence is there and it's impossible to truly understand the crisis of our times without understanding this infiltration. Whether the infiltrators profess freemasonry, Marxism, secular humanism, or some amalgam, the common denominator is a profoundly anti-Christian worldview incompatible with Jesus and His Church. This destruction from within has only been exacerbated by the growing rise of the Lavender Mafia, active homosexual clerics who unrepentantly ignore their vows of celibacy and seek to promote, either openly or surreptitiously, a radical sexual agenda within the Church. Finally, while the various agendas of these infiltrators are all satanic in that they further the devil's desire to destroy the Church, it must be said that some of these infiltrators themselves have seemingly become explicit satanists, willfully acknowledging their allegiance to him and against Our Lord.

4.1 Marshall, Taylor

- *Infiltration: The Plot to Destroy the Church from Within* (Sophia Institute Press, 2019)

"We must examine the very roots of the crisis, which, to a decisive extent, can be identified as Taylor Marshall has done in this book as an infiltration of the Church by an unbelieving world."

Bishop Athanasius Schneider

4.2 Meloni, Julia

- *The St. Gallen Mafia: Exposing the Secret Reformist Group Within the Church* (TAN, 2021).

"I have studied the text and find it to be excellent."

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

"Our times abound in conspiracy theories. Here, the coconspirators themselves acknowledge the machinations and goals of the Sankt Gallen self-identified "mafia" that collaborated to have Bergoglio elected pope to implement a plan to change the Church. This is a fascinating book that draws from published works, revealing more of what is not well with the Church. Highly recommended."

Dr. Janet E. Smith, Moral Theologian

4.3 Murr, Fr. Charles Theodore

- *Murder in the 33rd Degree: The Gagnon Investigation into Vatican Freemasonry* (Independently published, 2022)

"As a young priest in Rome, Fr. Charles Murr worked closely with Cardinal Édouard Gagnon on the dangerous mission Paul VI had entrusted to that eminent figure: investigating the Vatican curia to uncover membership in Freemasonry. Fr. Murr's intimate role made him acquainted with the unsavory agendas of high-ranking prelates and the intrigues surrounding the death of John Paul I and the election of John Paul

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II... Fr. Murr does not peddle conspiracy theories; he tells the riveting story as he lived through it and recorded it in his notes and diaries—what he saw and heard, what his friends learned and suffered. Most of all, we discover how a divinely-given opportunity for serious reform was tragically refused. *Murder in the Thirty-Third Degree* is the most impressive eyewitness account of postconciliar Vatican politics to appear in decades."

Dr. Peter A. Kwasniewski: Professor, Composer, Author,
The Ecstasy of Love in Thomas Aquinas

"Fr. Murr provides a first-hand account of the work the remarkable Cardinal Gagnon did, at the bidding of Pope Paul VI, to expose the presence of Masons in the Roman Curia."

Dr. Janet E. Smith: Professor, Philosopher, Author, *The Right to Privacy*

4.4 Nicholas, Mary and Kengor, Paul

- *The Devil and Bella Dodd: One Woman's Struggle Against Communism and Her Redemption* (TAN Books, 2022)

"Bella Dodd is a seminal Cold War figure, a brave woman who fearlessly battled atheistic communism. She should not be forgotten. Finally, thanks to this work, she won't be."

Sebastian Gorka, Ph.D., *Newsmax* Host and former Deputy Assistant and Strategist to the President

"There is nothing hidden that will not come to light, as Bella Dodd proved after her reversion to the Catholic Church by revealing the extent of the communist conspiracy that she had helped to spread. Mary Nicholas and Paul Kengor have performed a great service by shining a new and delightful light on this remarkable woman."

Michael Knowles, *The Daily Wire*

"*The Devil and Bella Dodd* is a powerful book about what happens when pernicious ideas grip a soul—and what happens when grace snatches her back."

Julia Meloni, Author of *The St. Gallen Mafia*

"I couldn't put this book down. It seems timelier than ever as socialism continues to spread. But more than anything, it is a beautiful testament to the peace and love offered not by ideologies but by Christ and His Church."

Carrie Gress, Author of *The Anti-Mary Exposed*

4.5 Hickson, Maiké

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/professor-de-mattei-confirms-fr-murrs-claims-about-the-1978-vatican-investigation-into-freemasonry/>

4.6 Armstrong, H. Reed

- <https://onepeterfive.com/freemasonry-catholic-church-brief-introduction/>

4.7 Wells, Kevin

- <https://crisismagazine.com/opinion/silence-in-the-face-of-the-homosexual-infestation-of-the-clergy>

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5 *Amoris Laetitia*

This papal document produced grave confusion on whether people who are objectively in a state of mortal sin—in particular couples who are sexually active but not validly married—could licitly receive the Eucharist. The confusion led four cardinals to request clarification through submission of a *dubia* and a host of concerned Catholic clerics and scholars to issue a *filial correction*, pointing out what they saw as the grave errors in the document. The pope’s refusal to directly respond to either document, and most notoriously his answer in a private letter to the bishops of the Buenos Aires region that their interpretation that *Amoris Laetitia* did allow the divorced and remarried to receive Communion in certain circumstances—in direct opposition to the Deposit of Faith—has caused profound concern.

5.1 First *Dubia* to Francis and Cardinal Burke’s comments.

- https://www.catholicaction.org/interview_with_cardinal_burke_about_the_dubia

5.2 *Filial Correction* to Francis.

- <http://www.correctiofilialis.org>

5.3 Fr. Gerald Murray

- <https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2018/01/06/the-crisis-we-are-living/>

5.4 Josef Seifert

- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2017/10/the-persecution-of-orthodoxy#print>
- <https://onepeterfive.com/josef-seifert-pure-logic-threaten-destroy-entire-moral-doctrine-catholic-church/>

5.5 Finnis, John and Grisez, Germain

- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2016/12/an-open-letter-to-pope-francis>

6 *China and the Sino-Vatican Treaty*

Even many secular observers have labeled Pope Francis’ Sino-Vatican treaty a disaster, seeing in it a betrayal of the Chinese Catholic faithful and their venerable leader, Cardinal Zen. Adding to the concern is that the provisions of the treaty are secret, and the Vatican has so far still refused to make them known. Nevertheless, the terrible impact has been obvious: the betrayal of the underground but true Catholic Church that has remained faithful to Rome over decades of Communist persecution, and the promoting of the so-called Patriotic Catholic Church, the puppet Church of the CCP. Since the signing of the treaty, Xi Jinping has ratcheted up persecution of the faithful with little to no protest from Pope Francis.

6.1 Cardinal Zen

- <https://newbloommag.net/2019/12/03/cardinal-zen-interview/>
- <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/43933/cardinal-zen-parolin-manipulates-the-pope-and-vaticans-china-policy-is-immoral>
- <https://www.ncregister.com/news/cardinal-zen-continues-criticism-of-possible-vatican-china-deal>

6.2 Cardinal Muller

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/cardinal-mueller-i-trust-more-in-cardinal-zen-than-in-the-vatican-china-dea/>

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6.3 Steven Mosher

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/pope-francis-empowered-communists-with-magisterial-authority-in-vatican-chi/>
- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/faithful-chinese-bishop-on-the-run-from-communists-highlights-vatican-china-deal-disaster/>

7 Death Penalty and Pope Francis' Revision of the Catechism

The following selections both defend traditional Catholic teaching regarding the death penalty and point out that Pope Francis' actions not only suggest error in this instance but call in to question the whole notion of the unerring character of Catholic moral doctrine.

7.1 Edward Feser and Joseph M. Bissette

- *By Man Shall His Blood Be Shed: A Catholic Defense of Capital Punishment* (Ignatius Press, 2017)

"Based primarily on the natural law, this excellent and much-needed book will be valuable to Catholics and readers of any faith who ask why capital punishment is justified."

J. Budziszewski, Ph.D., University of Texas

"At long last, we have a serious and intelligent look at all aspects of the death penalty —its causes, its justification, its consequences for the victim, the criminal himself, and for civil society."

James V. Schall, S. J., Professor Emeritus, Georgetown University

7.2 Graebe, Fr. Brian A.

- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2023/09/cleaning-up-the-popes-mess>

8 Fiducia Supplicans

This document, written by Cardinal Fernandez, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and approved by Pope Francis, has produced a backlash of concern and denunciation among prelates throughout the Church that is unprecedented, with many bishops stating outright that they will not abide by some of its most error-filled pronouncements. Most concerning is the document's legitimizing of blessing sinful relationships in direct contradiction to perennial Church teaching.

8.1 Cardinal Muller

- <https://www.pillarcatholic.com/p/muller-fiducia-supplicans-is-self>
- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2024/02/does-fiducia-supplicans-affirm-heresy>

8.2 Cardinal Sarah

- <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256481/cardinal-sarah-speaks-out-against-clergy-blessing-same-sex-unions>

8.3 Cardinal Zen

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/cardinal-zen-warns-of-error-in-fiducia-supplicans-calls-for-fernandez-to-resign/>

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8.4 Archbishop Peta and Bishop Schneider

- <https://catholicherald.co.uk/archbishop-prohibits-priests-from-performing-any-form-of-blessing-of-same-sex-couples-in-response-to-new-vatican-declaration/>

8.5 Archbishop Chaput

- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2023/12/the-cost-of-making-a-mess>

8.6 Fr. Weinandy

- <https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2023/12/19/gods-blessings-and-magisterial-teaching/>

8.7 Finnis, John, George, Robert P., Ryan, Peter S.J.

- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2024/01/more-confusion-about-same-sex-blessings>

8.8 Malloy, Chris

- <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2023/12/30/fiducia-supplicans-a-chimerical-hope/>

9 Governance and Appointments of Francis

Examining Francis' overall governance of the Church, and particularly noting those he rewards with appointments and those he punishes with removal, causes much concern. In general, Francis rewards many who subvert the Deposit of Faith and punishes many vigorous in their defense of it. His vaunted openness to accompaniment and dialogue always errs toward the progressive and the heterodox—think of Fr. James Martin, the German bishops, pro-abortion Catholic politicians, and his scandalous appointment and retention of many clerics with serious and credible charges of sexual and/or financial impropriety. By contrast, Francis treatment of the orthodox faithful is often a door slammed shut—think of Bishop Strickland, Cardinal Burke, *Traditionis custodes* with its efforts to drastically curtail celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, and the condescending and dismissive way Francis and much of his Curia often respond to the African bishops when they dare to stand up for the unchanging teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church. There has also been his hostile efforts towards a number of orthodox and traditional religious communities, where he has removed faithful leaders for his own dubious appointments, and otherwise hindered the communities from living out their charism, to the point where some have been effectively disbanded.

9.1 Lawler, Philip

- *Lost Shepherd: How Pope Francis Is Misleading His Flock* (Regnery Gateway, 2018).

“Philip Lawler has written the best researched and most carefully argued book to date on this controversial papacy.” **Robert Royal, president of the Faith and Reason Institute**

“After giving Pope Francis every benefit of the doubt, Philip Lawler reluctantly concluded that there were serious problems with this papacy.... Lawler explains without exaggeration or histrionics why we must hope for a successor who can right the Barque of Peter quickly, before too many passengers lose hope or abandon ship.” **Karl Keating, founder and president of Catholic Answers**

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9.2 Sire, Henry

- *The Dictator Pope: the Inside Story of the Francis Papacy* (Regnery, 2018). Sire is an English Catholic historian. The book is published under the pen name Marcantonio Colonna.

"A remarkable new book on the pope which is making waves in Rome and around the world....This volume is far more probing and detailed than anything that has previously appeared....When the head of the Church himself does not much feel bound by the tradition or impartial laws he has inherited, what then?...Any answer will have to reckon with the eye-opening material in this compelling book."

Robert Royal, *The Catholic Thing*

"The most valuable service provided by the author of *The Dictator Pope* is the psychological portrait of Pope Francis: manipulative, hypersensitive, and often downright vindictive—certainly not the cheerful populist that his supporters make him out to be....For all the talk about a 'reformer pope,' the rhetoric about decentralization, and the promises of reform, the net results of this pontificate to date have been a climate of fear within the Vatican, a tightening of control, and a resurgence of the 'old guard' in Rome."

Philip Lawler, author of *Lost Shepherd: How Pope Francis Is Misleading His Flock*

9.3 Ureta, José Antonio

- *Pope Francis's "Paradigm Shift"* (The American TFP, 2018).

9.4 Mercer, Joshua

- <https://catholicvote.org/is-stricklands-dismissal-doctrinal-revenge/>

9.5 Moreau, Jean-Pierre

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/a-political-scam-french-author-exposes-true-origins-of-popes-four-principles/>

9.6 Pentin, Edward

- <https://edwardpentin.co.uk/perspectives-from-rome-understanding-the-crisis-and-where-we-go-from-here/>

9.7 Sammons, Eric

- <https://crisismagazine.com/editors-desk/does-pope-francis-deserve-the-benefit-of-the-doubt>

9.8 Scrosati, Luisella

- "25 Victims of Francis' 'Mercy'", <https://www.gloria.tv/post/oDrj9TvXR3ud6qVpeZZN76Do2>

9.9 Seifert, Josef

- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2017/10/the-persecution-of-orthodoxy#print>

9.10 Sire, Henry

- <https://onepeterfive.com/francis-lower-sink/#comments>

9.11 Thompson, Damian

- <https://unherd.com/2023/03/ten-terrible-years-of-pope-francis/>

9.12 Wells

- <https://crisismagazine.com/opinion/bishop-strickland-laying-his-life-down-for-his-sheep>

9.13 Zmirak, John

- <https://chroniclesmagazine.org/recent-features/how-do-you-solve-a-problem-like-francis/>

MISSION OF DIVINE MERCY

10 Secularist/Globalist Alliances

A striking pattern of the Francis papacy is how often he sides with the secularist elites that dominate so many sectors of Western society, from governments and corporations to the media and academia. These are the elites that typically hold profoundly anti-Christian views on marriage, sexuality, and the sanctity of life, among other matters. Yet whether it is Francis treating prudential issues as moral absolutes (climate change, covid lockdown and vaccine policies) and moral absolutes as prudential (homosexual and adulterous acts)—a hallmark of the secularist elites' approach—or his standing foursquare for globalist solutions that push one-size-fits-all policies regardless of a particular nation's circumstances, Francis seems far more at home and comfortable with such secularist elites than with, say, the ordinary Catholic moms and dads and schoolchildren marching at a pro-life rally.

10.1 Schneider, Bishop Athanasius

- *Christus Vincit: Christ's Triumph Over the Darkness of the Age* (Angelico, 2019)

"I highly recommend Bishop Athanasius Schneider's book-length interview....His Excellency's overview of modern Church history, the Second Vatican Council, the post-conciliar period, and the pontificate of Francis provides a full context for the arguments contained [in my book, *True Obedience in the Church*]." **Peter Kwasniewski**

10.2 Haynes, Michael

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pope-francis-praises-klaus-schwab-world-economic-forum-in-message-sent-to-2024-davos-summit/>

10.3 Matt, Michael J.

- <https://remnantnewspaper.com/web/index.php/articles/item/6825-betrayed-francis-teams-up-with-bill-clinton>

10.4 McCloone, David

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/the-indistinguishable-foreign-policies-of-xi-jinping-and-pope-francis/>

10.5 Pentin, Edward

- <https://www.ncregister.com/news/are-the-holy-see-and-the-united-nations-too-close-for-comfort>
- <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/pfizer-and-the-vatican>

10.6 Roberts, James

- <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/14153/pope-joins-global-elite-to-plan-for-world-after-covid>

10.7 Vigano, Archbishop Carlos Maria

- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/archbishop-vigano-bergoglio-supports-the-efforts-of-davos-elites-to-establish-the-new-world-order/>

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11 Synod on Synodality

While still incomplete, the efforts so far in preparing for and executing the Synod on Synodality have alarmed many of the faithful. Among the greatest concerns is that the synod is a kind of trojan horse, using the pretext of encouraging greater participation among the faithful as a means to force heretical changes in Church doctrine and practice, all under the guise of being a more “democratic” Church. Cardinal Burke noted that the term *synodality* is one that “has no history in the doctrine of the Church and for which there is no reasonable definition. Synodality and its adjective, synodal, have become slogans behind which a revolution is at work to change radically the Church’s self-understanding, in accord with a contemporary ideology which denies much of what the Church has always taught and practiced” (Forward to *The Synodal Process Is a Pandora’s Box*). The late Cardinal Pell, speaking of the synod’s preparatory document, *Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*, called it,

One of the most incoherent documents ever sent out from Rome...It is not a summary of Catholic faith or New Testament teaching. It is incomplete, hostile in significant ways to the apostolic tradition, and nowhere acknowledges the New Testament as the Word of God, normative for all teaching on faith and morals. The Old Testament is ignored, patriarchy rejected, and the Mosaic Law, including the Ten Commandments, is not acknowledged...The Catholic Church must free itself from this ‘toxic nightmare. (“The Catholic Church must free itself from this ‘toxic nightmare,” *The Spectator*, January 11, 2023.)

11.1 Cardinal Burke

- <https://www.cardinalburke.com/presentations/synodality-vs-true-identity>

11.2 Cardinal Zen

- <https://www.ncregister.com/cna/cardinal-zen-expresses-concerns-about-synod-on-synodality-in-leaked-letter-to-bishops>

11.3 Cardinal Muller

- <https://www.ncregister.com/interview/cardinal-mueller-says-synod-on-synodality-is-being-used-by-some-to-prepare-the-church-to-accept-false-teaching>
- <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2023/10/the-church-is-not-a-democracy>

11.4 Bishop Mutsaerts

- <https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2022/11/dutch-bishop-god-is-out-of-picture-in.html>

11.5 Cardinal Pell

- <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-catholic-church-must-free-itself-from-this-toxic-nightmare/>

11.6 Jose Antonio Ureta and Julio Loredó de Izcue

- *The Synodal Process Is a Pandora’s Box* (TFP, 2023).

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12 *Traditionis Custodes* and the Attacks on Catholic Traditionalists

With the document *Traditionis Custodes*, Pope Francis severely curtailed the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, in direct contradiction to the efforts of his predecessor, Benedict XVI, once again demonstrating that his policies of dialogue, accompaniment and compassion for those on the margin are missing in action when it comes to orthodox and traditionalist Catholics.

12.1 Peter Kwasniewski, ed.

- In *From Benedict's Peace to Francis's War: Catholics Respond to the Motu Proprio Traditionis Custodes on the Latin Mass* (Angelico, 2021), Peter Kwasniewski has gathered contributions from a range of Catholic prelates, priests, and laity, including
Cardinal Walter Brandmüller • Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke • Cardinal Gerhard Müller • Cardinal Robert Sarah • Cardinal Joseph Zen • Archbishop Thomas Gullickson • Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò • Bishop Rob Mutsaerts • Bishop Athanasius Schneider • Msgr. Charles Pope • Dom Alcuin Reid • Abbé Claude Barthe • Fr. John Hunwicke • Michael Brendan Dougherty • Ross Douthat • Edward Feser • Michael Fiedrowicz • Peter A. Kwasniewski • Phil Lawler • Martin Mosebach • George Neumayr • Joseph Shaw