

# Catholic Church, Where Are You? The Cry of a Frontier Missionary



## > All the articles of Settimo Cielo in English

\*

A missionary priest who has spent a lifetime on the frontier thousands of miles from Rome writes to me: “By now it is no longer possible to doubt where the Church’s leader is taking us: to a point at which one who is alive must of necessity react. How much longer can we remain silent?”

But meanwhile, he has broken the silence. With these sixteen dazzling reflections.

\*

### **Convert... to what?**

1. By now it is clear. The Catholic Church is no longer the same as it was before 2013. And I really want to see if someone succeeds in defining what the Catholic Church is today.

2. I pose this problem to myself all the more because the thing touches me personally. If I must present the Church to those who are outside, first of all I need to know to what kind of Church I belong. And in the second place, what must I say?

3. We who live in mission countries, where there are so many religions more or less in harmony, before doctrine and theories we distinguish ourselves by practical life, custom, laws, habits, duties. For example, the Muslims do not eat pork, they practice circumcision, they observe the fast of Ramadan, they can divorce and remarry repeatedly, they can have two or more wives, they pray five times a day in a special way on Friday, etc.

The Hindus do not eat beef, they fast before certain feasts, the women marry only once even if the husband dies, they honor a great number of divinities, they cremate their dead, etc.

And Catholic Christians? At least until a while ago they could marry only once until the death of one of the spouses, their priests and nuns had to be celibate and unmarried, they obeyed the pope, they were devoted to the Blessed Mother and the saints, they did not believe in wizards and spirits, they did not make animal sacrifices, in church men and women prayed together, they ate any kind of meat and fish, on Sunday they had the obligation to rest and to go to Mass, etc.

4. Jesus risen sent the apostles to baptize all the peoples of the earth in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And this is how Christianity spread and shaped the customs, laws, and habits of entire civilizations. All this brought as fruit many martyrs and saints and allowed many to have mystical experiences and to make us sharers in flashes of paradise.

5. To have all these gifts and these graces, how many persons have converted and have abandoned with many privations their communities of origin and their way of living!

6. But now I as a missionary no longer know precisely what the Catholic Church is. And since I see the pope, the cardinals, the bishops gradually and inexorably tolerating the legitimization of

adultery, approving of sodomy, blessing homosexual marriages, admitting the parity of salvation with other religions... to what kind of conversion must I invite others?

7. The same thing also applies to any person in the West who perhaps is an atheist or unbeliever. Why should he convert and accept our faith if we profess all these things? I now understand some of the statements of the pope who says that there must be no proselytism. It takes great courage to try to convince people to believe in these aberrations.

8. Fortunately our bishops here on mission do not talk about all the oddities that are discussed in Rome. The only novelty is that now they make marriage annulments a bit easier, in spite of the fact that the people do not accept that so willingly, given that they have learned that marriage must not be dissolved in any case.

9. The risk is that of arriving at the scandal that, in this as in other mission countries, only Christians, Protestants and Catholics, should approve of adultery and sodomy. Among Muslims and Hindus, in fact, adultery (meaning a relationship outside of marriage) is a crime that is punished at a community and civil level. Sodomy is considered a very serious act and is the object of reprobation. The polygamy of the Muslims has nothing to do with adultery, because it is a social contract sanctioned by the rite of matrimony, with all the obligations of support of the wife and care of the children.

10. The tragicomedy of the thing is that in other religions, albeit without knowledge of the Gospel, there is no lack of solid norms founded on good sense and on nature, while now Christianity in its official leaders promotes and upholds the way of living and the morality of pre-Christian times. But then Jesus really came for nothing!

11. In Germany there are even those who make fun of the bishops of Africa as backward, because on their continent homosexuality is forbidden. All that is missing is the promotion of a new “evangelization” in the name of this upside-down gospel, meaning

in reality a new imposition of the false anthropological achievements of the West on the poor who have sound minds.

12. What I do not understand is the submission and silence of many bishops and priests. I do not see even a passive resistance. The martyrs faced death. But today only some laymen who are not bound by the ecclesiastical structures are speaking out, while priests and bishops - save for a few exceptions - stay quiet out of fear of retaliation and defamatory accusations.

13. The preaching continues that what is needed is not to divide, but to unite. And therefore to shut up, because open opposition would do too much damage to the Church. But this respectful attitude ends up favoring precisely those who work disaster.

14. The pope knows this, and he comes up with all sorts of things to protect himself. His continual trips, the accords with the Lutherans, the accords with the Muslims, the accords with China and so on are all trenches that defend him. How can one criticize him when wherever he goes he is welcomed with great fanfare and acclamation?

15. One precaution that the leaders of the Church adopt when they speak and decide and hold synods is not to go at all against the LGBT plans and credo. Never do they wonder if God the Father knows something about this and if God the Father thinks about it in the same way. God the Father never complains, and with Jesus having given the keys to Peter they think they can use them as they please and play the master.

16. But the Spirit of God is always alive. And therefore today as well we are sure that there are many saints who still allow God to live among us. O Lord, stay with us!