

## Editorial

### *The power of Reason*

Nothing of its form, content, or historic importance has occurred since the 15th century Council of Florence. The Pope has convened an "Extraordinary Synod" of Bishops in Rome. That Synod is now reasserting, on the basis of papal authority, i.e., Reason, not collegial consensus, those fundamental values of morality and science which have been systematically eroded over the past few decades.

So what? You are not a Catholic, you say? What the Synod is asserting as first principles are truly *catholic*, universal, ecumenical. Ironically perhaps, in so doing, the Synod is wrecking current "ecumenical" negotiations with the Russian Orthodox Church, and properly so.

The Synod began with a banner headline in the Vatican newspaper. That headline stated: "The Holy Spirit Proceeds from the Father and *from the Son—Filioque* in the Nicene Creed.

With that headline, the Pope all at once rejected any "ecumenicism" which would seek unity between the churches of East and West by eliminating the moral principles of the West.

The essence of Christianity is that the human mind is of divine substance, with the potential, therefore, to do the creative work of the Father. Each individual life and mind is therefore sacred, must be free to develop its full potentialities for Reason, and yes, has a duty to do so. The state has the duty to foster conditions favoring development of its individual citizens' potentialities.

That, you will recognize, is the idea behind the American Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights, and all positive development in 2,500 years of Western civilization, dating from some centuries before Socrates. Socrates was assassinated by agents of an Eastern empire, because he asserted that Reason is authority, not mere opinion ("orthodoxy"), even the opinion of majorities. Authority is universal law as comprehended by the reason of developed individuals.

By contrast, the cultural well-spring of political

communism in the East today, is the Russian-led Eastern churches' rejection of *Filioque* in favor of a doctrine of "collective soul" submerging and denying the value of the individual.

There has of late been a major, Anglican-centered push to drop *Filioque* to achieve an "ecumenical unity" with the Russian Church. This, so to speak, is the religious side of Henry A. Kissinger. It is an expression of the "New Yalta" deal between the Anglo-American oligarchy and the Kremlin, a granting of world empire to Moscow.

The Vatican, at least, has now said: No.

The Extraordinary Synod has also made explicit a related issue of profound and immediate political importance. American independence was declared, and the revolution fought, against the economic looting policies of Adam Smith, conducted in the name of "free trade" and "free market." (The reader will be interested that the next notable call for "free trade" after Smith's 1776 *Wealth of Nations* appeared in Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto*.)

At the Extraordinary Synod, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger of Munich has attacked Adam Smith by name, because of his separation of politics and economics from morality (again, *Filioque*). For the same reason, Ratzinger attacked David Rockefeller by name. He attacked the postwar monetary system, embodied in the International Monetary Fund, by name.

To put it another way, the Papacy has denounced the economic policy of the United States government as immoral, and, as evidenced in the Church's support for the policies of Peru's Alan Garcia, is going to work to change a situation which has seen the pestilence of usury, embodied in the U.S. government and IMF's "free market" policies, produce genocide in various parts of the world, and a burgeoning global drug traffic as the only "growth industry."

We stress that this is an ecumenical matter, not just Roman Catholic policy, and we wish that extraordinary support be extended to Pope John Paul's Extraordinary Synod.