

## NEED OF DISCERNMENT OF THE SPIRITS

Scriptures say: "You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people" (Acts 23:5)

*"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. (Titus 3: 1-2)*

Many people unfortunately seem to be deceived following false prophecies and movements. If TLIG does not suffice for them, but are searching to follow other revelations simultaneously, why don't they follow instead Medjugorje, Garabandal, Valtorta, Don Gobbi, Myrna of Souffanieh, or Julia of Korea instead, at least reliable ones? Unfortunately they do not listen to Fr. Joseph Iannuzzi's S.Th.D. explanations on discernment of the spirits. Fr. Joseph's intention in writing his warning is only to help people who do not have the gift of discernment and can be easily misled and fall prey to the devil.

I'm also aware of the most slanderous article written in the Church Militant (CM) magazine by Dr. Jules Gomes against the True Life In God's messages and the activities of our Interfaith Pilgrimages, denigrating them, adding a falsified hand-written draft page of mine about Saint John Paul II. "Slander is a kind of murder," as rightly Saint Francis de Sales quoted. How can a so-called Christian be so treacherous? Now Dr. Gavin Ashenden is an enthusiast of CM and its movement and he could have easily demanded a retraction of the slanderous article, especially since Dr. Jules Gomes who wrote it, is his very close friend who attended in the past the same parish in the Anglican Church! Since Dr. Gavin knew that what the CM magazine wrote were pure calumnies, which proceeded from a deceptive and slanderous spirit, regretfully he did not raise his voice to object publicly but kept silent, and he let it go. It is clear that Dr. Gomes' article was not under the influence of the Holy Spirit, as it was written deliberately to denigrate the messages of God.

Dr. Jules Gomes and Dr. Gavin were kindly invited to join our 2019 recent Pilgrimage in Marathon, Greece, and were welcomed warmly to be present among us. We treated them with love and decency. But what Dr. Jules Gomes decided to write was obviously a deliberate evil act to try to damage the messages of Christ, and speak ill of me and of my mission of Ecumenism and Interfaith that are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Both he and Dr. Gavin are in total disagreement with the Interfaith dialogues and are irritated mainly because the messages also are defending the Petrine Seat and Peter, and they are disrespecting even the latest message of Christ who said on 16 August 2019: *"beware of these who condemn and judge the Pope, they are chatterers who congratulate themselves and each other while speaking against the Pope; trapped in their own reflections, they are carried away, misbehaving; My Church will always uphold the truth and will always keep it safe... so anyone who condemns the Vicar of My Church cannot be My disciple; humility is missing from them!"*

In the past, Saint John Paul II was the favourite target of Church Militant, he was also the victim in their hands; he was bashed by these same people that now bash Pope Francis – discriminating him of his Ecumenical and Interfaith gatherings! Dr. Gomes and the followers of Church Militant are twisted enough to play it innocent pretending now to defend Saint John Paul II and hypocritically pretending that he was attacked by me instead! How false can one be?! I'd like to see their position then when this Pope also will be declared a Saint! Where will they hide? This Pope is constantly ill spoken of by Dr. Gomes and his like. Scriptures say: *"If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."* (1 Peter 4:14) Indeed, that is why he will be declared one day a Saint.

I'm sending you as well pictures as a reminder in this article of several recent Pontiffs who have worked so hard to achieve Interfaith dialogues, showing you that Pope Francis and TLIG are laboring no less tirelessly than them.

TLIG, has offered Dr. Gavin many blessings and opportunities and I know he still appreciates the TLIG messages and is grateful to the Lord for letting him know of them, as he said once in an email: *"The Messages have of course been the most important element in the journey, changing my mind about 'Peter', deepening my appreciation of the Eucharist, and allowing me to encounter our Blessed Lady. I am truly grateful. Gavin"*

How can one believe then Dr. Gavin who, at one time, expressed that, 'these messages have of course been the most important element in the journey...' but was unable to express it publicly in the CM's article?

When I said to him that the article was slander, he answered privately to me: "I don't think I have anything to say about the CM article that can add anything to your own remarks (mine) except that you seem to have misunderstood why I wrote about sects and cults."

Recently he was trying to persuade me to follow his negative views on Pope Francis. He said he finds difficulties to understand some of the Pope's expressions and acts. Also he finds unacceptable the activities on Inter-religious meetings and the way they are done, which according to his judgment are no good. But mostly he did not understand why I have asked people who are at war with this Pontiff to step down from TLIG, although I tried to explain it to him, as did Fr. Joseph Iannuzzi, and Fr. Vincent Cosatti.

Speaking about the message that Christ gave on the 16 August 2019, his comment was that, "the messages from Jesus endorsing Pope Francis strike me as presenting a challenge, though not one that is necessarily insuperable." If Jesus

'endorsed' Pope Francis, according to Dr. Gavin, who are we then to still keep discussing? Who are we to challenge Christ? Who are we to question God?

Dr. Gavin wrote to me in another email: "the other problem with commanding **silence or expulsion** is that it creates the impression of an authoritarian organization unwilling to help people grow through their difficulties. Anyone with experience of cults and sects will know that this is a feature of such groups, and I was distressed that TLIG should even begin to display such superficial similarities. When recently this instruction to maintain **silence** or leave was re-issued, I found that it places me in an impossible situation."

Fr. Vincent Cosatti wrote to Dr. Gavin on that matter:

"You say for example that in no case would you want to harm TLIG, that in no case do you consider TLIG as a sect and that Vassula is in no way the object of a cult. Very well, with these affirmations, you give an important clarification so that your words are not misinterpreted. "

This is the response to Fr. Vincent from Dr. Gavin:

"But I think you miss the point of what I meant as you report my words back to me. So let me try to make the point again. It is a characteristic of sects that they do not allow, and certainly do not help people find their way to the truth by exploration. They are simply told what they can think and say. It should be obvious that I do not consider the most precious TLIG a sect. How could I? But, my concern was that **by appearing to silence people**, it might appear to have developed such characteristics."

In our correspondence Dr. Gavin wrote to me on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, about silencing the people. This is what I responded.

"I believe I've answered you in my previous email about 'silencing'. But you seem to be repeating yourself about me 'silencing people...' Maybe I should rewrite them once more, this is what I wrote to you: How will it be, in the presence of many, in a prayer meeting of TLIG, a retreat or a pilgrimage if we get engaged with a debate on the issue of the Pope? It will not work! This is why Fr. Peter (Klos), rightly and honestly stepped down. I have not silenced him, nor have I silenced anyone. They can go out at a cafeteria, in houses, and talk and in any other places too. I'm not silencing anybody. So there is a difference when you declare that '*Vassula is imposing silence on everyone who does not listen **to her**, like a cult.*' I even said, go ahead freely and cry your views on the rooftops, but bringing your arguments when we do have a TLIG retreat that is uniquely TLIG (that are messages of peace and unity in diversity) to make a debate on this issue, the Lord would not want it." Since these merciless persecutors of the Pope and opposers of the Interfaith gatherings are manifestly in the wrong, they will have no right

to join ever any of our TLIG gatherings, for their yeast will be spreading through the whole assembly and corrupt it. I shall not give the devil a foothold.

I explained it clearly above. Christ had said one day to me to take only what is written inside His messages and the Scriptures when we gather for prayer, retreats and pilgrimages and nothing from outside, **like gossip**. In other words, Jesus is not allowing any gossip to enter inside our prayer meetings to turn the whole thing into a debate. But anybody, you or Fr. Peter or others, or Dr. Gomes, are free to converse in your Videos with anybody outside of our TLIG meetings. **TLIG should remain pure in the light of Christ, this is what I mean.** (And **I just now** heard from Jesus: '**And it will!**')"

I'm not pretending to be a theologian and I am still far from perfection, but maybe I should remind Dr. Gavin and anybody who doubts of my decisions, what Scripture advises us in such cases, so that everyone knows that what Scripture say is the foundation of God's revealed truth to which we should listen and follow:

Titus 1:10-11

"And in fact you have a great many people who need to be disciplined, who talk nonsense and try to make others believe it, particularly among those of the Circumcision. **They have got to be silenced:** men of this kind ruin whole families, by teaching things that they ought not to..."

Yet, according to Dr. Gavin, in silencing the gossipers we might appear as a cult!

Titus 3:10

"As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, **have nothing more to do with him.**"

2 John 1: 9-10

"Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting.**"

1 Cor 5:11-13

"What I wrote was that you should not associate with a brother Christian who is leading an immoral life, or is a usurer, or idolatrous, **or a slanderer**, or a drunkard, **or is dishonest**; you should not even eat a meal with people like that. It is not my business to pass judgment on those outside. Of those who are inside, you can surely be the

judges. But of those who are outside, God is the Judge. **You must drive out this evil-doer from among you... Dt 13:6"**

### 2 Thes 3: 13-15

"My brothers, never grow tired of doing what is right, If anyone refuses to obey what I have written in this letter, **take note of him and have nothing to do with him, so that he will feel that he is in the wrong**; though you are not to regard him as an enemy but as a brother in need of correction."

And there are more quotes. Scripture's explanations are enough for now to persuade anyone that taking the initiative to ask the opposers of Inter-religious gatherings, and rebels against this Pope to leave TLIG, was indeed correct, as it was guided by the Holy Spirit. '*Scriptures never lie*', often comments Jesus.

Last and not least, when we look at the divine messages of TLIG and my mission that has been given to me, and study them closely in the light of the Holy Spirit no one who is sincere (unless deliberately they want to harm TLIG) will cast the first stone and call it a 'cult' or a 'sect,' simply because I am guarding the TLIG from the thorns that want to penetrate in TLIG. I am aware of the damage that can arise if I allow slanderers who are fighting the Pope (even if they do not like to admit to themselves that they are slanderers and fighting the Pope and diplomatically use the word 'difficulties', that is, their difficulties to understand and accept his acts in Ecumenism and Interfaith). Such individuals should reread our Lady's message of Medjugorje (in my article: "Clarifications on Interfaith Dialogues": <https://ww3.tlig.org/en/news/some-clarifications-to-understand-interfaith-dialogues-by-vassula/>). If I allow these 'thorns,' as Christ calls them, to remain within TLIG and infiltrate inside our prayer groups or retreats, they will surely create a division in TLIG, which is precisely what I'm trying to avoid. It simply blows my mind that they are unable to see the cunning move of the Divider! These dividers would want a platform to try and convince people of their divisive theories in our prayer groups, turning a spiritual gathering into a political debate.

Because it is Christ who led me and leads me step by step along the way I should go for His glory, I listen to Him. Therefore, there is only one Voice I would hear and that is the Voice of our Lord that transcends all human voices, opinions and reflections. I would be wasting a lot of my time sitting on the computer to continue with human discussions and arguments that would lead nowhere, when Christ in His messages reveals his Word all so clearly about the past Popes and this Pope, and ordering me to pull out the thorns in His Body. Do I need to hear other voices? Do I need to hear voices that spend their time with endless empty arguments and political discussions on Interfaith around the world that would lead nowhere?

As a reminder, I will here share the Assisi meetings:

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rencontres\\_d%27Assise](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rencontres_d%27Assise), a series of inter-religious meetings that took place in the city of Assisi at the invitation of Pope John Paul II.

The first meeting was the World Day of Prayer on 27 October 1986, (identical to a universal prayer) organized by Pope John Paul II to invite **all the great religions of the world to pray for peace**. This meeting in Assisi was surprising because of its unprecedented character.

Today Dr. Gavin is scandalized with the Pope's recent call for a **universal prayer**, fasting and acts of charity to combat the pandemic. Mind you, Jesus' recent message too of March 13, 2020 called out for **a universal prayer** and fasting! How easily one can be tempted to override God's Wisdom!

Many of the pilgrims of Medjugorje know Our Lady's message at the end of 1985, namely, that in addition to being the father of the Christian faithful, the Pope should consider himself as **the father of all souls**. Incidentally this message came during the first revelations of True Life in God! And our Lady's message reached Saint Pope John Paul II who immediately decided to organize an inter-religious meeting. This inter-religious meeting was announced by Pope John Paul II on 25 January 1986 on the occasion of the International Year of Peace proclaimed by the United Nations. The meeting brought together **130 religious leaders from all over the world!** After fasting and praying through midday, the participants marched through the steep stone streets until they arrived outside the Basilica of Saint Francis. Even Sioux Indians were there with their sacred ceremonial pipe of peace, the smoke of which they ceremonially offered, like incense, to the Great Manitou, the One God. This historical meeting, which manifested a new form of interreligious dialogue at that time, was followed by a new day of prayer in 1993, and a third one in 2002, still organized by John Paul II.

Then another meeting was organized by **Pope Benedict XVI** in Assisi, held on 27 October 2011 (enlarge and see the enclosed photo), the 25th anniversary of the first meeting in Assisi.



**Pope Benedict XVI** at the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Assisi 2011



**Pope Benedict XVI** at the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Assisi 2011

Then, five years later, in turn, **Pope Francis** organized a new meeting in Assisi on 20 September 2016 (30th anniversary of the first meeting in Assisi).





**Pope Francis** in Assisi on 20 September 2016

In other words, Pope Francis does nothing more than what his predecessors Saint John Paul II and Benedict XVI already have done before him. Can we reproach Pope Francis for that which his predecessors did and who never got reproached? So, with immense bad faith, Pope Francis' bashers continue to create division and they do so by exploiting the amnesia and ignorance of many people.





Pope Saint John Paul II in Assisi



Pope Saint John Paul II in Assisi



Pope Saint John Paul II in Assisi



Pope Saint John Paul II in Interreligious meetings



Here below are some comments from the media:

- <https://www.la-croix.com/Urbi-et-Orbi/Actualite/Rome/Rencontre-d-Assise-Benoit-XVI-salue-la-clairvoyance-de-Jean-Paul-II-2011-10-28-729000>
- <https://www.vaticancatholique.com/jean-paul-ii-saint-esprit-religions-non-chretiennes/#.Xskhizk6-yo>
- <https://www.vaticancatholique.com/apostasie-de-jean-paul-ii-a-assise/#.XskktTk6-yo>
- <https://www.lesdokimos.org/fr/blog/2014-06-08-la-prostituee-oecumenique/>

John Paul II was also a victim of the same bashing by the same radicals.

### **Followers of the Cult: Church Militant**

Followers of this CM movement ought to be made aware of its history that was shared with me from individuals relating to its non-Catholic status. In 2012 the movement named "RealCatholic.tv" was changed to "ChurchMilitant.tv" because of its series of bans from the Catholic Church that persists to this day.

In 2011 the Archdiocese of Detroit prohibited this movement (now called Church Militant) from using the name "Catholic" to identify or promote its public activities, as they are not compatible with the Catholic faith. The Archdiocese of Detroit, citing canon 216 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, published notice to Michael Voris and this company that "it [did] not regard them as being authorized to use the word 'Catholic' to identify or promote their public activities." This ban is still in effect today.

On February 19, 2017, Robert Allen wrote an article for the Detroit Free Press (within the Archdiocese of Detroit), which was republished by USA Today on the rogue CM movement and referred to its apostolate as "a fringe group claiming to be Catholic but denounced by the Church..."

Having been accused of holding extreme anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim views, this movement was banned from speaking by the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania in April 2011, In a letter to the talk's organizers, Paul and Kristen Ciaccia, the Diocese declared that it had "learned from" the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Mr. Voris' home Archdiocese of Detroit that Voris' presentations had caused "'a number of controversies' and that his programs are not endorsed by his home archdiocese."

On July 26, 2011, the organizers of the Catholic World Youth Day 2011, held in Madrid, Spain, announced that it banned the speaker (of the movement that is now called the Church Militant), The organizers announced that "participants in the World Youth Day 2011 Cultural Program must be recognized and endorsed by the bishops and episcopal conferences of their respective countries."

In other words, the so-called Church Militant (CM) is not even Catholic, as it has been banned from several Catholic organizations due to its sectarian beliefs, and despite losing the right to use the name Catholic, it continues to function under the appearance that it is Catholic and loyal, but the opposite is true.

CM is a movement made up of schismatic journalists that accuse non-stop our Pope Francis, criticizes openly any move of ecumenism, and misinterpret every word in the gatherings of Interfaith and any recent apparition like Medjugorje, Garabandal and others. And still, I'm baffled how certain people who love the TLIG messages and were enriched by them spiritually, follow this Sect, this Cult of CM who are known as "rebels," (see TLIG messages below) and were kicked out by the Catholic Bishops of Scranton PA the Archdiocese of Detroit! CM is a species that wants to draw the Church back into the Middle Ages and who contradict the works of the Holy Spirit that ceaselessly keeps renewing and refreshing the Church. They are trying to damage all the works of the predecessor Popes on ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue, including our present Pope who is led to do the same thing and not more.

**Images for Catholic bishops in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Scranton PA, and others that have rightfully kicked out the CM cult.**



As you see, our present Pope as well as TLIG do nothing other than that which was observed and practiced by the preceding Popes like Saint John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, all of whom were active in gathering all faiths every year in Assisi. And now these gatherings continue with Pope Francis, who is unjustly bashed by this 'kicked-out-of-the-Church' movement filled with a rebellious people who are the

thorns of the Body of Christ. Now I understand what Christ was saying, about the thorns that penetrated His Body! Thorns that hurt Christ who asked me several times since the very beginning, to pull them out! But those thorns insist in remaining within the Body of Christ to be able to continue voicing their calumnies and continue their destructive and vicious plan, thwarting every word the Pope pronounces, every apparition that Heaven is sending us.

Jesus revealed the following messages,

*"Don't you see? to complete their work of destruction and crown it with success they will have to remove Peter's Chair and the one who sits on it; their aim is to destroy My Church .... but, do not be afraid, I had promised that "the gates of the underworld can never hold out against It" (Mt. 16.180); yes, this is what is happening now" (April 28, 1995).*

*"I Am; come and console Me, come and comfort Me, rest Me; I have created you so that I may be the One and only in your heart; I have created you to remove My thorns that penetrated My Body" (Sept. 20, 1990).*

*"Peace be with you, My child; evangelise with love for Love; ecclesia shall revive, because I the Lord shall overthrow all the impostors who have placed themselves in high seats within Her; daughter, remove these thorns that pierce My Head, thorns that cause so much bleeding; do not fear them, daughter, for I am beside you; and I tell you truly that with My Power and My Great Mercy I shall overthrow each one of these" (Nov 13, 1989).*

*"They are rebels, rebelling against My Law... but I shall overthrow these rebels with one blow of My Breath, I shall overthrow all of those Cains that have enthroned themselves into high seats of Falsehood; of what use are their thrones to Me? I have been warning them and the more I warned them the more they refused to hear, lest they should turn to me and be converted;*

*...They cling to illusions and to falsehood; they trample on My devout ones and on those who keep faithful to My Peter; yes, they ridicule all those who still believe in him; these Cains harm My Church to the extent that they made My Eyes turn into a Spring of Tears, weeping all day and all night long..." (July 9, 1989).*

*"Beware of gossip; beware of these who condemn and judge the Pope, they are chatterers who congratulate themselves and each other while speaking against the Pope; trapped in their own reflections, they are carried away, misbehaving; My Church will always uphold the truth and will always keep it safe... so anyone who condemns the Vicar of My Church cannot be My disciple; humility is missing from them!"(August 16, 201*

These are the rigid iron bars that Christ showed me in a vision. Unbending, wicked, forbidding the Holy Spirit to breathe freely in the Body of Christ. Champions when it comes to twist every expression Pope Francis would utter to make him appear that he is a heretic Pope, and a traitor of the Gospel. Oh, how I pity them when they will be standing that day in front of Christ! Are they expecting Christ to applaud them? Well, He will not! He will judge them severely for their rebellious spirit and rigidity, calumnies and especially their false judgments; for having wasted their time in persecuting the Vicar of the Church rather than spending their time in building up the Kingdom of God. They will be judged severely as the Pharisees, for having seated themselves in God's Throne to judge, flouting the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment: by judging the intentions of the Pope they usurp God's role of Judge. They made up an image of how the Church of Christ should be, according to what their heart contains, which is prejudice, intolerance, lack of love, dissension, spiritual pride, deception, false judgment, slander, in short: all evils. Can you imagine a Church run by this sort of spirit?

Fr. Joseph has this to share:

When I read the CM article on the ecclesiastically approved True Life in God messages, I thought it fitting to inform the TLIG readers of some facts pertaining to the True Life on God messages.

Before I do so, I was deeply saddened, like Vassula, to hear that a TLIG reader would disregard Jesus' divine exhortation that we are not to condemn this Pope. Not only does Jesus exhort all to honour all Pontiffs, but he often reminds us in the TLIG messages that whenever he refers to "Peter" or the "Pope" or to his "Vicar" he is referring to the anointed Vicar of Christ who occupies the office of the Papacy. Vassula made this quite clear when she wrote,

*"Obviously when Jesus talks about 'Peter', He talks about the successors as well of Peter, all the Popes, without excluding any of them. Christ knew that today Pope Francis would be misunderstood and undermined by persecutors who would not hesitate to judge him and would want to oust him out of the papacy... Jesus, having foreseen this sort of persecution, gave us several warnings many years back not to go against any Pope, because he knew that Cardinals will go against Cardinals and Bishops against Bishops and priests against priests, disagreeing with one another and creating a kind of schism within His Body, the Church, making it bleed as He says in the messages.*

*What does Jesus tell me? He told me many times, that these are the thorns of His Body, and that He will point them out to me so that I pull them out. He gave me a command: pull out the thorns of My Body. Therefore, when Jesus points out to me who are the persecutors to the Pope in our TLIG groups, I answer to Jesus' command and ask them to leave TLIG and pray for them that they open their eyes to the Will of God. There*



*is no way of changing them, since they became judges and are experts of turning around everything the Pope says or does, to the negative. It is a Pharisaic kind of spirit they got without them even knowing what a trap Satan set for them!"*

As reported below, Vassula's position against those who oppose the Vicar of Christ is in perfect conformity with the Church. As a theologian I am reminded of Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Corinthians 5:5 as well as the Church teaching and the Code of Canon Law that condemn of all ties with those organizations that plot against the Church, including its Vicar (who alone possesses "supreme, full and immediate" authority and power),<sup>1</sup> and its ban of those individuals actively engaged in them. Behind the Church's intransigent position are Jesus' and St. Paul's words. In his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Thessalonians Paul speaks of rebels or the "rebellion" (*ἀποστασία*) that precedes the lawless one who sits himself in the Temple of God. Paul indicates that the lawless one is held in check by the 'restrainer.' And who is the restrainer? Jesus reveals to in the TLIG messages that this 'restrainer' is the Pope. For this reason Jesus on multiple occasions implored Vassula to remove from his Mystical Body and Head the thorns (the rebels within) that cause division in the Church and make him suffer.

Jesus' and St. Paul's words resonate throughout the Magisterium's conciliar teachings that uphold the sacredness of the Papal office. The 1st Vatican Council (1869-1870) teaches,

*"Whoever succeeds to the chair of Peter obtains... the primacy of Peter over the whole Church. So that what the truth has ordained stands firm, and blessed Peter perseveres in the rock-like strength he was granted, and does not abandon the guidance of the Church which he once received... To him (the Roman Pontiff)... full power has been given by our Lord Jesus Christ to tend, to rule and govern the universal Church... Both clergy and faithful, of whatever rite and dignity, both singly and collective, are bound to submit to this power by the duty of hierarchical subordination and true obedience, and this not only in matters concerning faith and morals, but also in those which regard the discipline and government of the Church throughout the world... he is the supreme judge of the faithful...*

Picking up the thread of the 5<sup>th</sup> Lateran and 1<sup>st</sup> Vatican Councils, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council (1962-1965) declares,

*"The bishops, when they are teaching in communion with the Roman Pontiff, are to be respected by all as witnesses to the divine and catholic truth... The religious assent of the will and intellect is to be given in a special way to the authentic teaching authority of the Pontiff even when he is not speaking ex cathedra".<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, Vatican Council I, vol. II, Washington DC [1990], cap. II-IV, p. 923.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 869.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council and the Catechism respectively teach,

*“When the Roman Pontiff or the body of bishops together with him define a decision, they do so in accordance with revelation itself, by which all are obliged to abide and to which all must conform. This revelation, as written or as handed down in tradition, is transmitted in its entirety through the lawful succession of the bishops and in the first place through the care of the Roman Pontiff himself; and in light of the Holy Spirit of truth, this revelation is sacredly preserved in the Church and faithfully expounded.”<sup>3</sup>*

*“The college of bishops has... no authority unless united with the Roman Pontiff... Together with their head, the Supreme Pontiff, and never apart from him, they have supreme and full authority over the universal Church; but this power cannot be exercised without the agreement of the Roman Pontiff” (Lumen Gentium, 22);*

*“Their authority (that of the bishops) must be exercised in communion with the whole Church under the guidance of the Pope” (CCC, 895).*

When teaching that all dissent must be accompanied by dialogue, the Church disagrees from those who straightaway publicly condemn the Pope. The Church also extends a word of correction those *“opposing the Magisterium by exerting the pressure of public opinion, making the excuse of a ‘consensus’ among theologians, maintaining that the theologian is the prophetic spokesman of a ‘base’ or autonomous community which would be the source of all truth, all this indicates a grave loss of the sense of truth and of the sense of the Church” (Donum Veritatis articles, 38-39. 39). It adds that *“the theologian should avoid turning to the ‘mass media’, but have recourse to the responsible authority, for it is not by seeking to exert the pressure of public opinion that one contributes to the clarification of doctrinal issues and renders servile to the truth” (Ibid., 30).**

Apropos the interfaith dialogue and ecumenical meetings, the Church teaches three types of dialogue with individuals of others faiths: 1) with all mankind, many of whom profess no religion; 2) this who profess non-Christian religions (e.g., Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, etc.); 3) non-Catholic Christians (*Humana Personae dignitatem*, 2; Encyclical *Ecclesiam Suam*, 97, 107, 109). The Church also teaches that *“Dialogue must be accompanied by that meekness which Christ bade us learn from Himself: ‘Learn of me, for I am meek and humble of heart.’ (56) It would indeed be a disgrace if our dialogue were marked by arrogance, the use of bared words or offensive bitterness” (Ecclesiam Suam, 81).*

As Vassula indicates, the Church for decades has been actively engaged in ecumenical and interfaith dialogues. In its document on “Dialogue with Unbelievers” the

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<sup>3</sup> Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, Vatican Council II, vol. II, op. cit., *De ecclesia (Lumen Gentium)*, cap. III, art. 25, p. 870.

Church affirms, "Dialogue between believers and unbelievers is not only possible but **it is encouraged**" (*Humana Personae dignitatem*, 1).

It further adds,

*"Those who have not yet received the Gospel are related in various ways to the people of God. In the first place we must recall the people to whom the testament and the promises were given and from whom Christ was born according to the flesh. On account of their fathers this people remains most dear to God, for God does not repent of the gifts He makes nor of the calls He issues. But the plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator. In the first place amongst these there are the Muslims, who, professing to hold the faith of Abraham, along with us adore the one and merciful God, who on the last day will judge mankind. Nor is God far distant from those who in shadows and images seek the unknown God, for it is He who gives to all men life and breath and all things, and as Saviour wills that all men be saved. Those also can attain to salvation who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, yet sincerely seek God and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience. Nor does Divine Providence deny the helps necessary for salvation to those who, without blame on their part, have not yet arrived at an explicit knowledge of God and with His grace strive to live a good life. Whatever good or truth is found amongst them is looked upon by the Church as a preparation for the Gospel. She knows that it is given by Him who enlightens all men so that they may finally have life."* (*Lumen Gentium*, 16).

Unfortunately there are those who will disregard Church teaching and to these the Church expresses its sadness as follows:

"A spirit of independence, bitter criticism, defiance, and arrogance ... completely vitiates dialogue, turning it into argument, disagreement and dissension-a sad state of affairs... St. Paul warned us against this when he said: "Let there be no schisms among you"" (*Ecclesiam Suam*, 114-115).

Out of loving service to the faithful, the Church distinguishes the various types of religious dissent and how to avoid its pitfalls. The Catholic Catechism and the Catholic Encyclopedia respectively address the terms, schism and sect, in relation to the Pope and to the Church as follows: "Schism is the refusal of submission to the Roman Pontiff or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him" (CCC, 2089; cf. CIC, can. 751); "Any Christian denomination which has set itself up independently of his own Church is a sect" (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, v. 13, p. 675). These definitions are meant to help guide the faithful in their love for the Church and its duly elected pontiff. To those who take exception the various pontiffs' ecumenical and interfaith dialogues or who may see him as an obstacle, the Church relates,

*“Are there not those who say that unity between the separated Churches and the Catholic Church would be more easily achieved if the primacy of the Roman pontiff were done away with? We beg our separated brothers to consider the groundlessness of this opinion. Take away the sovereign Pontiff and the Catholic Church would no longer be catholic. Moreover, without the supreme, effective, and authoritative pastoral office of Peter the unity of Christ's Church would collapse. It would be vain to look for other principles of unity in place of the true one established by Christ Himself. As St. Jerome rightly observed: ‘There would be as many schisms in the Church as there are priests’” (Ecclesiam Suam, n. 110). And as many True Life in God readers know, unity of Christ’s Church is an integral part of its mission.*

Given the aforcited Magisterial and Conciliar teachings, it is rather clear the True Life in God readers are to a) give the Pope “religious assent of the will and intellect... even when he is not speaking ex cathedra”;<sup>4</sup> b) acknowledge that they are “bound to submit to his authority” and that c) they are to lend the Pope “hierarchical subordination and true obedience... in matters concerning faith and morals [and]... in those which regard the discipline and government of the Church.”<sup>5</sup>

I agree with Vassula 100% in her position of defending the Pope with heroic courage and charity and in leading the faithful to him whom God has placed at the helm of the Church. Her position is not only supported by the Magisterium, but it is buttressed by God’s revelation to St. Don Bosco who foresaw in mystical vision the future plotting of individuals to eliminate the Pope. St. Don Bosco relates,

*“Standing at the helm, the Pope strains every muscle to steer the ship (the Church) between the two columns (of Jesus and Mary)... The entire enemy fleet closes in to intercept and sink the flagship at all costs. They bombard it with everything they have: books and pamphlets... The battle rages ever more furious... Suddenly the Pope falls, seriously wounded... another takes his place... Breaking through all resistance, the new Pope steers his ship safely between the two columns and moors it to the two columns; first to the one surmounted by the Host, and then to the other, topped by the statue of the Virgin. At this point something unexpected happens. The enemy ships panic and disperse, colliding with and scuttling each other.”*

Noteworthy are the images Don Bosco beheld of the weapons used against the Pope, i.e., books and pamphlets, which represent today’s mass media and social media. The use of the media against the Church is also depicted in the Book of Revelation where St. John describes the beast with “horns,” which biblically represent its means of communication and amplification.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., *De perpetuitate primatus beati Petri in Romanis pontificibus*, cap. III, art. 25, p. 869.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils*, 5<sup>th</sup> Lateran Council, session 11 (*circa modum praedicandi*), p. 640.

As prophetic revelations from God for these End Times, the True Life in God messages exhort us to unite the dates of Easter and the churches through love and humility. We are to do so under Christ whilst honouring the Pope with filial obedience. Cardinal Sarah recently stated after the publication of his most recent book the following, *"To oppose the Pope is to be outside the Church."* He emphatically added, *"Those who oppose the Pope cannot present a single word, a single phrase or a single attitude in support of their absurd and, I would say, diabolical affirmations"* (*"Ceux qui m'opposent au pape ne peuvent présenter une seule de mes paroles, une seule de mes phrases ou une seule de mes attitudes en soutien à leurs affirmations absurdes et, je dirai, diaboliques"*) (<https://africa.la-croix.com/cardinal-sarah%E2%80%89-%E2%80%89qui-est-contre-le-pape-est-hors-de-leglise%E2%80%89/>).

And the most erudite theologian Pontiff Benedict XVI, in response to a series of books advancing Pope Francis' theological approach to the Church and Christian unity, wrote:

*"I applaud this initiative. It contradicts the foolish prejudice of those who see Pope Francis as someone who lacks a particular theological and philosophical formation, while I would have been solely a theorist of theology with little understanding of the concrete lives of today's Christian... (These books) reasonably demonstrate that Pope Francis is a man with profound philosophical and theological formation and are helpful to see the interior continuity between the two pontificates, even with all the differences in style and temperament."*

### **A word on Vassula**

I here wish to extend a word to the readers on the gift of discernment that God has imparted to Vassula. As early as 1987 Jesus revealed to her that he will augment her knowledge of discernment... and that she will be able to discern Him (May 19, 1987) and that he will enlighten her by showing her the way he works (Ibid., May 20, 1987). About five months later, He assured her that He will favour her by giving her the grace of achieving discernment... (November 25, 1987). This indeed was fulfilled; He assured her on many occasions throughout the succeeding years that she received the extraordinary gift of discerning His voice and presence (through substantial locutions, infused light of knowledge, visions, etc.). To give some examples, Jesus reveals to her, *"Happy is your soul to discern what you discern, for I tell you that many souls of great esteem in My eyes would have wanted to discern what you discern, but never could..."* (October 23, 1987). Furthermore, Christ confirmed this gift that few possess in the years that followed: *"I have taught you to discern Me, My child,... even today I am teaching a few chosen souls to hear Me and discern Me"* (January 5, 1990; *"I have given you the grace of synchronizing with me at all times... what you feel I feel"* (Nov. 14, 1987). Vassula also acknowledged this gift when she relates, *"Yes Lord, I believe for You have taught me to see You with the eyes of my soul, and feel You too, and hear You and simply believe"*

(March 13, 1988). And she arrived at the state where she is able to follow the voice of God and reject Satan's interference: *"Satan and his adepts are allowed to infiltrate and write his insults or give me the wrong word. God has taught me though because of this how to recognize the demons: Satan can never leave a soul tranquil by his presence – it's a give-away"* (Ibid., July 22, 1987); *"I know it is Satan since he leaves my soul unconsolated and in despair"* (Ibid., April 27, 1988).

In light of the preceding, to deny the True Life in God messages that exhort all to remain loyal and united to this Pope, is in reality to deny the True Life in God messages. Vassula has been chosen by God to maintain pure and unfettered the august mission God has entrusted to her, and this is what she is faithfully doing.

Apropos of the list of some noteworthy facts that I had touched upon at the outset and that were not mentioned in the CM article, I share them with you below:

- 1) The Magisterium's official seals of approval granted to the TLIG writings by two Catholic archbishops, i.e., the *Imprimatur* and *Nihil Obstat* that remain in full force.
- 2) Jordan Aumann and Cardinal R. Burke's endorsement of the teaching that it is "reprehensible" for one to publicly oppose a work that bears the Church's official seals of the approval,<sup>6</sup> which includes the TLIG writings.
- 3) The Vatican 2004 well-received Dialogue and "Clarifications" that were formally submitted to and happily accepted by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.
- 4) Cardinal Ratzinger's request, after the Dialogue, that Vassula's "useful clarifications" be published as a preface to all subsequent versions of the TLIG writings.<sup>7</sup> Otherwise put, the good cardinal gave permission for the TLIG messages to be published.
- 5) The letter of Cardinal Ratzinger who, very pleased with the results of the Dialogue and Clarifications, informed the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences of the five countries that had expressed an interest in the TLIG writings of Vassula's 'useful clarifications.' In this letter Cardinal Ratzinger requested that Vassula's ecumenical TLIG Prayer Groups (which the Christian faithful may freely organize: canon 215), follow the dispositions of the diocesan bishop (canon 223 §2) who *"is to act with*

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<sup>6</sup> Jordan Aumann, *Spiritual Theology*, Christian Classics, 1980, p. 492; Mariology, A Guide for Priests, Deacons, Seminarians and Consecrated Persons, bearing the Imprimatur of the Most Rev. Raymond L. Burke, and the Nihil Obstat of Fr. Peter Felner, F.I., 2007, Queenship Pub. CA, p. 830.

<sup>7</sup> To the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences of France, Switzerland, Uruguay, Philippines, Canada from Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Congregatio Pro Doctrina Fidei, 10 July 2004, Prot N. 54/92-19631: *"Eminence/Excellence, As you know, this Congregation published a Notification in 1995 on the writings of Mrs. Vassula Rydén. Afterwards, and at her request, a thorough dialogue followed. At the conclusion of this dialogue, a letter of Mrs. Rydén dated 4 April 2002 [sic - July 26, 2002] was subsequently published in the latest volume of "True Life in God", in which Mrs. Rydén supplies useful clarifications regarding her marital situation, as well as some difficulties which in the aforesaid Notification were suggested towards her writings and her participation in the sacraments."*



*kindness and charity toward those who are not in full communion with the Catholic Church, fostering ecumenism as it is understood by the Church” (canon 383 §3).*

- 6) The statement of Cardinal Ratzinger that the 1995 Notification was “not a condemnation,”<sup>8</sup> as it would later serve to elicit the aforementioned Clarifications and the publication of the TLIG messages. I wish to add that the Church’s notifications are not something new. Indeed, the Holy Office (CDF) has alerted the faithful numerous times through the issuance of a public warning (in the form of Decrees and Notifications) against the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, Blessed Antonio Rosmini, the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta and other Church exemplars, which, in turn, elicited a dialogue and clarifications that led to their approval and publication. Thus far history has taught us that when the Church issues a Notification and requests clarifications with respect to the writings of a particular individual, it has led to the conferral of her seals of approval. Such is the case with the TLIG writings, which were granted the Magisterium’s *Nihil Obstat* and *Imprimatur*.
- 7) The November 24, 2005 statement of Archbishop Toppo who affirmed, *“I have read all the True Life in God books and meditated on their contents. I truly believe that the books contain the Divine Dialogue of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady and the Angels with humankind through Vassula Rydén.”*
- 8) The following endorsement of Archbishop Toppo for a publication on the True Life in God messages, *“In his Theological Review of the True Life in God prophetic revelations, Fr. J.L. Iannuzzi, S.Th.D. provides a timely and exhaustive research of Sacred Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, Magisterial documents and the mystics who are saints of the Church. Against the back drop of Church Tradition and Magisterial teachings, this work successfully demonstrates the supernatural character of the TLIG revelations that I truly believe contain the Divine Dialogue of the Holy Trinity, Our Lady and the Angels with humankind through Vassula Rydén. May it bring hope, advance souls on the way of salvation and love, and so further the kingdom of heaven on earth.”*
- 9) The plethora of written support and endorsements of dozens of cardinals, patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, theologians, exorcists and laity throughout the world and that are found on the TLIG website and the aforesaid publication.

In conclusion, I found the following message from Jesus of June 21, 1988 very pertinent, as what Jesus says of a prelate who opposed Pope Francis’ predecessor, may be said of those who oppose our present-day Pontiff:

*“I am; pray for the renewal of My Church; pray for those souls who oppose Peter, pray for those who are trying to silence Peter; the days now are numbered and My Soul is submerged in sorrow; My Sacred Heart is imbued with bitterness, My Soul is yearning for them to realise their Error;*

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<sup>8</sup> Cf. The Problem of Christian Prophecy, Niels C. Hvidt, in 30 Days Magazine, n. 1, 1999.

*those that oppose Peter are opposing My Church, they are opposing My Law, they are opposing Me, their Lord and God; they are condemning Peter-of-My-lambs, thus condemning My Law; blinded by Vanity himself they do not see clear anymore that by condemning Peter they are not following the Law but instead become judges of My Law! O listen to what the Spirit says to the Church! return; come back, beloved one; it is I, the Lord, who have selected Peter, Peter who today bears the name, John Paul II; I am telling you, beloved one, My Sacred Heart has chosen him; come back, reconcile for My sake, beloved; I, the Lord, will forgive your sins and will purify you;*

*RETURN! return all of you to Peter for it is I, your God, who has chosen him; it is I who have given him a disciple's tongue, and through Me he is able to reply to the weary; oh, creation! is there no more wisdom left in you? creation! you are failing to appreciate My Fathomless Love I have for you, and yet, I answer to everyone who invokes Me; I am with you when you are in trouble, I am your Refuge;*

### A Hymn of Thanksgiving

I will give thanks to You, Lord and King,  
and praise You, God my Saviour,  
I give thanks to Your Name;  
for You have been protector and support to me,  
and redeemed my body from destruction,  
from the snare of the lying tongue,  
from lips that fabricate falsehood;  
and in the presence of those around me  
You have been my support,  
You have redeemed me,  
true to the greatness of Your mercy and of Your Name,

therefore I will thank You and praise You,  
and bless the Name of the Lord. (Si 51:1-3 and 12)