"Even Satan is forced to tell the truth in the presence of Christ..."

A warm hello to you and to each of my esteemed listeners! Welcome to EWTN's Open Line Tuesday edition! Barbara McGuigan here, alive and grateful and proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with all of you in the Church Militant. If there was ever a time when we must use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we received at our Baptism and were activated at our Confirmation, it is now! Put on your armor of God! No wimps allowed!

God's airwaves are open and here are the numbers to call:
In North America call: 1-800-585-9396
Outside North America call: 1-205-271-2985
Our email address is always: Openline@ewtn.com

Brothers and sisters, this past Saturday on my other EWTN Radio show, The Good Fight, we had the delightful experience of studying the soon to be Blessed, Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman, who, you'll recall, was a famous convert from Anglicanism in the middle of the 19th century. We studied him with one of his best current scholars, Dr. Richard Geraghty, better known as "Doc," who forms the Franciscan seminarians at EWTN in philosophy.

In 1990, Pope John Paul the Great, celebrating the 100th anniversary of John Henry Newman's death, said:

> **I gladly join the voices throughout the world in praising "the gift of the great English Cardinal and for his enduring witness... Newman was born in troubled times which knew not only political and military upheaval but also turbulence of soul. Old certitudes were shaken, and believers were faced with the threat of rationalism on the one hand and fideism on the other. Rationalism brought with it a rejection of both authority and transcendence, while fideism turned from the challenges of history and the tasks of this world to a distorted dependence upon authority and the supernatural. In such a world, Newman came eventually to a remarkable *synthesis of faith and reason*.**

In other words, as St. Thomas Aquinas taught long before Cardinal Newman, faith and reason can never contradict each other. Either Christianity is false, or reason is false, or – if both are true – there can never be any real contradiction at all between them, because truth cannot contradict truth. God is the teacher in both faith and reason. Faith satisfies reason. The truth is very satisfying to the soul. We who easily give assent to the "The Way, the Truth and the Life," Jesus Christ, the Word of God in the flesh, say, "Yes, of course."

But what of those who do not give assent, but are filled with dissent in every way to Christianity? What of those who've never been given spiritual formation, or even those who've experienced that "noble art" but refuse to accept the precepts, the natural law that God engraved on all our hearts from the beginning? Christianity is based on authority given to us by God, through His Son, Jesus, the God-Man, through His Church, the Voice of the Holy Spirit.

But what if you refuse to accept any authority other than yourself? Herein lies the crux of the problem: when the people, created out of love by God, turn their backs on their Creator. Herein lies that awful self-centeredness, the original sin screaming from the Garden of Eden: "Personally, I don't care about the other person. I will not serve. Not only do I know what is right and wrong, but I will decide what is right and wrong... for myself. And I expect you to support, promote and even celebrate me and my decision. In effect, I will be like God.

Right after receiving his letter of nomination to be elevated to a Cardinal, a prince of the Church, John Henry Newman gave a brief account of how he saw his own mission:

> **In a long course of years I have made many mistakes. I have nothing of that high perfection which belongs to the writings of Saints... but what I trust that I may claim all through what I have written, is this – an honest intention, an absence of private ends, a temper of obedience, a willingness to be corrected, a dread of error, a desire to serve Holy Church, and, through Divine mercy, a fair measure of success.**

Newman went on:

> **And, I rejoice to say, to one great mischief I have from the first opposed myself. For thirty, forty, fifty years I have resisted to the best of my powers the spirit of liberalism in religion. Never did Holy Church need champions against it more sorely than now, when, alas! it is an error overspreading, as a snare, the whole earth; and on this great occasion, when it is natural for one who is in my place to look out upon the world, and upon Holy Church as in it, and upon her future, it will not, I hope, be considered out of place, if I renew the protest against it which I have made so often.**
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> **Liberalism in religion is the doctrine that there is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another, and this is the teaching which is gaining substance and force daily. It is inconsistent with any recognition of any religion, as *true*. It teaches that all are to be tolerated, for all are matters of opinion. Revealed religion is not a truth, but a sentiment and a taste; not an objective fact… and it is the right of each individual to make it say just what strikes his fancy.**

So, my brothers and sisters, what worried Cardinal Newman in 1879 is the same sick scourge that grips our modern culture today. There is no one truth, no one right order of things. Truth is whatever you want it to be. In referring to moral relativism, Doc Geraghty writes in his excellent book, *The Right Way To Live*, "In relativism, nothing is what it is; things exist only as they appear to others. A murderer can be a sadist, a revolutionary, a hero or a victim, all depending on the different views one can take of him."

I can think of two examples right away to illustrate Doc's point about how moral relativists view murderers – in fact, *mass* murderers.

One example is the cruel Ernesto "Che" Guevara, a Communist from Argentina. He delighted in committing executions for the dictator Fidel Castro in Cuba and then was responsible for many murders in Central and South America and even in Africa. So many young people today proudly wear his bigger than life face boldly on their tee-shirts. In fact, Barack Obama's campaign office in Houston in 2008 sported a poster of Guevara on the wall, which was ironic, by the way, because Guevara, like the rest of the Castro regime to this day, was no friend of blacks.

My other example is the Communist monster Mao Zedong, the worst mass murderer in history, whose unbelievably bloodthirsty totalitarian regime has killed between 60 and 77 million people in China and operates hundreds of slave labor camps in which millions of Chinese suffer to this day. The Chinese Communists, as we know, also commit forced abortions and sterilizations by the millions.

But last year, when the Chinese Reds celebrated the 60th anniversary of their bloody takeover of China, the Empire State Building in New York City actually saluted that disaster for humanity with one of its famous light displays, using the red and yellow colors of the Communist flag.

Yet now, when the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights has asked the Empire State Building to salute the 100th anniversary of Blessed Mother Teresa's birth this coming August 26 by lighting its tower in blue and white, the colors of her congregation, the Missionaries of Charity, the Empire State Building has denied the request without explanation. So the Catholic League has begun a worldwide petition campaign to get the Empire State Building to honor Mother Teresa.

Now, keep in mind, as the Catholic League points out:

> **Mother Teresa received 124 awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Medal of Freedom. She built hundreds of orphanages, hospitals, hospices, health clinics, homeless shelters, youth shelters and soup kitchens all over the world, and is revered in India for her work. She created the first hospice in Greenwich Village for AIDS patients. Not surprisingly, she was voted the most admired**

> **woman in the world three years in a row in the mid-1990s. But she is not good enough to be honored by the Empire State Building.**

My brothers and sisters, we could cite many more examples of people's twisted views. How many souls embrace so many lies? Would you agree that we need another Pentecost? In just a few more days, Mother Church will once again celebrate Pentecost, the day God filled His Church with the Holy Spirit. Jesus kept His promise when He said in John 16:13, "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth." Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. The Church could never have succeeded or even survived without the outpouring of God's own Spirit.

Fr. George Rutler, a convert from Episcopalianism, writes:

> **The power the Holy Spirit gives the Church is the truth. Truth is the ultimate power because it is reality. "Men may all lie, but God is always true" (Romans 3:4). Truth always wins, in the long run. In the short run it may seem that lies win. But truth sustains life while falsehood destroys it. Jesus said that Satan "was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies" (John 8:44). Lies do have power, but it is a fatal power and eventually self-destructs.**

Yes, brothers and sisters, ignorance will always have its innings, but it will always lose in the 9th. Fr. Rutler continues:

> **In our society there are lies that an unborn baby is not human, and that marriage is not naturally the union of male and female, and that truth is only opinion. When a society accepts these lies, it eventually clashes with inescapable reality and crumbles. Even Satan is forced to tell the truth in the presence of Christ: "I know who you are, the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24).**

My brothers and sisters, I am eager to talk to you. What's on your mind? Here are the numbers: 1-800-585-9396 and 1-205-271-2985.

Closing: Many, many thanks for your calls and emails. I used to think Open Line was the fastest hour on radio; now I think it's the fastest two hours on radio! We began with Cardinal Newman, so let us end with his prophetic words:

> **Christ… offers you His hand; He is rising; rise with Him. Mount up from the grave of the old Adam; from groveling cares, and jealousies, and fretfulness, and worldly aims; from the thralldom of habit, from the tumult of passion, from the fascinations of the flesh, from a cold, worldly, calculating spirit, from frivolity, from selfishness, from effeminacy, from self-conceit and high-**

mindedness. Henceforth set about doing what it is so difficult to do, but what should not*, must not* **be left undone: watch, and pray, and meditate.**

Until next week on Open Line, Blessed be God and may the Holy Spirit of God fall afresh on you! Bye for now!