

Fr. Perozich comments —

This beautiful letter to Diognetus is in the Office of Readings for Wednesday of the 5th week of Easter. The red highlights are mine. We Catholics and non Catholic Christians need to step away from our retreat to the secular world so that the red comments be deleted in our own lives and in the societies in which we live, especially the society of the Holy Catholic Church, that what remains is the glory of the original letter to Diognetus to describe us 2020 Catholics and other non Catholic Christians and how we live in and relate to the world without being overcome by it.

From a letter to Diognetus

(Nn. 5-6: Funk, 397-401)

The Christian in the world

Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life. Their teaching is not based upon reveries inspired by the curiosity of men. *[man made climate change, income redistribution, homosexual and transgender behavior normalized, rights - justice - equality - fairness as defined by men, open borders and unregulated immigration, government supplied income for all , socialist policies, gun control, citizens controlled by government with capricious imposed essential tasks and work, tax, tax, tax and spend spend spend]* Unlike some other people, they champion no purely human doctrine. With regard to dress, food and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in, whether it is Greek or foreign.

And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through. They play their full role as citizens, *[Catholic politicians who claim and vote for “I am personally opposed to abortion, but I cannot restrict another’s right to kill the child in the womb; abortion is a right; an unwanted child born alive can be left to*

die”] but labor under all the disabilities of aliens. Any country can be their homeland, but for them their homeland, wherever it may be, is a foreign country. Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not expose them. *[Public education and sometimes even in Catholic schools and universities to the sexual license of LGBTQ agenda, socialist and communist policies, lack of civics, inadequate catechesis in the Catholic doctrine.]* They share their meals, but not their wives. They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh. *[Catholics divorce at the same rate as non believers; Catholics vote for politicians who promote death; divorced and remarried receiving holy communion, Catholics do not worship every Sunday.]* They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law. *[Catholics have given over to the secular society with our leaders promoting secular values.]*

Christians love all men, but all men persecute them. Condemned because they are not understood, they are put to death, but raised to life again. They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute, but possess an abundance of everything. They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. *[Priests are persecuted for preaching the truth, removed from ministry, have allegations fabricated against them.]* A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult. For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then they rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life. They are attacked by the Jews as aliens, they are persecuted by the Greeks, yet no one can explain the reason for this hatred.

To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. As the soul is present in every part of the body, while remaining distinct from it, so Christians are found in all the cities of the world, but cannot be identified with the world. As the visible body contains the

invisible soul, so Christians are seen living in the world, but their religious life remains unseen. *[For many Christians, their religious life is almost extinguished.]* The body hates the soul and wars against it, not because of any injury the soul has done it, but because of the restriction the soul places on its pleasures. Similarly, the world hates the Christians, not because they have done it any wrong, but because they are opposed to its enjoyments.

Christians love those who hate them just as the soul loves the body and all its members despite the body's hatred. It is by the soul, enclosed within the body, that the body is held together, and similarly, it is by the Christians, detained in the world as in a prison, that the world is held together. The soul, though immortal, has a mortal dwelling place; and Christians also live for a time amidst perishable things, while awaiting the freedom from change and decay that will be theirs in heaven. As the soul benefits from the deprivation of food and drink, so Christians flourish under persecution. Such is the Christian's lofty and divinely appointed function, from which he is not permitted to excuse himself.