

LIFE IN A LIONS' CAGE OR THE ROAD TO THE DESERT? (Part I)



PROLOGUE

This writing is addressed to those faithful who, in the current ecclesiastical situation, recognize serious deviations from the Church's previous path and have suffered under the Pontificate of Francis. Its purpose is to help them discern the newly begun Pontificate of Leo XIV. It is also addressed to those faithful who seek guidance and have become uncertain because they perceive contradictions between what the Church has always taught and what now emanates from a large part of the hierarchy.

Surprisingly, many traditional Catholics, who out of conviction rejected the course taken by Francis, now place their hopes in Leo XIV. Perhaps this writing can help them not to neglect the spirit of discernment and to not renounce the critical distance they had maintained until now, replacing it with an illusory vision of the new Pontificate.

INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Church is in a grave existential crisis. It is on the verge of either renouncing the mission entrusted to it by the Risen Lord or transforming it into something else, thus falling into insignificance.

The philosopher and author Dietrich von Hildebrand, whom Pope Pius XII called "the Doctor of the Church of the 20th Century", described in 1973, in his book *The Ravaged Vineyard*, how the enemy was within the Church. He calls it the "fifth column", made up of priests, theologians, and bishops who have lost their faith but nevertheless remain in the Church and in office.

According to Hildebrand, these internal enemies of the Church have two objectives. The first is to undermine the Church from within and destroy it under the pretext of progress and reform. In this case, one can even discern hatred toward the Church.

Their second objective is to transform it into a humanitarian organization. To achieve this, it must be secularized and desacralized. In order to carry out this transformation, they also resort to the concepts of reform, progress, and adaptation to modern man. These protagonists have fallen into a grave deception. They do not want to destroy the Church, but they believe it must adapt more to the world and modernize itself in order to fulfill its task.

Although the motives may be different in each case, the goal they pursue is the same. The Church must be stripped of its supernatural character and, with it, of the mission entrusted to it by the Lord himself (Mt 28:19-20).

Has the work of destruction already been completed?

To a large extent it has. Under the influence of modernism, which impacts both doctrine and moral teaching, the Church has become spiritually ill. Moreover, since it has not overcome this illness, anti-Christian and demonic powers are gaining increasing influence over it.

If we use the terminology of the philosopher Hildebrand, we could say that the “fifth column” managed to rise to the top of the ecclesiastical hierarchy when the Argentine Jorge Mario Bergoglio took office as Petrine minister.

The devastating consequences of the last Pontificate are evident. Many faithful barely recognize their Church anymore. They miss the clarity of doctrine. They hardly hear sermons that move people, calling them to conversion and sanctification. They face a strongly horizontal mentality and an ecclesiastical hierarchy that often applies inclusivism in the religious sphere, instead of proclaiming salvation in Christ to all people. The emphasis is on love of neighbor without starting primarily from the love of God, which enables us to truly love our neighbor. The glorification of God has largely been lost.

In my previous posts, I described some serious wounds inflicted on the Church during the previous Pontificate.¹

¹ <https://en.elijamission.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/The-5-Wounds-of-the-Church.pdf>

This erroneous path, which experienced a hellish revitalization under Francis' leadership, will continue to have its destructive effect after his death unless the course is corrected at its roots.

A deeply disturbing and painful fact is that there was very little resistance to Francis' course within the episcopate (with the exception of the *Fiducia Supplicans* declaration, which was rejected by a considerable number of bishops). It is true that in 2016, shortly after the publication of *Amoris Laetitia*, four cardinals wrote "Dubia", but, receiving no response, this resistance dissipated.

The Election of Leo XIV

After Francis' death, many devout Catholics placed their hopes in his successor. They prayed insistently for the election of a Pope of true faith who would put the Church back on track.

On May 8, 2025, the Conclave elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, who chose the name Leo XIV.

Meanwhile, more than seventy days have passed since his election, and so far, no change of course can be recognized. Leo XIV has made it clear from the beginning that he wants to continue the path begun by Francis. Not only has he not criticized him at all, but he has praised him time and again. As in the case of Francis, the confusing appointments of bishops and other church officials reveal the direction he wants to follow. Likewise, Leo XIV's emphasis on a "synodal Church" and his support for the "synodal process" initiated by Francis clearly point in a certain direction.²

² (18 May 2025) "During Mass, I strongly felt the spiritual presence of Pope Francis accompanying us from heaven." <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/angelus/2025/documents/20250518-regina-caeli.html>

(19 May 2025) "Aware, moreover, that synodality and ecumenism are closely linked, I would like to assure you of my intention to continue Pope Francis' commitment to promoting the synodal nature of the Catholic Church and developing new and concrete forms for an ever stronger synodality in ecumenical relations." <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2025/05/19/0326/00555.html#de>

(22 May 25) Leo promotes nun Tiziana Merletti to the rank of Secretary of State in the Roman Curia. He made the nun the number two in the religious authority. The new Pope is thus continuing the personnel policy of his predecessor Francis. She has warned against 'stuck models' on several occasions, spoken out in favour of 'synodal processes' and, in an interview, expressed her desire to 'break out of the established framework.'

It is true that the style has changed under Leo's leadership. It seems more Catholic, more refined, and more thoughtful. But there should be no illusions, as so far there has been no substantial change that would confirm the hopes of many faithful. Francis' course continues.

<https://bigmodernism.substack.com/p/leos-feminized-vatican-where-nuns>,
<https://gloria.tv/post/iHSiKbvnczUV3Cp3N14aCRi14>

(May 23 2025) Pope Leo XIV confirmed the election of heretical Fr. Beat Grögli as bishop St. Gallen. Grögli said that 'the women's priesthood will come,' among other heterodox statements.
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pope-leo-xiv-confirms-priest-who-supports-womens-ordination-as-new-bishop-of-st-gallen-switzerland>

On May 27, 2025, Leo XIV appointed Monsignor Renzo Pegoraro as the new president of the Pontifical Academy for Life. Pegoraro, a bioethicist and physician, has served as chancellor of the Academy since 2011 and helped engineer its transformation under Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia from a defender of life into a post-Christian bioethics think tank. His promotion is a coronation for bioethical subversion.

Monsignor Pegoraro had stated that artificial contraception, which is intrinsically evil according to Catholic teaching, could be permissible. 'The letter of the law' could change 'to deepen its meaning and promote the values at stake,' he said. Pegoraro argues that euthanasia can be the lesser evil in certain cases.

<https://bigmodernism.substack.com/p/academy-for-death-pope-leo-appoints>

(19 June 2025) Leo appoints Bishop Shane Mackinlay as Archbishop of Brisbane, Australia. He advocates the ordination of women as deacons and describes the document 'Fiducia Supplicans' as 'a significant step forward.' He places an obscene statue of a Hindu deity in his cathedral.

<https://gloria.tv/post/oG6xqNqxaMcu3BwTMpVpHe9zB>

<https://bigmodernism.substack.com/p/leo-appoints-a-second-bishop-in-favor>

<https://x.com/BishStrickland/status/1935463152059301905>