

The 1958 Vatican Conclave — The White Smoke and the Coup d'État

The Serpent at the Door

The onslaught against Christ and His Church did not begin in the modern age. From the very beginning, betrayal came not only from enemies outside, but from one who had been chosen to stand among Christ's own Apostles.

Judas Iscariot betrayed Our Lord Jesus Christ.

With the betrayal of Christ by Judas, we see what may be described as the serpent at the door of the Church — betrayal arising from within.

Judas walked with Christ. He heard His words, witnessed His miracles, and occupied a place among the Twelve. Yet he betrayed Our Lord from within that privileged position.

But Judas could not overcome Christ, and no betrayal, corruption, or attack by man can destroy the Church established by Jesus Christ.

“The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” — Matthew 16:18

The Church may be attacked. Men occupying positions within her visible structures may betray their duties. False claimants may arise, and tremendous confusion may descend upon the faithful. But the Catholic Church herself cannot be conquered or destroyed, because her foundation is Jesus Christ.

The serpent may come to the door, but the serpent cannot prevail against the Church of Christ.

Invalid Claimants Are Not New to Catholic History

The question of whether a man legitimately occupied the Chair of Peter did not originate with Vatican II.

Long before 1958, Catholic history recorded numerous men who claimed the papal office without ultimately being recognized as legitimate successors of St. Peter. They became known as antipopes.

The pre-Vatican II *Catholic Encyclopedia*, published in 1907, describes an antipope as a false claimant to the Holy See who opposed the lawfully elected pope. Catholic history records approximately thirty generally recognized antipopes, while other disputed papal elections and successions make simple numerical totals difficult.

At certain points the confusion became enormous. Rival claimants exercised apparent authority, appointed churchmen, and attracted the allegiance of entire kingdoms. During the Great Western Schism, competing claimants divided Catholic Europe.

There were also exceptional historical cases involving papal resignation, disputed elections, and questions concerning the legitimacy of particular claimants.

Church history therefore demonstrates an important distinction:

A man's claim to the papal office and his lawful possession of that office are not the same thing.

Neither papal clothing, occupation of Vatican offices, public recognition, nor apparent exercise of authority can, by themselves, validate these wicked men.

The Church had confronted false and competing papal claimants centuries before Vatican II.

Fatima and the Third Secret

Against this historical background came the extraordinary events of Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the three shepherd children — Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

The children received what became known as the Secret of Fatima, consisting of three parts.

Lucia, later known as Sister Lucia, eventually committed the Third Secret to writing. The sealed document containing the Secret was transferred to the Holy Office in Rome in 1957.

The timing deserves attention.

The Third Secret was already in Rome before Pope Pius XII died and before the conclave of 1958.

Pope Pius XII died on October 9, 1958.

Only weeks later, the cardinals assembled in Rome to elect his successor.

The White Smoke That Confused the World

During a papal conclave the traditional smoke signals have a straightforward purpose:

- **Black smoke:** no pope has been elected.
- **White smoke:** a pope has been elected.

Yet during the 1958 conclave something extraordinary happened.

Smoke emerged from the Sistine Chapel that was white. The signal was sufficiently convincing that Vatican Radio announced that a pope had apparently been elected.

News organizations reported the development, and crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square awaiting the appearance of the new pontiff.

But no pope appeared.

The smoke situation became confused. Reports changed, and the expected announcement did not come.

The world had witnessed what appeared to be the traditional announcement of a successful papal election — yet there was no new pope presented to the faithful.

The episode was reported by the mainstream press of the day. It was not an event invented decades later by critics of Vatican II.

Eventually the smoke was treated as an erroneous or misunderstood signal.

Two days later, on October 28, 1958, Cardinal Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli emerged as the elected pontiff and took the name John XXIII.

What Happened Behind the Closed Doors?

A conclave takes place under strict secrecy.

The public therefore could not see what actually occurred among the cardinals inside the Sistine Chapel.

The official explanation is that the earlier smoke had simply been misunderstood and that no pope had been elected at that time. This was the first time that this had ever occurred.

A contrary interpretation subsequently developed, particularly in connection with Cardinal Giuseppe Siri, maintaining that the original white smoke correctly indicated an election and that something happened inside the conclave that prevented that result from being carried through publicly.

White smoke was observed. Vatican Radio reported an election. The international press reported the resulting confusion. No pope appeared.

Those facts cannot simply be erased from the historical record.

1958 — The Coup d'État

It is self-evident that the events surrounding the conclave of 1958 constituted a coup d'état within the visible structures of the Vatican and produced a rupture in legitimate papal succession — part of the Third Secret.

It is also logical to say the accession of Angelo Roncalli as John XXIII was therefore invalid and deemed an imposter.

This was not the destruction of the Catholic Church.

Nothing can destroy the Church founded by Jesus Christ.

Rather, it represented an occupation and corruption of visible ecclesiastical structures — another manifestation of the serpent appearing at the door while the Church of Christ herself remained indefectible.

The Third Secret and 1958

The chronology surrounding Fatima becomes particularly important at this point.

The sealed Third Secret had reached the Holy Office in 1957.

Pius XII died in 1958.

The disputed conclave followed.

Then, in August 1959, the envelope containing the Third Secret was brought to John XXIII. He chose not to publish it and returned it to the Holy Office.

The Vatican eventually published what it identified as the Third Secret in 2000. We won't waste our time touching on lies. You can only imagine what was scripted for the dumbed-down public.

Traditional Catholics have continued to dispute whether everything entrusted to Sister Lucia was disclosed and whether an additional explanation concerning apostasy or a profound internal crisis of the Church remained unrevealed.

The public facts and the record show that the coup d'état of 1958 and the resulting crisis of papal authority formed, at least in part, the reality toward which the Third Secret of Fatima was pointing. That's why Freemason “Roncalli” concealed it.

What Followed 1958?

The changes began almost immediately.

On January 25, 1959, only months after the disputed election, John XXIII publicly announced his intention to revise the 1917 Code of Canon Law and convene an ecumenical council.

In 1962, the Second Vatican Council opened.

In March 1963, John XXIII established the commission charged with revising the Code of Canon Law, to which he had no jurisdiction or authority to reform or make any changes whatsoever.

The revision eventually became closely connected with the principles and changes emerging from Vatican II — “gut the Church.”

The process continued for approximately two decades.

Finally, on January 25, 1983, invalid antipope John Paul II promulgated the new 1983 Code of Canon Law, which entered into force later that year.

Authority and Jurisdiction

This brings the issue back to the fundamental question of jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction cannot arise merely because authority is claimed.

From the position maintained on this website, if the succession beginning in 1958 was invalid, those subsequent claimants could not possess legitimate papal jurisdiction merely through occupying the visible offices of the Vatican.

And if legitimate jurisdiction was absent at its claimed source, it could not simply be created by subsequent legislation.

The principle upon which our position rests is straightforward:

One cannot give authority one does not possess.

Accordingly, this website maintains that the post-1958 claimants were invalidly elected popes and possessed no legitimate papal jurisdiction over the true Catholic Church. The chair remains vacant for nearly 70 years.

From that evidence, we further maintain that ecclesiastical legislation dependent upon their claimed authority — including the later 1983 Code of Canon Law — possesses no lawful jurisdiction over the true Catholic Church whatsoever. And that these pathetic people who have conspired in this crime against all Catholics have incurred the wrath of Almighty God!

The Facts

The Catholic Church did not cease to exist in 1958.

Christ's promise did not fail.

The gates of Hell did not prevail.

Our position is that an onslaught occurred against the visible structures through which the Church had been governed, just as betrayal had entered among Christ's own chosen Apostles through Judas.

The serpent came to the door.

But the serpent did not — and cannot — destroy the Church founded by Jesus Christ.

For this reason, when this website discusses traditional Catholic faith, discipline, and Canon Law, our historical point of reference remains the Catholic Church before the post-1958 rupture, including the 1917 Code of Canon Law and the traditional teachings and disciplines of the Church preceding Vatican II. Give thanks and prayers to St. Pius V. By their fruit you shall know them.