A PRIEST TRANSPARENT LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST

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We gather today at Christ's altar to pay honor to Saint John the Baptist, of whom the Lord Jesus said that among those born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist.

We may wonder where the greatness comes from, the exceptional greatness of this particular saint, and why the Savior spoke words of such praise about him. Look, my dear ones: Saint John the Baptist is the last prophet of the Old Testament. He directly prepared the way for the Messiah. He was chosen by God for a special role in the history of salvation. He goes in order to prepare the way. He says of himself: "I am the voice crying in the wilderness." He calls himself a voice. His figure, his person stands wholly in the shadow of the Savior.

His greatness, my dear ones, comes from the fact that he overcame a great temptation. The temptation to proclaim himself a false Christ, a false Messiah, to become an antichrist. Look: the marvelous circumstances surrounding his birth. Elizabeth already advanced in years, humanly barren; an angel announces his birth to his father Zechariah. From the very beginning, from his conception, he drew the attention of the Jews, and surely more than one of them asked himself whether this might perhaps be the Messiah who is to come, whom we await. When he began his ministry, when he came out to the Jordan in a garment of camel's skin, when he began to preach a baptism of repentance, thousands of Jews came to listen to him. Thousands of Jews asked themselves whether this was the Messiah.

Saint John the Baptist stood before a great temptation. He could have proclaimed himself the Messiah. He could have proclaimed himself King of Israel, and he would have drawn the Jewish people after him. He stood before the temptation to become an antichrist, to close the way to men's hearts instead of preparing it for the Savior. And Saint John the Baptist overcame this great temptation. He remained faithful to his vocation. He remained in the shadow of Christ. He prepared the way to men's hearts for the Savior.

NEW JOHNS THE BAPTIST

And when we look at his example, when we look at his life, we truly understand what a great man he was, what a great saint. At the same time we realize how greatly contemporary Catholics, the contemporary Church, the world need new holy Johns the Baptist, who will prepare the way to men's hearts for the Savior. How greatly, my dear ones, we need those who will proclaim the Catholic religion, who will not cover up the Lord Jesus, but will remain in His shadow.

For the drama that we have been observing for several decades is those whole ranks of clergy who become little antichrists, who instead of preparing the way to men's hearts for the Savior become a barrier, become an obstacle for souls in finding the true God. We see, my dear ones, not only those post-conciliarists who chase after the glare of the flashbulbs, who long to appear constantly in the headlines, in the media, displaying their American smiles. We see, my dear ones, also, unfortunately, within the Catholic tradition a whole circle of clergy who, instead of leading to the Savior, lead to themselves, who build their own sects.

We see, my dear ones, how the interest of this or that fraternity is placed above the good of the Catholic Church, when one does not think in terms of what is good for Christ's Church, but of what is good for my organization. We see, my dear ones, various strange bishops from Mexico who come here to Polish soil and announce that they are the only true ones, that apart from them nobody is a Catholic. They come for pesos, for money. We see, my dear ones, a whole mass of pseudo-Catholics, pseudo-traditionalists. And how can they be recognized? By the fact that they are not transparent.

THE TRANSPARENT PRIEST

A priest, a true priest of Jesus Christ, after the model of Saint John the Baptist, is to be transparent. The Savior is to be seen through him. He is to lead to the Savior, not to himself. He is to build Christ's Church, not his own sect. And this, my dear ones, is an enormous problem of our day. We have forgotten what the Church is. We have forgotten that the duty lies upon us to build Christ's Church, and not this or that fraternity, this or that sect. The priests of tradition are not transparent. They are not transparent.

And we must, my dear ones, beg today with our whole heart that the Lord Jesus send us new Johns the Baptist, who will prepare the way to men's hearts for the Savior, who will not become yet more antichrists, little antichrists, with whom the history of the last several decades is filled.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Praised be Jesus Christ.