

Drawing Aside the Purple Curtain

The Papal System Today: an Analysis of the News

The Destruction of Roman Catholic Images and Buildings During the BLM Revolution

Shaun Willcock

As the Communist Black Lives Matter revolution continued to spread across the United States in 2020, with statues of American national heroes being toppled or vandalised, the revolutionaries began to target the Roman Catholic “Church” as well. Within a very short space of time there were attacks on places of worship, and religious idols. They were toppled, beheaded, defaced, set alight.

But why?

The True Christian Approach to Idolatry

All Bible-believing Christians know that Roman Catholic statues are nothing but images of idolatry. They are not in any sense Christian, but a direct violation of the numerous passages in God’s Word which condemn idolatry as a terrible sin against God. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them” (Exod. 20:4,5). “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands” (Psa. 115:4). And even the use of images of “Christ” is just as sinful as the use of images of Mary or the “saints”.¹ No true Christian church has idols, and no true Christian bows down before idols, prays to them, or serves them. Roman Catholicism is not Christian. It is a heathen religion dressed up as “Christianity”. A religion riddled with gross idolatry.

However, just because true Christians abhor idolatry, this does not mean we support the destruction of statues or places of worship, even if they are idolatrous and false. The Israelites were commanded by the Lord to destroy all idols in the land, because the entire land was given to Israel and all the people of Israel were, outwardly, the Lord’s people. But no country today is a theocracy like Israel was, nor is any true church a “National Church”. The true Church is “an holy nation” (1 Pet. 2:9), a new nation, made up of God’s elect taken from among all earthly nations. It is a nation *within* all earthly nations. It is not co-extensive with the borders of any country. There is no such thing, in God’s eyes, as a “National Church”. Christians are strangers and pilgrims in all nations, living side by side with idolaters and others and preaching the Gospel to them, but leaving them to continue on in their false religion if the Lord does not draw them to Himself (Lk. 9:53-56).

The only weapon the Christian uses is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Eph. 6:17). If a man rejects the Gospel the Christian moves on and witnesses or preaches to another man. He does not take out a physical weapon and kill him. Nor does he go into the idol’s temple and topple the idols. At the time of the Reformation there were Protestant iconoclasts, barging into Roman Catholic places of worship and tearing down and destroying their idols. This was not Christian behaviour. It was sinful. It was people professing to live under the New Covenant behaving as people who lived under the Old Covenant. It was acting according to an Old Testament mentality and not according to the Gospel of Christ.

True Christians do not destroy other people’s idols. They abhor idolatry, but they *never* support the destruction of private property, nor the use of violence against those of another religion. They are concerned to keep *themselves* from any idols (1 Jn. 5:21); to keep their brethren in the Lord from

committing any form of idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14); and to keep their local churches free of idolatry. But they leave the idolaters of the world to answer to God for their sin.

Why Roman Catholic Buildings and Images were Targeted

What was going on? Why the sudden attacks on the idols and places of worship of Roman Catholics in many parts of America?

The Black Lives Matter movement is Communist and therefore at heart it is utterly anti-Christian. And although Roman Catholicism is not Christian, Communists are under the delusion that it is the greatest manifestation and representation of “Christianity” in the world. Thus, in seeking to vent their hatred on Christianity, they target Roman Catholicism *because they perceive it to be Christianity*.

We live in an era of rapidly growing hostility towards Christianity all over the world. As man rebels against all moral restraints and shakes his feeble fist at the God of heaven, he vents his hatred on those who profess to be followers of Christ. And to the man in the street, influenced by secular humanism, liberalism, Socialism, Marxism, etc., these are Roman Catholics more than anyone else, simply by virtue of the fact that the Roman Catholic institution is the largest religious body on earth which *claims* to be Christian (even though it is not).

Romanism is also very visible, which makes it an easy target. Its buildings are often large and ornate and easily identified; its images are prolific; its priests are instantly recognisable; so it presents a very convenient target for Communist and other revolutionaries. Protestant places of worship are usually less ostentatious, and their leaders blend in with the general population.

Lastly, but most importantly in the present BLM revolution, the revolutionaries target Roman Catholic places of worship because BLM promotes an anti-white agenda. To these black revolutionaries and their white fellow travellers, Roman Catholicism represents everything that was most terrible about European Colonialism in centuries past.

And in this they are right! Romish missionary-priests came with the Spanish and Portuguese conquerors, blessed the hideously cruel methods used by the Romish Europeans to conquer other nations, and forced them to convert to Rome at the point of a sword. And the BLM revolutionaries point to those deeds of darkness long ago and use them to feed the flames of the present Communist revolution.

This is why Shaun King, a BLM activist, went on record as saying, “all murals and stained-glass windows of white Jesus and his European mother and their white friends should also come down. They are a gross form of white supremacy created as tools of oppression, racist propaganda.”² They deliberately pass over the fact that millions of non-white people today are Roman Catholics *by choice* – they are not being forced to follow this religion, even if their ancestors were. They ignore the fact that these murals, etc., are private property. And they fail to explain (because they cannot) how a mere mural or stained glass window or statue of a “white Jesus” is “a form of white supremacy”, a “tool of oppression” or “racist propaganda”. It is just a window, a mural, or a statue. It is idolatrous, certainly, but a window or an image cannot oppress, cannot be a racist, and cannot be a white supremacist. For “an idol is nothing in the world” (1 Cor. 8:4).

In addition to the BLM revolutionaries, other groups are taking advantage of the chaos and mayhem to vent their own hatred of “Christianity” (again, often perceived by them to be Roman Catholicism): Satanists, anarchists, feminists, neo-Nazis, Muslims – they have all seized the opportunity.

And so – all of a sudden – the iconoclasm began:

Iconoclasm Sweeps Across America

On the 19th June an image of the Roman Catholic missionary and “saint”, priest Juniper Serra, was pulled down by rioters in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park; and on the same day another image of him was pulled down in Los Angeles, California.

Between the 2nd and 3rd July an image of Mary was beheaded at St Ann Parish in Gary, Indiana.

Then on the evening of Independence Day (4th July) a crowd in Sacramento, California, pulled down another image of Junipero Serra, set fire to it, and beat it with a sledgehammer. This statue was on the grounds of California's state capitol. The large crowd gathered around the statue at 9 pm. One man burned its face with an ignited spray from an aerosol can, and then it was toppled from its base using tow straps, and people beat it with a sledgehammer and other objects and danced and jumped on it. As they did so they chanted, "Rise up, my people, rise up!" Rioters carried signs saying, "Decolonise the streets".

Roman Catholics defended the reputation of their missionary "saint", claiming he worked to protect the native people in his day. But the rioters denied this, saying he was a representative of racism, Colonialism, and religious oppression.

In Ventura, California, a small group of Roman Catholics surrounded the statue of Serra in front of the city hall to protect it. And in St Louis, Missouri, vandals and Roman Catholics clashed at the base of a statue of the city's namesake, a French king and Romish "saint". A number of priests were present.³ A Muslim named Umar Lee, who created a petition to have the statue removed, called those supporting the statue "White Nationalists". Roman Catholics prayed the rosary at the statue and the anti-statue protesters blew horns to disrupt them, and wrote in chalk on the pedestal.

Between the 5th and 6th July at St Bernadette Parish in Rockford, Illinois, a crucifix at a Romish shrine was vandalised. Its corpus was smashed with a hammer.

Then on the 10th July in Queens, New York, an idol of Mary at Cathedral Prep School and Seminary was vandalised. Video footage showed the vandal daubing the word "IDOL" on it.

And in New York City mobs made bonfires out of two images of Mary and also decapitated an image of the Roman Catholic "Jesus".

On the 11th July the second attack on an image of Mary in two days occurred. This time it was an arson attack on the idol in Boston, Massachusetts.

Also on the 11th, in Marion County, Florida, the Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Ocala was set aflame – *while worshippers were inside* preparing for the morning mass. A young man was arrested for reportedly crashing a minivan into the church building and then pouring petrol in the foyer and setting it alight.

In yet another attack on the 11th, another idol of Mary was knocked over and beheaded at St Stephen Catholic Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

And in still another attack on the same day, a fire ravaged the San Gabriel Mission in the archdiocese of Los Angeles. This mission was established by Junipero Serra 259 years earlier – the same Romish "saint" whose image was toppled in a number of places. Police were investigating the possibility that the fire was an arson attack. It occurred just days after the mission moved an image of Serra out of public view after other statues of the man had been toppled in other parts of California over the previous few weeks.

In Montana an image of "Jesus" at a ski resort was painted and festooned with flags which said, "Rise Up" and "#BLM". The defacing was noticed on the 13th July. The statue was in honour of World War Two veterans and the US Army's 10th Mountain Division. It was maintained by the local Knights of Columbus, a Roman Catholic organisation.

On the 14th July, an idol of Mary was daubed with red paint at St Mary's Cathedral in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "Redrum" was written on the base of the image. "Redrum" is "murder" spelled backwards, and was a reference to a horror novel written by Stephen King in 1977, called "The Shining."

Also on the 14th, an image of "Jesus" was beheaded and knocked off its pedestal at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Miami, Florida.

In a Roman Catholic graveyard in Providence, Rhode Island, a young man painted swastikas and anti-Catholic words on the gravestones of Dominican friars.

In Joliet, Illinois, at St Patrick's Church, vandals destroyed an image of Mary.

In New Haven, Connecticut, the doors of St Joseph Roman Catholic Church were painted with anarchistic and satanic symbols. This church building was where the powerful Roman Catholic order, the Knights of Columbus, was founded in 1882.

Also, over the weekend of the 18th July at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Bloomingburg, New York, a monument to unborn children killed by abortion was knocked over.

These attacks were obviously very well co-ordinated, since they occurred all over the country and within a matter of days – sometimes on the same day. Five attacks occurred within just 48 hours the weekend of 11th -12th July. They were clearly not isolated acts by individuals. They were *directed attacks*. Powerful organisations, with money and excellent communications, were behind them.

Protestant Churches Attacked as Well

Although the attacks were mainly directed at Roman Catholic places of worship and property, others were targeted as well:

In late June in Kalispell, Montana, a Ten Commandments monument was destroyed by a man who was later arrested. He went into the courthouse grounds, hooked a chain around the monument and to his truck, and pulled the monument down.

In San Diego there was a fire at Calvary Baptist Church, which police treated as “suspicious”. This was an historically black church.

BLM rioters also targeted Grace Baptist Church in Troy, New York. The angry mob stood outside the church building shouting, “This is what democracy looks like!”⁴ The rioters went inside and disrupted the service as they shouted profanities. They also confronted those entering the building – including blacks. If “black lives matter”, why did a black family require guards to be escorted into the building? It was for protection against the mob outside! This just proves that Black Lives Matter is *not* about improving the lives of blacks. Not at all.

In Portland, Oregon, in the early hours of the 1st August, masked protesters burned a Bible in the street during a protest outside the federal courthouse.⁵ Portland had by that time experienced over 60 days of protests, rioting, looting and killing by Black Lives Matter and other revolutionaries. The burning of a Bible conjures up the days of the Protestant Reformation, when copies of William Tyndale's Bible – precursor to the King James Version – were publicly burned in the streets by the Papists. It appears we are returning to those dark days, and rapidly. This time it was not the religious leaders of Rome doing the burning directly. But their hatred for the Word of God remains, and considering how the Jesuits and other Roman Catholic religious leaders *support* the Black Lives Matter revolution,⁶ it is not inconceivable that the time will come when these ongoing, ever-morphing revolutions will erupt even further into anti-Christian hatred – or that the Roman Catholic leadership will *openly* support attacks on Protestant evangelicals.

Many will be puzzled: why would priests of Rome support their Communist enemies in attacking Protestants? It has happened many times before! Hatred of a common enemy makes strange bedfellows. Rome and its priesthood supported the Nazis, even though many priests were killed by them. Besides, Romanism and Communism today are *not enemies*. The Papacy, and especially its Jesuits, is pro-Communist, even though Communists often kill Roman Catholics. Rome supports the ideology of Communism and makes use of its muscle to do its dirty work of eliminating its enemies, even though its own people often suffer as well. All for “the greater good” is the Jesuit motto!

The Anti-Roman Catholic Iconoclasm Spreads Worldwide

It was not just in the United States that the attacks were occurring, either. In Alberta, Canada, an idol of “Jesus” was spray painted and vandalised. In France – birthplace of “people's revolutions” – a fire

blazed through the Gothic Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul in Nantes on the 18th July, the result of suspected arson. This made world headlines, but in fact there are almost *three* anti-Roman Catholic attacks of various kinds *every day* in France – and this is a conservative calculation. The French government’s own numbers work out to more than five a day.⁷ Between 2008 and 2019 the number of officially recorded anti-Catholic incidents rose by 285%.⁸

What do these attacks consist of? According to Ellen Fantini, director of the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe (OIDACE) in Vienna, “In France, we see a lot of decapitation of statues, we see the destruction of precious objects. I don’t mean precious by material value but destruction, for example, of consecrated hosts in Catholic churches. There is basically nothing worse you could do in a Catholic church than destroy the consecrated host.”⁹ The “host”, in Roman Catholicism, is the wafer-bread which the priest supposedly changes into the actual body of Christ.

Anti-Roman Catholic crimes are on the rise throughout Europe. They doubled in the UK from 2017 to 2018, and are rising in Spain, Germany and Sweden.

In Warsaw, Poland, on the night of the 28th -29th July, protesters dressed in black attached a rainbow flag – symbol of the LGBTQ movement – to the arm of a historic statue of “Christ”, and a scarf with an anarchist symbol across its face. This was done after the electoral victory of President Andrzej Duda, who signed a charter opposing sodomite “marriage” and committing himself to the protection of children from the LGBT ideology. A Polish cardinal said afterwards, “I appeal for respect for the religious feelings of believers regardless of their views. Let us stop using acts of vandalism and crossing borders in public debate.”¹⁰

Reasons for the Iconoclasm

The reasons for these attacks are many. Ellen Fantini, director of the OIDACE (mentioned earlier), was correct when she said, “churches are ‘lightning rods’ for activists. And each group has their own reasons for choosing to attack a church. Churches can represent ‘the patriarchy,’ ‘authority,’ ‘tradition,’ ‘homophobia,’ ‘the Christian West,’ etc. Islamists target churches for different reasons than anarchists, for example. But all of these groups are more and more active these days.”¹¹ She said, “In France... it is... the cultural leftists on the extremes as well as the radicalized Islamists.”

The incidents of anti-Roman Catholic acts are “absolutely on the rise everywhere,” according to Fantini. “We see in Germany arsons and vandalism, we see it in Spain, we see it in the U.K. Really, I can’t say that there is any place in Europe where this phenomenon is decreasing.” “In particular, the anarchist movements [in Spain], their favorite phrase is: ‘The only church that illuminates is the one that burns.’ Every year on International Women’s Day, which is celebrated all over Spain, it is an opportunity for the feminist activists to put their tags on Spanish churches, they destroy things, they protest. Spain is no stranger to the activist left when it comes to targeting churches.”¹²

She added: “The activists in the U.S. have been fairly explicit about saying, ‘Burn it all down.’ I do think we are going to see it get worse in Europe because I think the activists who are already simmering here will feel emboldened by what they see happening in the U.S. These movements are connected in terms of ideology.”

Fantini also said, correctly: “How much worse can it get depends on what line activists are willing to draw for themselves. Will they stop at burning an empty church? Will they stop at decapitating statues? Certainly the climate today, both in Europe and America, does not leave me optimistic that things will improve soon.”¹³ Indeed, a mere four years ago in France, an elderly Roman Catholic priest was actually beheaded by Islamic State supporters while he was celebrating the mass. And the man who set the foyer of a Romish building alight did it while people were inside.

Why the Pope and “Progressive” Priests are Silent

The reaction – or rather, the virtual non-reaction – by liberal priests and bishops to the spate of desecrations of Roman Catholic images and places of worship was very telling in itself. It was noticed

even by Roman Catholics. One of them, Barbara Simpson, wrote in an article: “Whether we’re talking about destruction of a building or the deliberate damage or destruction of religious statues, what’s hard to miss is the anger against the church but also the lack of vehement response by Catholic clergy. There have been only subdued comments by one bishop or another, but so far, not a word from the pope or anyone else in the Vatican.

“Speaking as an American Catholic, I think there should be an outrage at this insult to our religious freedom – but all we hear is...crickets.

“Oh yes, there is some reaction. Archbishop Jose Gomez told San Gabriel parishioners that the fire represented an opportunity for a new start. He called it ‘time for a new beginning.’

“Forgive me, but what a wimpy reaction. They just spent millions renovating the building, it is ruined by fire, which may well have been arson, and he says it’s time for a ‘new beginning’!”¹⁴

After two months of violent protests in Portland, Oregon, and even the burning of a Bible in one of them as reported above, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Portland, Alexander Sample, said: “A lot of the unrest if legitimate, and civilized, and peaceful, and needs to be expressed, and I applaud that and absolutely support that. But we know... some of it has also become very violent and destructive and divisive.”¹⁵ This is typical of the kind of limp-wristed reaction from high-ranking prelates to the violence.

Why this lacklustre, limp-wristed reaction from Roman Catholic priests and bishops? Why the lack of reaction from their *pope*? It’s simple: these men *support* the Black Lives Matter Communist revolution against America. If by remaining silent about statue desecration and church building destruction they can forward the revolution, this is far more important to them.

It is an old, old Jesuit tactic. Turning a blind eye even when Roman Catholics are suffering, if this will advance “the greater good”. The same thing happened in one Communist revolution after another after Vatican II in the 1960s: a massive shift took place within the Roman Catholic institution. Priests went from being anti-Communist to pro-Communist, using the might of Communism to achieve the conquest of various countries. It happened in the southern African countries, Latin America, and Asia. The average Roman Catholic knew little or nothing of all this, and would have been horrified if he had known. But his priests knew!

Liberal and Socialist Roman Catholic priests, up to the Jesuit pope himself, support the BLM Communist revolution; but politically conservative priests are targeted. *And* then they are censured by their leftist religious superiors!

One such priest was Theodore Rothrock, priest of St Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Carmel, Indiana. He was actually suspended by his diocese for condemning BLM in a weekly Sunday message.

Rothrock said of the BLM revolutionaries that the “only lives that matter are their own and the only power they seek is their own. They are wolves in wolves’ clothing, masked thieves and bandits, seeking only to devour the life of the poor and profit from the fear of others. They are maggots and parasites at best, feeding off the isolation of addiction and broken families, and offering to replace any current frustration and anxiety with more misery and greater resentment.” He was correct. They are Marxist, pro-sodomite, anti-family thugs and revolutionaries. Rothrock added that the Roman Catholic “Church” must oppose Black Lives Matter and Antifa. “Black Lives Matter, Antifa, and the other nefarious acolytes of their persuasion are not the friends or allies we have been led to believe. They are serpents in the garden”.¹⁶

But instead of being fully supported by his superiors in such statements, the priest was suspended by his bishop, Timothy Doherty, who was influenced by an organisation called Carmel Against Racial Injustice. This group demanded Rothrock’s removal – and the bishop caved in to their demands and sacrificed his priest to the radical thugs. Doherty’s diocese issued a statement saying, “The Bishop expresses pastoral concern for the affected communities. The suspension offers the Bishop an opportunity for pastoral discernment for the good of the diocese and for the good of Father Rothrock.”

Nonsense. The suspension was for the purpose of *silencing* Rothrock, because he did not toe the Roman Catholic line in supporting BLM. “For the greater (political) good,” such pro-Communist priests and bishops will turn a blind eye to the destruction of *their own* Roman Catholic buildings and images.

The diocese stated that “various possibilities for [Rothrock’s] public continuation in priestly ministry are being considered”, and all his weekly messages and the staff contact page were removed from the parish’s website. Doherty also wrote a “Pastoral response to racism” in which he said that he had not approved or previewed Rothrock’s offending article.

Under such pressure it is not surprising that Rothrock backed down and issued an apology. Not being a Christian, his bravery only carried him so far. “It was not my intention to offend anyone,” he stated, “and I am sorry that my words have caused any hurt to anyone.” He added that the “Church” must condemn bigotry.

Do not be misled here. Priests such as Rothrock are not Christian men. They are upholders of the teachings of Roman Catholicism, the greatest false “church” on earth. But they are at least to some extent politically conservative. Many of them are decent people, who see that BLM and its associated organisations are out to destroy western civilisation. And they oppose this. Credit must be given where it is due, even though we do not in any sense recognise such men as Christians.

The Anglican Institution Succumbs to BLM Pressure and Turns On its Own History and Images

Communist-supporting Roman Catholic priests and bishops are not alone in supporting BLM. The weak-kneed, lily-livered Anglican archbishop of Canterbury was another. Justin Welby urged western “churches” to reconsider depicting Jesus as a white man, and said that the “Church of England” (i.e. the Anglican institution) would be “very carefully” scrutinising statues in Canterbury Cathedral and in church buildings across England for any links to slavery and racism, to see if “they all should be there.” “Some will have to come down,” he said. “Some names will have to change.”¹⁷

What a coward this man and his henchman are! Again, all such statues are nothing but idolatry. But the point is: why are these Anglican prelates only acting now? These images have existed in their buildings for *centuries*. But only now, these running-scared prelates are tripping over their feminine cassocks to apologise and remove images all across the land just because a bunch of thuggish Communist rioters go on the rampage! What a graphic reminder that Anglicanism does not in any sense submit itself to the Word of God. It allows the world to dictate how it should operate. They have never removed the images for their idolatrous nature, but now they are going to remove them because they “offend” screaming, chanting Communist agitators!

Conclusion

Radicals in modern society are turning against Roman Catholicism. There is nothing new in this. Rome has squared off against revolutionaries, anarchists, Freemasons, Satanists, Communists and many others on numerous occasions throughout its long history. And just like today, often disparate groups and organisations have worked in concert to bring Rome down. But it has survived all these attempts to destroy it. As secularism rises in what has been called the “post-Christian” western world, this clash becomes uglier and more violent. Satanists hate Romanism because it is perceived as being “the Christian Church”. Communists – at least, those Communists who are not privy to the fact that Romanism actually works with Communism all over the world and has itself embraced Communism as an ideology – hate Romanism because it is a religion and a rival for power in the world. Feminists hate Romanism – at least the more conservative form of Romanism, which is not actually dominant in Rome today – because they believe it oppresses women. Muslims hate Romanism because they view it as “Christian” and as their rival for world power.

Rome harnesses whatever forces it can to advance its own agenda in the world – even forces which oppose it. As for the rest, it has survived such attacks before. But this rising anti-Roman Catholic tide is one day going to end in the destruction of the entire Papal system, according to Bible prophecy.

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ENDNOTES:

1. *Pictures of Christ* (MP3), by Shaun Willcock. Available as a free download from Bible Based Ministries.
2. *WND*, July 21, 2020. "Christians warned to 'wake up' as churches burn." www.wnd.com.
3. *National Catholic Register*, July 29, 2020. "Catholic Symbols of the Faith Targeted in Recent Statue Attacks." www.ncregister.com.
4. *WND*, July 6, 2020. "Watch Black Lives Matter invade a Christian church." www.wnd.com.
5. *Catholic News Agency*, August 3, 2020. "Protesters burn Bible during Portland protests." www.catholicnewsagency.com.
6. See *Rome, the Jesuits, and the Black Lives Matter Communist Revolution* (article), by Shaun Willcock. Available as a free download from Bible Based Ministries.
7. *The Christian Post*, July 29, 2020. "Anti-Christian incidents in France rose 285% since 2008: Observatory." www.christianpost.com.
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