

Rediscover Catholicism-Session 1

9/21/17

Overview of Prologue, introduction & three chapters of Part one **(PP 1-38)**

In the prologue, through a story, the author makes us to become aware of what God has done for the love of us, that He sacrificed His own son on the Cross for the salvation of the whole humanity like the Father of the boy in the story. And the author drives home the message that the Eucharistic celebration is precisely the memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the salvation of all.

In the next chapter (Where to from here) he says that the tragedy of the clergy scandal, absence of bold and authentic leadership and thousands of people leaving the catholic church – all these have left the society at large with the low opinion of Catholicism and caused many Catholics to be ashamed of the church. It is because we have forgotten our story. The author says that Catholic Church has contributed so much to the world. He talks about hospitals and health care system, education, Charitable work by Catholic charities and the remarkable contributions of Catholics in communities they live. The point, he says, is: we have forgotten our story, and in doing so we have allowed the world to forget it as well.... Our history is not without blemish. But our contribution is unmatched, and it's needed today more than ever before. He also speaks about humble beginning of Christianity and how it has grown into a huge faith community. (p. 11-12). Even though, he says, we are 1.2 million in number, in spite of the great achievements, we are not able to capture the attention and intrigue the imagination of the people. The solution to this problem is that we've got to get back to the basics. He

says, “if we live and love the way the Gospel invites us to, we will intrigue people.” (p.15).

In chapter 1 the author speaks about “our universal hunger.” It is a hunger for God, hunger for authentic living. (p.21). He says, “we call ourselves Christians because we believe that the life and the teachings of Jesus Christ are the personification of truth, sincerity and authenticity, and in a practical sense, simply the best way to live.” (p. 22). He continues to ask: Why, then, are more people not enthusiastically embracing Christianity? Why, in fact, are so many people so hostile toward Christ and his Church? In chapter two he talks about three prevailing philosophies of our time: Individualism that asks, “What’s in it for me? Hedonism that says, “If it feels good, do it and minimalism that asks, “what is the least I can do?” These philosophies hinder people and communities from living authentic lives. (p.30) They are ultimately self-destructive philosophies that destroy body, heart, mind and soul. In chapter three the author speaks once again about quest for happiness. He says that this desire for happiness is universal, common to every member of the human family. “We simply desire to be happy and act from this desire.” (p.31). The author claims that the philosophy of Christ is the ultimate philosophy of human happiness. The life that Jesus invites us to live is very different from the lifestyle our modern culture invites us to live. Jesus invites us to a life of discipline and discipleship. He (Jesus) proposes discipline as the key to freedom. (p.34). Love is the core of Jesus’ philosophy. The author concludes the chapter with these words: Wherever men and women yearn for happiness, Christ will be relevant. He alone is the fulfillment and satisfaction of this yearning, and so for every person in every place and time he remains “the Way, the Truth and the Life.” (John 14:6).