

Daily Meditation 12/2/21

Apologia For Naming the Elephants in the Room

Good morning.

This morning, I talk about the elephants in the room. And one of them being when it comes to religion today. And one of them being the white supremacy in the evangelical wing of Protestantism.

But I'm not addressing that today. I'm addressing the issue of Opus Dei in the Roman Catholic Church. Now, several years ago, I wrote this book called *The Pope's War: How Ratzinger's Secret Crusade Has Imperiled the Church And How It Can Be Saved*. And in it, I go through the history of the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II, and especially regarding the papacy of Pope Benedict and John Paul II, who hired him, if you will, to be his leader in bringing back a very, very conservative papacy after the flourishing of the Second Vatican Council. And a lot of people's hopes were very high at that time, but unfortunately, what the two of them did was to bring back Opus Dei and give it carte blanche to do what it wanted to do.

And so I have chapters here on many subjects, but one of them is a major chapter on Opus Dei, and then other far right-wing groups that those two papacies very much countenanced, such as the Legion of Christ, Communion and Liberation, and others.

And I understand why people don't want to talk about Opus Dei, in the sense that it's not easy to talk about these things. You want to keep these shadows in the closet as much as possible.

But we do have to talk about them, because they're now in very, very high positions, not only in the Church, such as heading the Bishops Conference in America, but in many other important bodies in our culture, not just in America, but many other places. As I point out, the financial world and the journalistic world are very much in the grip of Opus Dei, which is a very secretive organization.

But I want to point out that I understand that disturbance and the upset, because when I was writing this book, I could only write half of it. And I stopped. And I told a friend that I felt like I was that puppet in the Sesame Street who was hiding in a garbage can, popping up once in a while, I just felt dirty, writing that book. And I said to the same person, I don't think I'll finish the book; it's just too heavy, it's too depressing.

So I interrupted my doing of this book, and I got an invitation from New World library to publish my book on the Christian Mystics, which of course is a very, very different feeling than thinking and researching Opus Dei and its companions.

And it was amazing what happened, my heart was so lifted by going through the mystics and spending time with them, instead of Opus Dei, that when I finished the Christian Mystics book, I was fired up enough again, living enough again, to get out of that garbage can on Sesame Street and go back to this difficult-to-write book called *The Pope's War*.

So I understand why, from that point of view, why it's difficult to follow the story as somber, and depressing as it is, of a person like Escriva, this fascist priest, who was close to Franco, the fascist dictator of Spain, and whose organization supported him in so many ways, and his organization supported Pinochet as well and other fascist leaders, even when they were torturing Christians, including many priests and sisters and lay people in South America, trying to bring justice to the favelas, and and to raise the hopes and the possibilities for the poor people of these countries.

So I am quite scandalized that the Catholic press in America today has given Archbishop Gomez a free pass, practically - I barely see them saying anything about his relationship to Opus Dei. And yet, he was appointed for that reason, because under the previous papacies, Opus Dei had a inside track on hierarchy, who were persons who were being paid to be hierarchy, who were being called to be hierarchy.

And it just seems to me that says something very important in the news and history of our generation.

The Roman Catholic Church has lurched from the justice orientation of the Second Vatican Council to support Opus Dei and putting Opus Dei out front in so many positions of power. And of course, as I said previously, in secular organizations too.

So someone has to blow the whistle, and here we are.

So thank you, and we'll see you tomorrow.