

*Fr. Perozich comments —*

*In 2020 I hear from Catholic church leaders immigration, black lives matter, rights, justice, fairness, equality, gender redefinition, women's right to choose, gun control, income redistribution, climate, racism, bowing before COVID limits on worship with no push back, rather total submission and prohibition on the celebration of the Mass for the faithful and the silencing of priests who do not go along with the cultural agenda that leaders have embraced because **IT IS EASIER TO CONFORM THAN TO FIGHT**, to live a comfortable life with the approval by civil authorities.*

*I do not hear that the Son of God became man, incarnate of the Virgin Mary to establish the new covenant in His blood to forgive our sins, to transform us into His image, and then to clothe us with immortality when Jesus comes at the end of time.*

*If leaders are not preaching the gospel, then the faithful will neither hear it nor learn what to live and what to preach and teach their children, those in their spheres of life.*

*Fr. Lasarte diagnoses the illness of conformity with the culture in which Christians live in order to avoid conflict with it. He notes **“people in Europe know much about movies on Netflix, but nothing about the Church or Jesus Christ, necessitating the first proclamation of the Gospel.”***

*His remedy is to live **“the permanent mission of Jesus Christ, who gave the Church to announce the kerygma, to announce his person, and his Gospel.***

*He continues teaching us the **“three important elements for the re-evangelization of the Church in the West: The renewal of the “first announcement” of the Gospel, Christian community, and personal conversion.”***

*Finally Lasarte teaches us that **“Communal ecclesial life” is “a fundamental theme of the Christian faith.”***

*Personally I tune out writings, homilies, and other teachings from church leaders that do not teach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

*At 69, I don't have much time left for the forgiveness and transformation necessary in order to be clothed with immortality to pass beyond the veil with Jesus into the presence of the Holy and Immortal Trinity. The fires, hurricanes, pandemic MAY be the warning of which Jesus spoke to indicate His imminent coming for me or for all humanity.*

*Jesus Christ, yesterday, today, forever, the one Savior of the world in whom we live, move, and have our being, the only name in heaven or on earth by which man can be saved. Live it. Preach it. Love it.*

# Catholic missionary: 'Secularization' in the Church threatens Christianity in Europe



*View of St. Peter's Basilica from the roof of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross April 1, 2015. Credit: Bohumil Petrik/CNA.*



By [Hannah Brockhaus](#)

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According to a longtime missionary in Africa, Fr. Martin Lasarte, one of the biggest threats to Christianity in Europe is the secularism of the culture entering into the Church.

According to Lasarte, “it’s more dangerous when **Christianity dies not from an exterior attack but from an illness within its own society, its own Church.**”

He also noted the dangers for the Church of “self-referentiality,” which Pope Francis has frequently highlighted as a peril for Catholics.

**“It’s a grave danger when this mentality of secularization enters inside us,”** Lasarte said. “I think this is the most profound and most worrying question for the Church today.”

A Salesian, Lasarte has been a missionary in Africa for more than 25 years. He is about to return to Angola after five years as part of the Salesian congregation’s missionary formation team.

He spoke to a group of journalists during a Sept. 7 online meeting on the missionary activity of the Church, organized by the Iscom Association.

Today, “mission” does not have borders or geographic boundaries, Lasarte said, noting the interculturality of the Church today.

Every Church needs to give and every Church needs to receive missionaries, he said. “Because even the Churches that have many vocations need people of other cultures, of other Churches.”

**The danger, he suggested, is not being able to separate the Church from the culture she is in.** “One of the beauties of the Church is how she is the same wherever she is found,” he emphasized.

Lasarte argued that there was a tendency for the Church in Europe to want to appear “normal,” to blend in, to not enter into “conflict with the global society.”

**He pointed out that first-century Christians were clear about what it meant to live in a culture but to live the distinct identity of a Christian. They were persecuted precisely for living differently from the pagan culture they lived in,** he said.

“That is a dynamic that the Church will live until the end of time. That is, to be a light, integrated into the society, but, on the other hand, to be herself, sometimes assuming those conflicts [necessary] to being a Christian,” Lasarte stated.

**He said that the Church today was a good manager, but “too little mother” and “too little teacher,”** urging a strengthening of both those roles.

Someone may know how to dialogue, how to listen well, how to confront the culture, but **they must also “have a freedom of the Spirit, of joy to communicate the most profound commission of the Risen Jesus Christ,”** he said.

**This, Lasarte explained, is “the permanent mission of Jesus Christ, who gave the Church to announce the kerygma, to announce his person, and his Gospel.”** He added that this was what would give fruitfulness to the Church’s mission today.

According to the missionary, **there are three important elements for the re-evangelization of the Church in the West: The renewal of the “first announcement” of the Gospel, Christian community, and personal conversion.**

**The faith needs to be much more internalized and personal, he said.** He pointed to how many young people in Europe know much about movies on Netflix, but **nothing about the Church or Jesus Christ, necessitating the first proclamation of the Gospel.**

And community is not just an important or “nice thing,” he said. **“Communal ecclesial life” is “a fundamental theme of the Christian faith.”**

The missionary also spoke about the increase in Christian persecution and the Church’s growth in Africa and Asia.

“According to the statistics, [Africa] is the future of the Church,” he said. “This is something which fills us with joy, with hope.”