THERE IS NO SALVATION IN ANY OTHER NAME

Bp. Michał Stobnicki

Today we celebrate the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, and in the Gospel we hear the account of the circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ. And the Holy Church directs our thoughts to the first drops of the most precious Blood. The Blood through which we were redeemed. The Blood which we honour as the price of our salvation, the Blood without which none of us, my dear brethren, can enter heaven.

Beloved, in today's lesson taken from the Acts of the Apostles we hear the words of the first pope, Saint Peter. Words which are very hard for us to understand, which shatter our liberal notion of the Catholic faith: "There is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved." We have grown used to thinking that there are many religions. Again and again we hear about interreligious dialogue, about ecumenical meetings, about the fact that every man has the right to choose a religion for himself. In all this, my dear brethren, for several decades now, ever since the wretched Second Vatican Council, we have been steeped. It is constantly repeated to us, it is constantly drummed into our heads: ecumenism, religious liberty, human rights, the right to profess a religion of one's own choosing. And all this, my dear brethren, simply does not fit. It stands in complete contradiction to what we have just heard from Saint Peter: "There is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved."

So how is it in the end? How is it in the end with this religious liberty, with interreligious dialogue, with ecumenism? What is all this about? Who is right? The hierarchs of today, or Saint Peter? Is there salvation outside the Catholic Church? Does every man really have a right, arising from human dignity, to believe whatever he wants?

WHAT RELIGION IS

Dear faithful, we must realise what religion is. What religion actually is. When our first parents, Adam and Eve, committed original sin, they rebelled against the Lord God; in their pride they rejected God's law, God's will, they desired to become as gods, to decide for themselves what is good and what is evil, and as a consequence they lost paradise. They lost friendship with the Lord God, they were driven out of paradise, and mankind sank for long ages into the darkness of sin and error. Between the divine majesty, offended by human sin, and fallen mankind a chasm opened up. A chasm that no man was able to cross. For no man was able to make amends to the offended divine majesty for sin. Every human sin, beginning with original sin, offends the Lord God.

And what was needed, my dear brethren, was the action of God Himself, in order to change this lamentable situation of ours, of us human beings. It was necessary that the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, our Lord Jesus Christ, take on human nature, be born in Bethlehem, in order to bring to completion the mystery of salvation, of redemption. Our Lord Jesus Christ says many times in the Gospel: "My hour has not yet come." The hour for which the Lord Jesus came into this world and took on human nature is the hour of 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday, when on the altar of the Cross He offered Himself as a sacrifice of atonement for our sins. Through this sacrifice, through the Blood shed by Jesus Christ on the Cross, we were redeemed. The debt that we human beings incurred toward the Lord God by committing sins was paid. The Lord Jesus took upon His shoulders all the sins of all the people who ever lived in the world. He is our Redeemer, the One who paid off our guilt, who took that guilt upon Himself. He is our Saviour, the One who frees us from the bondage of evil, darkness, error, sin, and leads us to His kingdom, the kingdom of God, the kingdom of light and holiness.

Religare means "to bind anew." And that is the meaning of religion. Religion is the action of God Himself, who enters into the history of mankind in order to lift up fallen man, to bring him back to

Himself, to bind him anew to Himself. That, my dear brethren, is religion: the action of God, who enters into the history of man in order to redeem man, to raise man up, to bring him back and bind him to Himself anew, so that we might regain, my dear brethren, what we lost through sin.

When we realise this, then it becomes clear to us that there is only one religion. There is no such thing as other religions. There exist, my dear brethren, only pseudo-religions, false religions, which are the work of the devil. The devil, who creates various pseudo-religions in order to draw men away from the true religion, the religion of Christ, and to lead them onto the road that leads to eternal damnation.

NOT A RESTAURANT MENU

There is no such thing, my dear brethren, as religious liberty, as a right to choose a religion. What has been preached to us for several decades, what the Second Vatican Council and the post-conciliar hierarchy preached. There is no right to religious liberty whatsoever. There is something entirely the opposite. There is the duty of every man to render worship to the true God. A duty weighing upon every man to be a follower of the true religion of God, a religion that is the work of God, and not a wretched counterfeit that comes from the devil. There is therefore, my dear brethren, no room for any interreligious dialogue, because there exists one single religion of God, which everyone has a duty to embrace. Everyone has a duty to become its adherent. Every man has a duty to worship the true God, and not to bow down to idols. And there are no exceptions here.

My dear brethren, we human beings are not in some restaurant where we have a menu and can choose what suits us, what fits us. Every man has an absolute duty to worship the true God, and not in just any way, in some haphazard way, but precisely in the way the Lord God Himself established: through the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Mass of all time. It is not my choice or yours that I happen to like the Mass of all time. No, it is your duty, your fundamental, first, basic duty. You are to render to God what belongs to the Lord God, to give Him glory, honour, and to take part in the sacrifice of atonement for your sins. It is not a menu in a restaurant. One of many items on the menu: the Catholic religion. It is the basic duty of every man to become a Catholic and to practise the Catholic religion zealously, because it is the only road that leads to heaven. To heaven, which one must be a Catholic to enter. In heaven, my dear brethren, you will not meet souls that did not convert to the Catholic religion. "There is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved."

MISSIONARIES AND ECUMENICAL BLASPHEMY

And the Catholic Church, priests, bishops, popes, for 2000 years understood this perfectly well. That is why missionaries went out to the whole world, into storms, into the unknown, risking their health, their lives. In order to tear souls from the devil's claws and lead them to the true God. How many missionaries shed their blood carrying the light of the Gospel to the ends of the earth? They did it because they were perfectly aware that profession of the Catholic faith is absolutely necessary for attaining salvation.

The Lord Jesus, just before His Ascension, gave the apostles a command: "Go into the whole world and teach all nations." All means all. Yet meanwhile it is already several years since the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a statement that the Church is giving up missions to the Jews, because the Jews have their own way leading to salvation. What own way? Where is this way supposed to lead? The Lord Jesus said clearly: "No one comes to the Father but by Me. He who is not with Me is against Me." And further the Lord Jesus addressed the apostles with the words: "He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned."

Between these words of the Saviour there is no way to squeeze in any ecumenism, any ecumenical meetings, any supposedly interreligious dialogue, any religious liberty. Either, or: either you will believe, you will worship the true God and save your soul, you will earn for yourself the reward of eternal life in heaven, or you will reject the true religion, despise the Saviour, and condemn yourself to eternal damnation in hell.

All this ecumenism, these ecumenical meetings, any moment now these gatherings will start, they will proclaim a week of prayer for Christian unity. A day of Judaism, a day of Islam. This is, my dear brethren, nothing other than blasphemy against God. An offence against God. An insult to the divine majesty. Spitting in the Saviour's face. Confirming those in error in their error, those in sin in their sin. They will hug each other, shake hands, invite pastors to bless the people. It is one great offence against God. It is a sin that cries out to heaven for punishment, that deserves punishment, because it is modern-day idolatry.

There is no other name than the name of Jesus in which salvation can be attained. There are no exemptions for the false idol Allah, nor for Pachamama, nor for any other demons. Holy Scripture says plainly: *Omnes dii gentium daemonia.* All the gods of the heathen are demons. Whoever does not worship the true God, whoever does not worship the Most Holy Trinity, knowingly or unknowingly, indirectly or directly, worships demons.

GRATITUDE AND MERCY

Dear faithful, on this feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus we must express deep gratitude to the Saviour that He did not hesitate to take on our human nature, that He stretched out His holy and venerable hands on the wood of the Cross for our salvation. We must express gratitude to the Saviour for enabling us to enjoy the fruits of redemption, for establishing the Catholic Church, for establishing the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, for establishing the seven sacraments through which our souls are strengthened by God's grace. The Lord Jesus has not left us orphans. He is among us and desires, my dear brethren, that all men come to know and love the true God.

And when we realise what is happening in the world today, we ought to fall on our knees, beat our breasts, and cry out for God's mercy. For the fact that so many, my dear brethren, commit idolatry today, blaspheme God; that so many supposed Catholics confirm sinners in their sin today; that since the Second Vatican Council, instead of leading people to the true God, without whom there is no salvation, adherents of other faiths, followers of false religions, are confirmed in what they do. It is taught that all religions lead to God. No, my dear brethren, there is one single religion of God, which leads to the true God, which leads to heaven, and a thousand false pseudo-religions that are the work of the devil.

Enough of blasphemies, enough of this great blasphemy which constitutes the fundamental sin of the Second Vatican Council and of what has happened since. The rejection of the dogma *extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*, outside the Church there is no salvation, the preaching that there are many ways to God, to heaven: a loathsome lie, a loathsome blasphemy, which leads millions of souls to hell.

What a great grace it is today, beloved, to be a Catholic. An indescribable grace, which has been granted to you. The possibility of coming to know the true Catholic faith and of worshipping the Lord God in the way a Catholic ought to. But what great responsibility. We ought, my dear brethren, to beg for mercy for those loathsome sins resulting from post-conciliar ecumenism, from those joyful little get-togethers with lady pastors, from that dressing-up, from those gatherings which are an offence against God, which are the source of great confusion.

PERSEVERING IN THE FAITH

And we must ask, my dear brethren, on this feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, that we persevere in the Catholic faith until death. Saint Paul writes: "Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." For many Catholics of tradition have been infected with the virus of liberalism. They live in the conviction that the Catholic religion must somehow be reconciled with the modern world. We must not be too radical. But that is precisely what Jesus Christ calls us to, who is not one item on the menu in a restaurant. He is the one Saviour of every man. Whether anyone likes it or not, whether he wants it or not, without Jesus Christ there is no salvation.

And we must, my dear brethren, remind ourselves of this, because it is quite possible that, surrounded, under the pressure of the modern world, under the pressure of this liberal Catholicism that poisons minds, we too, my dear brethren, have forgotten that there is no salvation without Jesus Christ. A great danger for

every man: liberal Catholicism, a counterfeit of Catholicism. May we not be caught in this devilish net. May we persevere in the Catholic faith.

May we, my dear brethren, depart from this world with the name of Jesus on our lips. The Most Holy Name, the name of the Saviour. May we, my dear brethren, be able to pronounce it at the hour of our death. If we should not be able to, may there be no lack at our deathbed of people close to us who will pronounce that name, so that it may accompany us at the moment of departure from this world. The sweetest name in this world, the name of the Saviour, the name that gives hope. But, my dear brethren, one must deserve to die with the name of Jesus on one's lips. One must pray for the grace of a good death all one's life. And for this grace we wish to ask today as well, realising how the Saviour is trampled upon, how His name is trampled upon, also by Polish Catholics.

Let us pronounce this name always with love, with reverence, with trust, and let us pronounce this name as often as possible in aspirations. Not only in the morning and evening, when we say our prayers, but let it accompany us every day of our lives. Let us call upon the Saviour. Let us ask to be kept in the Catholic faith. And the fact that we profess it today does not at all mean that we will persevere in this faith. How many, my dear brethren, have lost the faith in recent years? Millions, tens, hundreds of millions of souls around the world who have lost the faith, who are walking the road that leads into the fire of hell. How greatly we ought to be fearful and strive for the salvation of our own souls.

May we, my dear brethren, all who are present here, persevere in the Catholic faith, and may we depart from this world with the sweetest name of Jesus on our lips. Amen.

Of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.