

SAINTS:

Chosen by God or selected by the Pope?

The Belfast Telegraph carried an article entitled '**Speculation grows over possibility of a visit by the Pope**' in its issue of Monday 16th March 2009. The opening paragraphs of the article read as follows –

'A well-known priest last night said the Catholic Church in Northern Ireland would welcome any visit from Pope Benedict XVI as speculation mounted over whether the pontiff was planning to make a historic trip. Father John McManus said the Diocese of Down and Connor would be "delighted" to receive the Pope after news reports yesterday suggested the 265th head of the Roman Catholic Church was considering travelling to the British Isles to coincide with the beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman – who could become Britain's first saint in 40 years'.

Just by way of a little background to John Henry Newman let me first quote some extracts from a short article written back in 1990 by Pastor David Carson of Chester

'This year marks the centenary of the death of Cardinal Newman. It has been and will be an occasion of great rejoicing in Anglo-Catholic and Roman Catholic circles. As far as Evangelical Protestants are concerned, the legacy of Newman is a disastrous departure from the Reformed Faith, the continued and seemingly unstoppable advance of Romanism and Ecumenism and, in more recent times, an increasing willingness by (so-called) Evangelicals to embrace apostate Protestantism and Roman Catholicism as being genuinely Christian. An article in "The Times" dated 9th September 1990 bears the heading "Now praise this man of piety". Amongst other laudatory words... "He was the greatest English Christian of the last two centuries". The reality is rather different. Archbishop Runcie [He whom Pope John Paul II humiliated in Rome by consigning him to an obscure side seat during a service in St Peter's square in Rome] ...credited Newman with bringing Vatican II into being...What then is the truth concerning Cardinal Newman? ...Newman was the first leader of the Tractarians and three months after the launching of the society he published an article defending what was called "Economy in Teaching and Arguing"...Quoting Clement of Alexandria as an authority he wrote "He both thinks and speaks the truth; except where careful treatment is necessary, and then as a physician for the good of his patients he will lie". Herein lie the seeds of Anglo-Catholic deceit. He went on to justify this teaching by stating "nothing but the good of his neighbour will lead him to do this. He gives himself up for the church"...This doctrine of "Economy" or "Reserve" was used to conceal the existence aims and membership of the Tractarian Society...In order to conceal the real aims of the Tractarian Society and to divert suspicion from himself and others Newman expressed some very anti-Romanist sentiments...The sentiments thus expressed...had the effect of throwing the Protestants off the scent for a time. The fact is Newman was expressing sentiments which he did not believe. Here is an example of the doctrine of "reserve" in all its blatant deceitfulness. At a later date in a letter...Newman acknowledged the real reason for his series of articles.... "If you ask me how an individual could venture, not simply to hold, but to publish such views of a communion (i.e. the church of Rome) so wide-spreading, so fruitful in saints, I answer, that I said to myself 'I am not speaking my own words but I am following almost a consensus of the divines of our church (the Church of England)...while I say what they say I am safe. Such views are necessary for our position'...Here then is clearly revealed the duplicity, the double-dealing, the Jesuitical convolutions of this "holy man". One of his oldest friends, Dr Jelf said "His mind (Newman's) was always essentially Jesuitical"...His life prior to his perversion to Rome was one long catalogue of intrigue, deceit and equivocation. He denied, in a letter to the Bishop of Oxford that he was setting up a monastery at Littlemore when in fact he was...No wonder a friend of Newman's, Isaac Williams, said of him: "the feelings and thoughts he would express to one person or at one time differed very much in consequence from what he might express to another person on another occasion"...I

have included but a few of the many examples of Newman's deceptions, equivocations and evasions, all of which the Bible terms as wickedness, It is evident that Newman, far from exhibiting **saintly qualities**, was satanically inspired. Instead of being the greatest Christian of the last two hundred years he has been an instrument of the greatest wickedness. Today (1990) the Church of England and many other denominations besides are reaping the bitter harvest that he so deceitfully sowed. There is scarcely an ear of wheat to be seen. The fields are filled with tares. Surely we are compelled to say, "An enemy hath done this" [Matthew 13:28].

In another little booklet called 'The Legacy of John Henry Newman' written by Rev Maurice G Bowler and published by the Evangelical Protestant Society we read this –

'Newman's legacy in our day is a nightmare reversal of values in the understanding of religious history. Roman Catholicism, the most bigoted and cruel regime of corruption and terror that the world has ever seen, is presented as the champion of tolerance and righteousness...Rome is said to be a lamb in adversity, a fox in equality and a wolf in supremacy...in our day we are dealing with a changeling – a fox turning into a wolf...Also we are facing an enemy whose image is falsely fair and attractive. A large part of this attractiveness is due I believe to the afterglow of Newman's charisma, the legacy of his meretricious (deceitful, alluring) **saintliness**'

It's interesting that both authors highlight the absence of true '**saintliness**' or '**saintly qualities**' in their assessment of the life of Mr Newman and this of course contrasts starkly with the 'process' currently being pursued by Rome in relation to Newman – the process referred to in the Belfast Telegraph article – that of '**beatification**'. This is how '**beatification**' is defined in the officially approved '**Pocket Catholic Dictionary**' by Jesuit priest, John A Hardon –

'**A declaration by the Pope as head of the Church** (Cecil – contrast that with Colossians 1:18 "And he [Christ] is the head of the church") **that one of the deceased faithful lived a holy life and/or died a martyr's death and is now dwelling in heaven. As a process, the beatification consists of a years-long examination of the life, virtues, writings and reputation for holiness of the servant of God under consideration. This is ordinarily conducted by the Bishop of the place where he or she resided or died. For a martyr, miracles worked through the person's intercession need not be considered in the primary process. The second, or Apostolic process is instituted by the Holy See when the first process reveals that the servant of God practiced virtue in a heroic degree or died a martyr for the faith. Beatified persons are called "Blessed" and may be venerated by the faithful...**'

According to Rome, the Pope selects 'Saints' after an earthly process of investigation. Contrast this supposed prerogative of the Pope with these scriptures –

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God...To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints" [Romans 1:1&7]

Stuart Olyott in his book '**The Gospel as it Really is: Romans simply explained**' writes on page 7 'In verse 7 Paul pronounces a blessing upon all those to whom he sends his greetings. These are the inhabitants of Rome who have certain characteristics. The first is that they are beloved of God and that He has called them to be **saints**.... The gospel had been preached at Rome. People had heard it with their ears. But some had received it in their hearts, had turned from their sins, and had freely embraced Jesus Christ as He had been offered to them in the gospel. This is the call of which the New Testament speaks and which is referred to in verses 6 and 7. Every person who has received such a call is a saint – someone set apart for God and chosen by Him to be a holy person'.

“Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother. Unto the Church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, WITH ALL that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, both theirs and ours”. [1st Corinthians 1:1-2]

John MacArthur in his **Study Bible** comments on verse 2 - **‘Saints:** Not referring to a specifically pious or revered person canonized by an ecclesiastical body but a reference to everyone who by salvation has been sanctified, that is, set apart from sin in Christ Jesus’.

These are just two examples of numerous scriptures that identify that it is GOD who chooses those that are viewed by Him as **“saints”** – it is a term that He applies to every truly saved person and not just to some select group compiled through a process instigated by Rome and rounded off with a Papal declaration. God chooses His **“saints”** and does not and never will delegate that God-glorifying task to sinful human beings.

By way of conclusion I want now to provide a link to enable you to view a 25-minute TV debate that took place some years ago and that involves my good brother in Christ, ex-Catholic, Rob Zins who heads up ‘A Christian Witness to Roman Catholicism’. I was actually contacted by the TV station to see if I could recommend someone to take part in this debate on the subject of **‘Saints and Stigmata’**. It just ‘so happened’ that this request coincided with one of Rob’s ministry visits here as the guest of ‘Take Heed’ and so I arranged for him to fly to London to take part in the debate. As well as the presumably Roman Catholic chairperson, Miriam O’Callaghan, the other panellists were ‘Father’ Joseph Pius, ‘Father’ Hugh McKenzie and an ecumenical Church Times journalist called Andrew Brown and not surprisingly you will see that it was very much a case of Rob v the rest.

**Televised Debate:
'Saints' and 'Stigmata'
Rob Zins debates various
Roman Catholic Experts**

[Part One]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiooPLellw>

[Part Two]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IXQI2YqUps>

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 21st March 2009