

## SALVATION ARMY 'captured' by POPE FRANCIS

In my June 1999 'News From The Front' ministry newsletter I included a short article titled – "The Salvation Army Sadly out of Tune". As a lead-in to this article I want to copy here what I wrote in that 1999 article (the whole of that newsletter can incidentally be accessed on <http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-june-1999/>). This is what I wrote –

I was sent a copy of THE WAR CRY [3 October 1998] – the weekly newspaper issued by THE SALVATION ARMY and it made sad reading. On page 2 there is a review of 'Greenbelt '98' described as 'Europe's largest festival of Christian arts'. The report tells us 'Chart band Delirious' drove the crowds, er, delirious, but the best reception was saved for Greenbelt favourites, 'Fat and Frantic', who re-formed for the occasion. They ensured Greenbelt number 25 went out with a bang, thanks to a mix of inspired madness and a dash of religion, with songs leaping from 'Last Night My Wife Hoovered My Head' to 'Precious Lord'. I was reminded of Ezekiel 22:26 where the Lord lamented over the priests in Jerusalem "they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean".

On the centre pages [4-5] there is a feature 'CHRISTIANS IN THE HOUSE' with the explanation 'Christian MPs of all parties talk to Nigel Bovey about their beliefs'. The 'Christian MP' featured in this issue was Seamus Mallon. We learn this about Mr Mallon Seamus came from a "very traditional Catholic family...You attended mass on Sunday, you went to confession and woe betide you if you didn't!...I still worship on a Sunday. I'm no Holy Joe but it is a fundamental part of my life...I have one great belief – the strength of the human spirit is what overcomes problems". True Christians know that exactly the opposite is true – 'the human spirit' better known as "the pride of life" [1 John 2:16] is the root cause of problems as we read in Psalm 10:4 and 2 Chronicles 32:26.

On page 6 we have BOOK REVIEWS and on that page under a heading 'Wisdom for a whole year from Mother Teresa' we have no less than 2 book reviews linked to her life and beliefs. One book offers 'meditations for each day of the year' and the other is her 'remarkable life...for the first time in paperback'. The scripture-contradicting, broad-road views of Mother Teresa have been documented in previous newsletters. On the same page Stella Harrison reviews a 'book that totally changed my life – THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING by NORMAN VINCENT PEALE'. Need I say more?

Based on the contents of this paper this is an ARMY that at command level can no longer distinguish friend from foe. "if the trumpet give an uncertain sound who shall prepare himself to the battle"? [1 Corinthians 14:8]

So, as far back as 1988, I was warning about the absolute lack of discernment being displayed by the leadership of **The Salvation Army**.

In recent days a brother in the Lord kindly sent me details of a meeting that took place in the Vatican between high-ranking 'officers' in **The Salvation Army** and **Pope Francis**. The report of that meeting is located on <http://www.salvationarmy.org/thegeneral/Vatican> and this is what it said –

General Cox met His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican on Friday 12 December 2014.  
**Address from His Holiness Pope Francis to the delegation of Salvation Army leaders:**

Dear Friends,



I extend a warm welcome to you, the leadership of **The Salvation Army**, well known to me for its evangelising and charitable mission. Your visit is the happy outcome of more frequent and fruitful contacts in recent years between The Salvation Army and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, including a series of theological conversations aimed at fostering a better understanding of one another, mutual respect and regular collaboration. **I earnestly hope that Catholics and Salvationists will continue to offer a common witness to Christ and to the Gospel** in a world so much in need of experiencing God's boundless mercy.

Catholics and Salvationists, together with other Christians, recognise that those in need have a special place in God's heart, so much so that the Lord Jesus Christ himself became poor for our sake (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9). As a result, Catholics and Salvationists often meet in the same peripheries of society. **It is my hope that our shared faith in Jesus Christ the Saviour, the one mediator between God and man** (cf. 1 Timothy 2:5), will become evermore the firm foundation of friendship and cooperation between us.

'The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelising community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative; he has loved us first (cf. 1 John 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads, and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy' (*Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium*, 24).

I pray that in today's world all of Christ's disciples will make their contribution with the same conviction and dynamism that **The Salvation Army** demonstrates in its devoted and highly appreciated service. **The differences between Catholics and Salvationists regarding theological and ecclesiological questions need not impede the witness of our shared love of God and love of neighbour**, a love which is capable of inspiring a concerted commitment to restoring the dignity of those who live on the margins of society.

Dear friends, I pray to God for the work of **The Salvation Army**. May many people in difficulty continue to rely on your efforts, which enable Christ's light to shine in the darkest recesses of their lives. May you and your fellow Salvationists be filled with the Holy Spirit's gifts of wisdom, understanding, fortitude and peace, and so witness to the Lord's Kingdom in our suffering world. And I ask that you also pray for me.

Thank you.

Just a few brief comments on those portions I have highlighted in red. In typical Jesuitical double-speak **Pope Francis** talks out of both sides of his mouth. In the first portion highlighted he speaks of **a common witness to Christ and to the Gospel** and then he acknowledges in the third portion highlighted that there are **differences between Catholics and Salvationists regarding theological and ecclesiological questions**.

However, and to be honest, when I looked at a lengthy document produced by **The Salvation Army** that documents in great detail their 'beliefs' and which is located on

[http://www.tsacfofny.edu/library/pdfs/hDoc\\_2010.pdf](http://www.tsacfofny.edu/library/pdfs/hDoc_2010.pdf)

I found that their statement on page 167 concerning **"A Salvation to be claimed"** would fit snugly into Roman Catholic theology – it states **"We are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and are born again by the Holy Spirit, who testifies to salvation in our hearts as we continue in an obedient faith-relationship with Christ"**.

The absence of the word **"alone"** concerning **"grace"**, **"faith"** and **"Christ"**, coupled with the need to **"continue in an obedient faith-relationship with Christ"** would certainly pass muster with Roman Catholic theologians, so, in many ways they do actually share **a common witness** but I would suspect that the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Transubstantiated Christ would still in theory pose theological difficulties **between Catholics and Salvationists**.

The Pope's reference to **our shared faith in Jesus Christ the Saviour, the one mediator between God and man** is of course again Jesuitical double-speak because Rome recognises many other **'mediators'** between man and Christ and we must never forget that Christ said clearly **"come unto ME"** (Matthew 11:28) and **"ye will not come to ME that ye might have life"** (John 5:40).

The way to God the Father is found by going **DIRECTLY** to Jesus Christ, the Son of God who said **"I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by ME"** (John 14:6).

Returning again to the report of the meeting at the Vatican we then read of the response to the Pope's welcome –

#### **Address from General André Cox to His Holiness Pope Francis**

**Your Holiness,**

It is a very great honour to be able to meet with you personally. On behalf of Salvationists living in 126 countries I bring messages of cordial greeting, but more importantly offer assurance of prayer support for **the tremendous responsibilities that God has entrusted to you**.



Through many of your public utterances, alongside the actions you are taking to address various matters within the Catholic Church, **we clearly recognise your Christlikeness as you seek faithfully to be a true minister of the Gospel.** This example of holiness transcends denominational boundaries and **we are grateful to God for every evidence of his Spirit abiding in your life.**

Your commitment in the fight against poverty, injustice and corruption is something that resonates strongly in the hearts of Salvationists. Speaking entirely personally, this aligns completely with my own deeply held convictions. Like you, Salvationists firmly believe that the Church, being the body of Christ, must reflect the mind of Christ. As such, we should be a welcoming community that in practical ways exerts a redemptive presence within God's good, though fallen, creation.

As Salvationists, we are keenly aware that our places of Christian worship are not retreats from the world for a select few. Rather, they are bridgeheads of God's Kingdom into the world – Jesus-centred, grace-filled communities serving others selflessly. Our churches are places in which Christ's disciples can be resourced, empowered and enabled to fulfil the Great Commission – in word and in deed. Paul, in writing to the Philippians, helpfully testifies: 'What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage; that I may gain Christ.'

Catholics and Salvationists are united in affirming the dignity and value of each human life, recognising that all are created in the image of God. We readily acknowledge how our shared desire to be faithful to God's calling upon our lives binds us in common endeavour. We share concern about and action against ongoing societal evils such as slavery; human trafficking; addiction; and stigmatisation of those who are HIV-positive. Countless Catholic priests and Salvation Army officers live and minister side by side, together serving some of the world's poorest and most marginalised people. Our complementarity stems from faith-filled action that, for Catholics and Salvationists, is motivated by an obedience to Jesus Christ for the greater glory of God.

Alongside the instances of Salvationists and Catholics working closely together, I wonder whether there may also be opportunities on occasion for us to speak with a united voice. One such example of a shared message is our recently published book, *Conversations with the Catholic Church*. It is my pleasure and privilege this morning to present you with a copy. Not only is this a record of most enriching and fruitful dialogue between 2007 and 2012, I believe this publication positions us perfectly to take our discussions further. **It is my hope and prayer that we will not only walk alongside each other, edifying though that is, but will walk together as credible witnesses to the truth that Jesus is Lord.**

Thank you very much indeed for so graciously meeting with me today. I consider this a most precious privilege.

This time my comments will be very brief. I have highlighted some comments in red that to any true believer demonstrate clearly that **The Salvation Army** leadership are totally deluded in thinking that Pope Francis has been **'entrusted'** by God to be Pope, that he exudes **'Christlikeness'** and that he is **'a true minister of the Gospel'** who has God's **'Spirit'** abiding in him. They have also clearly bought into the so-called **'social-gospel'** so beloved in and championed by the Roman Catholic religion. In a comment to the brother who notified me of this meeting I wrote –

**'The Salvation Army have been increasingly going 'off the rails' for years now - they'd be better changing their name to The Social Army as any true understanding of 'Salvation' seems to be foreign to those in authority'.**

In closing, I would however like to say that I am sure that there are genuinely saved folks serving within the ranks of **The Salvation Army** who are seeking to spiritually win the lost for Christ. I feel they need to seriously reconsider their own position as I believe their testimony can only be but compromised by remaining within the ranks of an organisation that so openly champions the supposed 'Christian credentials' of the Papal Anti-Christ and his false anti-Christian Roman Catholic religion.

**Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 12 January 2015**