

Fr. Perozich comments —

Priests as spiritual guides address Christians privately in spiritual direction and publicly in the homily.

In 2020 new media such as our bulletins, blogs, videos, websites, emails, facebook, twitter, instagram, and on, serve to get out the message in the ways that people speak to one another beyond our physical presence in the church on Sundays.

Zealous pastors have been reproached by church leaders to silence the zealous message.

Yet church leaders also have NOT reproached public Catholic figures for their support of abortion, sexual license, and of their oppression of religious liberty.

The public forum of government and the media redefines and promotes rights, justice, fairness, equality (of outcome rather than opportunity), denunciation of capitalism, support for socialism, reparations, unlimited immigration, welfare for all, government benefits in health, food, housing, sexual license, gender confusion, gun control, and on and on.

These themes are now echoed in churches rather than salvation from sin, transformation into the image of Jesus, and eternal life in a new and resurrected body on the last day. Fr. James Martin SJ promotes such things and is praised by bishops for doing so, not reproached by church authorities.

*For these reasons, the Catholic Church no longer has the same influence in the public forum that she formerly had. Unless she conforms she is ignored and eventually will be “**canceled**” by the secular world.*

Priests who teach classic Catholicism and who denounce the sins of public figures, denying communion to some, and calling them to repentance, advising against voting for politicians who promote sin, are reprimanded or removed from ministry.

Fr. Klee, Fr. Altman, Fr. Goring, Fr. Richard, Fr. Rynne, Fr. Perrone, Fr. Bisi, Fr. Dwyer, Fr. Gomulka, Fr. Harrington, Fr. White, Fr. Haley are some of those reprimanded for being zealous pastors because they exposed sin and called folks to repentance.

While the Holy Father is pastor to the universal church, and each bishop is a pastor for his diocese, and each parish pastor for his parish, even lay folk are pastors for their families, friends and one another.

*What Pope Gregory the Great wrote 1500 years ago holds true. **if he intervenes on behalf of the flock, he sets up a wall against the enemy in front of the house of Israel.***

Do your part to bring all to Jesus, not looking for the approval of others. Expect chastisement from those above you who have another agenda.

Anyone ordained a priest [or sharing in the common priesthood for the laity] undertakes the task of preaching, so that with a loud cry he may go on ahead of the terrible judge who follows.

From the Pastoral Guide by Saint Gregory the Great, pope

Let the pastor be discreetly silent, and to the point when he speaks

A spiritual guide should be silent when discretion requires and speak when words are of service. Otherwise he may say what he should not or be silent when he should speak. Indiscreet speech may lead men into error and an imprudent silence may leave in error those who could have been taught. **Pastors who lack foresight hesitate to say openly what is right because they fear losing the favor of men. As the voice of truth tells us, such leaders are not zealous pastors who protect their flocks, rather they are like mercenaries who flee by taking refuge in silence when the wolf appears.**

The Lord reproaches them through the prophet: *They are dumb dogs that cannot bark.* On another occasion he complains: *You did not advance against the foe or set up a wall in front of the house of Israel, so that you might stand fast in battle on the day of the Lord.* To advance against the foe involves a bold resistance to the powers of this world in defense of the flock. To stand fast in battle on the day of the Lord means to oppose the wicked enemy out of love for what is right.

When a pastor has been afraid to assert what is right, has he not turned his back and fled by remaining silent? Whereas if he intervenes on behalf of the flock, he sets up a wall against the enemy in front of the house of Israel. Therefore, the Lord again says to his unfaithful people: *Your prophets saw false and foolish visions and did not point out your wickedness, that you might repent of your sins.* The name of prophet is sometimes given in the sacred writings to teachers who both declare the present to be fleeting and reveal what is to come.

The word of God accuses them of seeing false visions because they are afraid to reproach men for their faults and thereby lull the evildoer with an empty promise of safety. Because they fear reproach, they keep silent and fail to point out the sinner's wrongdoing.

The word of reproach is a key that unlocks a door, because reproach reveals a fault of which the evildoer is himself often unaware. That is why Paul says of the bishop: *He must be able to encourage men in sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.* For the same reason God tells us through Malachi: *The lips of the priest are to preserve knowledge, and men shall look to him for the law, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.* Finally, that is also the reason why the Lord warns us through Isaiah: *Cry out and be not still; raise your voice in a trumpet call.*

Anyone ordained a priest undertakes the task of preaching, so that with a loud cry he may go on ahead of the terrible judge who follows. **If, then, a priest does not know how to preach, what kind of cry can such a dumb herald utter?** It was to bring this home that the Holy Spirit descended in the form of tongues on the first pastors, for he causes those whom he has filled, to speak out spontaneously.