

This article will comment on the so-called “Humanist Manifesto I” presented last week. To help to really understand this thing in terms of what God has revealed, consider again the paragraphs from the Catechism regarding the 2nd coming of Christ:

675. Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh.

677. The Church will enter the glory of the kingdom only through this final Passover, when she will follow her Lord in his death and Resurrection. The kingdom will be fulfilled, then, not by a historic triumph of the Church through a progressive ascendancy, but only by God's victory over the final unleashing of evil, which will cause his Bride to come down from heaven. God's triumph over the revolt of evil will take the form of the Last Judgement after the final cosmic upheaval of this passing world.

“The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God.” Ladies and gentlemen, the new humanism fits that bill. We have to be careful here – remember that our Lord said you know neither the day nor the hour of His second coming. Is the 2nd coming of Christ, the end of the world, imminent / close at hand? I don’t know and I wouldn’t listen to anyone who claims they do know. What I do know is that St John told us, under Divine Inspiration, that the spirit of the antichrist would be built up over time; he won’t just appear on the scene, the way will be prepared for his acceptance. The religious deception will be built up first. The false beliefs that have been presented are doing just that.

The humanist manifesto is a stark example of the “supreme religious deception...by which man glorifies himself.” It claims that the “humanism” it promotes is a religion. Insofar as religion is a set of beliefs and practices of worship, it’s true that humanism is a religion, the “religion” of Satan with “worship” of self. Insofar as religion is that which inclines us towards God (its true meaning), it is the exact opposite of religion.

Bragg’s Opening Statement in Humanist Manifesto I

Let’s begin with the forward written by Raymond Bragg. Notice first that Bragg states outright that this “new religion” is in fact man-made. No real religion is man-made, it comes from God. Bragg’s intro begins by saying: “The Manifesto is a product of many minds,” and then states that “more than 30 men have come to general agreement.” In 1933, the population of the U.S. was about 125 million; the world population was about 2.1 billion and yet: many minds = more than 30??? Please fix this carefully in mind: this is a tactic used to push people in a given direction – to say “everybody is doing it, everybody says so.” People do this with priests as well, whenever they want something. Of course, Bragg says, they are just “representative of a large number who are forging a new philosophy.” How large? This is again a tactic – don’t specify numbers or percentages, just arbitrarily claim “a large number.” At the same time, there could be some truth to that statement, even in the 1930’s. The isms, even Marxism, had by 1933 certainly caught on in at least Europe. Regardless of whether Bragg was exaggerating in order to push people in their direction, the numbers today have dramatically risen. Few there are who even want to acknowledge the existence of God, much less truly follow Him.

As a side note – it is somewhat ironic, if not perhaps telling, that the name of the man who is a primary promoter of this big, blatant manifestation of human pride is Bragg.

“Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs,” states the new savior, Bragg. There was never any unchangeable, definitive, irreformable, absolute truths about God, says the new savior, these were all just man-made constructs for making life nice here on earth. Notice also: science and economic changes have said so. Can you hear the elements of materialism, pragmatism, and most explicitly scientism here? Can you begin to see how all of these isms operate together to lead people into the “supreme deception?” Once you start yielding to scientism, for example – maybe by allowing someone to perk your pride or your desire to be in with the “smart people” – you have put yourself onto the path of the great religious deception. Here I have used just

one of Bragg's statements to illustrate this but his entire opening is fraught with claims of the supremacy of the here and now, scientism, pragmatism, and relativism – illustrating further the connection of all the isms. Consider this statement from Bragg: “While this age does owe a vast debt to the traditional religions, it is none the less obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for today must be shaped for the needs of this age.” This is pure relativism – what is right and good and true is relative to a given time and place; there are no absolute, unchangeable truths, applicable to all times and places. As you think about these isms and are tempted to abide with them in everyday life, think about whether or not you really want to say what is being said here: **God, we have placed judgement on You and we condemn You.**

Specific (Numbered) Claims in Humanist Manifesto I

Let us come now to the prideful claims or demands of this new humanism, starting with #1: “Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.” This is an outright, immediate, and direct opposition to God and His Revelation. You, God, be damned, to hell with You. How easy it is to see that the isms, culminating in this humanism, is an alignment with Satan and his legions.

I am reminded of the end of C.S. Lewis' 2nd book in the Narnia series (The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe). Those loyal to “Asland” (who represents our Lord) and those committed to opposing Him (represented by the Witch) line up for battle. Before the battle begins, one of the characters comes to Peter (representing the head of those loyal to Asland; i.e., Asland = Jesus and Peter = the Pope) and says that the witch's troops are heavily armed and come in numbers much greater than ours. The “right hand man/character” of Peter, who is right next to him, replies: numbers do *not* win battles. Peter replies, somewhat timidly: no, but I sure bet they help! This seems to be representative of a reality that is growing today, at least in our own country. For many years there was a sort of implied gray area – oh, I'm sort of this but also this, no clear adherence to either God or rejection of God, and a man-made grayness of what is right and wrong, good or evil, true or false in areas of both doctrine and morality. But today there seems to be a growing clear demarcation, which is not bad. Those opposed to God come in much greater numbers than those loyal to Him, and they are more heavily “armed” – through the media, educational systems, perhaps politics, organization of attack, and so on. It might be tempted to be somewhat intimidated. It is precisely at that moment that we have to remember who is actually all-powerful and who is absolute truth; it is our Lord. In the great battle in Lewis' book, Asland's troops fight hard against the evil witch but in the end, when they are getting pushed back more and more, Asland comes and wipes out the witch and those aligned with her. So it will be at the end of time, at the 2nd coming of our Lord. Don't waver, remember His promise. Stay firm, come what may. Remember the examples of Eleazar and also the good mother in the Book of Maccabees.

We won't be able to (nor, perhaps, do we really need to) go through each of the numbered items in Humanist Manifesto I; they are all of a similar taste, all following from materialism and the other isms. Nonetheless, we will at least touch briefly on a few others, starting with “Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process.” Although the Church has found that “evolution” is not necessarily inconsistent with Revelation (which is not, by any means, affirming that it is true – it just does not disallow the possibility), this statement of the manifesto is decidedly materialistic, albeit subtly so. In our CCD class one of the students astutely brought out that “evolution” is often presented as proving there is no God. This topic has written on in a previous article, make sure to have the truth of it clear.

The manifesto goes on to make other claims that are directly opposed to Revelation, to reality, to truth. For example, #3 states: “Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.” Traditional dualism? It's referring to the fact that man is body & soul. Much of the rest of this “manifesto” is simply bringing out what has already been discussed. Don't be intimidated by this blatant arrogance. Don't bow down to these claims. Be unreservedly firm in the truth.

Is the end of the world at hand? I want to reiterate: nobody knows. What is clear, though, is the spirit of the antichrist is being built up. Reject it outright and live with true purpose. *God bless you, Fr Kuhn.*