



Response to *This Rock* Rejoinder from the "Mad Rad Trads"

The September 2003 issue of *This Rock* magazine, published by [Neo-] Catholic Answers, featured a short three-paragraph snippet about Novus Ordo Watch (p. 10):

For years, Pope John Paul II has been called evil by the "radical traditionalist" (a.k.a. "rad trad") folks www.NovusOrdoWatch.org, among other things. So when the Pope announced that a Latin indult Mass would be celebrated at St. Mary Major, the folks at Novus Ordo Watch were full of Christian charity and gratitude, right?

Well, no. Here's their "analysis":

"Vatican Announces Traditional Mass in St. Mary Major for May 24. And what will the Mass be offered for? True peace? Conversion of sinners? End to abortion? Conversion of Russia? No! Instead, in honor of John Paul II! By the way, why won't the Pope himself come? (It seems he won't.) We thought he was so traditional-Mass-friendly!"

Anger is medicine, not food. The Novus Ordo Watch guys have become addicted to the drug of anger and now prefer it to the food of charity. They seem to want to go on loathing the Pope, no matter what--even if he gives them what they want.

Ah, well. Of course, people who are deeply stuck in the *Novus Ordo* camp must be puzzled how we could possibly be so "uncharitable" here, and perhaps it was imprudent to put it like this. But in essence, it was right on the money.

But first, let us comment on some other things that were said and left unsaid:

(1) **"For years, Pope John Paul II has been called evil by the 'radical traditionalist' . . . folks www.NovusOrdoWatch.org, among other things."** As far as we can remember, we have never called John Paul II "evil," and we certainly haven't done so "for years," since *Novus Ordo Watch* did not start actively on the internet until about October of 2002, less than a year before this snippet in *This Rock* was written.

(2) Notice how there is absolutely no interaction with our more-than-justified question why John Paul II himself would not attend the traditional Mass at St. Mary Major if he is, as the Neo-Catholics like to think, such a friend of the traditional Mass. It would have been a perfect opportunity to celebrate or at least assist at the Mass of the ages! And it's right there in Rome. Why didn't he come?

(3) **"Anger is medicine, not food. The Novus Ordo Watch guys have become addicted to**

the drug of anger and now prefer it to the food of charity." Oh, we're "addicted to anger." How's that for a rash judgment? Why does the writer pretend to know our motives or demeanor? What is "angry" about what we said? We pointed out that of all the intentions that the Holy Mass could have been offered for, they chose the honor of John Paul II. It is perhaps indeed a minor point, and perhaps even one we should not have dwelt on, but it just goes to show how typical this is for the *Novus Ordo* establishment. After over 30 years, they finally celebrated a traditional Mass in the Vatican, but they used this opportunity right away to reaffirm the revolutionary direction they have chosen since 1958. By this, we can see that there is absolutely no desire on Rome's part to embrace Tradition once again.

Especially now that this traditional Mass has taken place in St. Mary Major, we can see that it was nothing but a diplomatic gesture to attract a few more traditionalists. But since there is not going to be a fundamental change in direction in Rome, all the traditional Masses said under these auspices they could allow will impress us. "Cardinal" Hoyos can say the traditional Mass publicly in Rome for the rest of his life; unless and until he returns to the true Catholic Faith, we will not be impressed, nor will we have made any real progress with him. Before the imposition of the New Mass, the modernists 'in the Church' all said the traditional Mass. We must repeat to all Neo-Catholics that **this is not just about the Holy Mass!**

(4) **"They seem to want to go on loathing the Pope, no matter what--even if he gives them what they want."** We do not hate John Paul II; we hate what he has done. Here we can see how the author of this little snippet has not understood the traditionalist cause: we do not want to be "allowed" to have the Holy Mass. *We want Rome to change back to Tradition, to become Catholic!* We do not want the traditional Mass as "allowed" or "tolerated" or "more widely available" if nothing else is going to change. It was none other than the most august **Pope Leo XIII** who warned: "It is **impossible to approve** in Catholic publications a style inspired by unsound novelty which seems to deride the piety of the faithful and dwells on the introduction of a new order of Christian life, on **new directions of the Church**, on new aspirations of the modern soul, on a new social vocation of the clergy, on a **new Christian civilization**, and many other things of the same kind" (from his Instruction of the Sacred Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, January 27, 1902). Thus, by letting a traditional Mass be celebrated in Rome on May 24, 2003, John Paul II did *not* "give us what we want." Those who think this is just about the traditional Mass have not understood the essence of traditionalism (nor the nature of the crisis).

One last thing about the label "rad trad," i.e. "radical traditionalist." To the Neo-Catholics, there is only one type of traditionalist that is acceptable, and that is the "nice" traditionalist, i.e. the traditionalist who goes along with Vatican II and everything else and simply "prefers" the traditional Mass, perhaps as a matter of aesthetics or because he "feels" better when attending the traditional Mass. Thus, any real traditionalist is labeled a "radical" one. But that's fine with us. We're in good company, considering these wise words of the great **Pope Pius XI**: "Only by being **radicals of the right** will Catholics have the dynamism to withstand the radicals of the left and to conquer the world for Christ" (Letter to the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, quoted in *The Latin Mass*, Winter 1998, p. 63).

Thus, we will continue to be as radical as the hierarchy of the *True Catholic Church* always was, and we will pray for the readers of *This Rock* magazine.

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