

DECLARATION
OF
FIDELITY

21 NOVEMBER 1974



Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

We hold fast, with all our heart and with all our soul, to Catholic Rome, Guardian of the Catholic Faith and of the traditions necessary to preserve this faith, to Eternal Rome, Mistress of wisdom and truth.

We refuse, on the other hand, and have always refused to follow the Rome of neo-Modernist and neo-Protestant tendencies which were clearly evident in the Second Vatican Council and, after the Council, in all the reforms which derived from it.

All these reforms, indeed, have contributed and are still contributing to the destruction of the Church, to the ruin of the priesthood, to the abolition of the Sacrifice of the Mass and of the Sacraments, to the disappearance of religious life, to a naturalist and Teilhardian teaching in universities, seminaries and catechetics; a teaching derived from Liberalism and Protestantism, many times condemned by the solemn Magisterium of the Church.

No authority, not even the highest in the hierarchy, can force us to abandon or diminish our Catholic Faith, so clearly expressed and professed by the Church's Magisterium for nineteen centuries.

But though WE, says St. Paul, or an angel from heaven preach a gospel to you besides that which we have preached to you, let him be anathema. (Gal 1:8)

Is it not this that the Holy Father is repeating to us today? And if we can discern a certain contradiction in his words and deeds, as well as in those of the dicasteries, well we choose what was always taught and we turn a deaf ear to the novelties destroying the Church.

It is impossible to modify profoundly the *lex orandi* without modifying the *lex credendi*. Corresponding with a new mass we have a new catechism, a new priesthood, new seminaries, a charismatic Pentecostal Church — all things opposed to orthodoxy and the perennial teaching of the Church.

This Reformation, stemming from Liberalism and Modernism, is poisoned through and through; it derives from heresy and ends in heresy, even if all its acts are not formally heretical. It is therefore impossible for any conscientious and faithful Catholic to espouse this Reformation or to submit to it in any way whatsoever.

The only attitude of faithfulness to the Church and Catholic doctrine, in view of our salvation, is a categorical refusal to accept this Reformation.

That is why, without any spirit of rebellion, bitterness or resentment, we pursue our work of forming priests, with the timeless Magisterium as our guide. We are persuaded that we can render no greater service to the Holy Catholic Church, to the Sovereign Pontiff and to posterity.

That is why we hold fast to all that has been believed and practiced in the faith, morals, liturgy, teaching of the catechism, formation of the priest and institution of the Church, by the Church of all time; to all these things as codified in those books which appeared before the Modernist influence of the Council. This we shall do until such time as the true light of Tradition dispels the darkness obscuring the sky of Eternal Rome.

By doing this, with the grace of God and the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and that of St. Joseph and St. Pius X, we are assured of remaining faithful to the Roman Catholic Church and to all the successors of Peter, and of being the *fideles dispensatores mysteriorum Domini Nostri Jesu Christi in Spiritu Sancto*.†
Amen.

+ Charles Leclerc

Albano, Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

† 'the faithful dispensers of the mysteries of Christ' (cf. 1 Cor 4:1).



'Fifty years ago, His Grace Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, published a memorable declaration that was to become the charter of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X. A true profession of faith with eternal resonance, this declaration expresses the essence of the Society, its *raison d'être*, its doctrinal and moral identity and consequently its line of action. The Society cannot deviate one iota from its content and spirit which, fifty years later, remain perfectly appropriate to the present day.'

— Don Davide Pagliarani,
His Excellency Bishop
Alphonso de Galarreta and
Rev. Fr. Christian Bouchacourt
in '1974–2024: *Semper Idem*',
Menzingen, 21 November 2024.



SSPX