

Drawing Aside the Purple Curtain

The Papal System Today: an Analysis of the News

Francis in Kazakhstan

Shaun Willcock

In mid-September 2022 Francis I, pope of Rome, travelled to Kazakhstan. This enormous country, once part of the USSR, is a Muslim land with only a small Roman Catholic population estimated at 250 000. An unusual choice for a papal trip, one would think – until one knows the real reasons behind the visit. It had very little, if anything at all, to do with caring for the tiny Roman Catholic population. This was the least of Francis’ concerns. He had far bigger fish to fry.

The First Reason for the Visit

Francis attended a multifaith religious summit in the country, called the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Its purpose was given as being to “promote peace”, by strengthening inter-religious and inter-ethnic harmony worldwide. Francis said he saw his trip as “an opportunity to meet many religious representatives and to engage in dialogue as brothers, inspired by the mutual desire for peace, the peace our world thirsts for.”¹ Although the Vatican loves inter-religious gatherings like this, it desires in particular to focus on “dialogue” between Roman Catholicism and Islam, the world’s two largest and most powerful religions. Francis was able to meet with several Muslim leaders from various Islamic countries, while he was in Kazakhstan. In keeping with his instructions as a faithful Jesuit in obedience to the Jesuit general, he is thoroughly committed to the diabolical interfaith movement, because it is slowly but surely increasing the power and authority of the Roman Catholic religion over all others.

Traditionally, invitations to the congress (this was the seventh one) are extended to the most renowned and recognised religious leaders from around the world.² This is significant, in light of the fact that photos of the event showed Francis sitting in the *very centre* of the religious leaders on the podium. Clearly, he is viewed as the most renowned of all! The world’s religious leaders were acknowledging the Roman pope’s authority and power in the world.

It is highly significant (and was noted by conservative Roman Catholics) that in his address to the interfaith assembly on the Roman Catholic feast of the “Exaltation of the Holy Cross”, Francis did not mention the false Romish “Jesus” once. “Instead, the pontiff demoted Jesus to one of the ways leading to the ‘Divine,’ substituted ‘human fraternity’ for the Holy Trinity and emphasized that it is ‘fraternity that unites us as children of the same Heaven.’”³ This is Jesuit policy and has been their means of “evangelization” since their very inception, when the Jesuit Francis Xavier followed the very same policy in India. The Jesuits will drop any Popish teaching if it helps them win over the heathen. Even though official Popish teaching states that there is no salvation outside the “Catholic Church”, the Jesuits are quite prepared to ignore this and, in certain contexts, to imply (or even state outright) that there are many ways to God, downplaying the cardinal doctrines of the Romish faith so as to enhance their standing and authority among the leaders of other religions. They know they are being deceptive, but they don’t care. All “for the greater glory of God”, as they say.

“Under circumlocutions for God borrowed from pluralist theologians like John Hick and Paul Knitter, Francis spoke of the ‘mystery of the infinite that transcends and attracts us.’ The pontiff also used more generic designations like ‘the Almighty’ and ‘the Divine’ in his attempt to be inclusive of the

Islamic and Indic understandings of God,” declared the article from a conservative Roman Catholic source that rejects the liberal, Marxist, and interfaith moves of the Francis Vatican. “The pope never once cited the Bible but quoted the Kazakh poet and theologian Abai Qunanbaiuly extensively in his speech.... Over 500 words of the pope’s 2,730 words spoken in Italian (one-fifth of Francis’ address) were dedicated to quoting moralizations from Abai – whom the pope called ‘the country’s most renowned poet and the father of its modern literature.’ Francis praised Abai – a theologian and philosopher belonging to the orthodox Sunnī Islamic Hanafī Māturīdī school – for his ‘writings that are steeped in religious devotion and reflect the noble soul of this people.’ From the start, Pope Francis has promoted the error of indifferentism – that is, that all religions are the same.”⁴

Francis said at the conference that the world’s great religious traditions should witness to the shared patrimony of transcendence and fraternity: “Transcendence, the Beyond, worship. It is impressive that each day millions and millions of men and women, of different ages, cultures, and social conditions join together in prayer in countless places of worship. This is the hidden force that makes our world move forward.”⁵ These words would thrill the heart of every interfaith promoter, but they do not express official Roman Catholic teaching. They deny it. But this pope has thumbed his nose at one Roman Catholic teaching after another in his relentless quest to make the Vatican relevant and authoritative in the world. This has always been the Jesuit way.

As one unimpressed Romish bishop, Athanasius Schneider, put it, “the Kazakhstan congress gave the impression of being a “supermarket of religions”, and added, “there is... a danger that we the Catholic Church should not appear simply as one of the many religions. We’re not one of the many religions, we’re the only one true religion which God commanded all people to believe. There is no other way to salvation.”⁶ Schneider was simply expressing official Romish theology. This is what Rome has always held and taught. But Francis and his Jesuits are very deliberately following a different track in their plan to conquer the world. Tragically for Schneider and millions like him, he remains blind to the fact that traditional Roman Catholicism is just as much a false religion as the Jesuitical version.

So committed are Francis and his Jesuit Order to religious pluralism to advance the Jesuit objectives in the world, that he was able to assent to the declaration adopted at the inter-religious congress in Kazakhstan, which actually stated that religious pluralism is an expression of the wisdom of God in creation: “We note that pluralism in terms of differences in skin color, gender, race, language and culture are expressions of the wisdom of God in creation. Religious diversity is permitted by God and, therefore, any coercion to a particular religion and religious doctrine is unacceptable.”⁷ Here we see the brazenness of the Jesuits and of Francis: Rome has used cruel coercion for centuries! But now it piously agrees that such coercion is unacceptable.

The congress also referenced the document which was signed by Francis and the grand imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayyeb, in Abu Dhabi in 2019, called the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together.” The Kazakhstan declaration stated: “We recognize the importance and value of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together between the Holy See and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif.” It declared that the document called for “peace, dialogue, mutual understanding, and mutual respect among believers for the common good.” Significantly, the Kazakhstan congress’ declaration used the words of the 2019 document almost verbatim.

The Second Reason for the Visit

Kazakhstan is situated between Russia and China. Therefore, from the Vatican’s perspective, it is the ideal place for the Vatican to seek to exert influence over both of these Communist giants. As Francis had just concluded a meeting with Vatican diplomats from around the world, geopolitics was at the very centre of the papal “pilgrimage of dialogue and peace”, as it was billed. After all, the war between Russia and Ukraine is waging on viciously, and the Vatican has a vested interest in the outcome, which (it sincerely hopes) will be a victory for Ukraine, backed by the European Union and the United States. To understand the reasons, see my article, *The Russia/Ukraine Standoff and the*

*Threat of War.*⁸ While in Kazakhstan and speaking at a large outdoor mass in the capital, Francis made no bones about stating where his support lay in the war between Russia and Ukraine. He said he was thinking of “all the war-torn areas of our world, particularly beloved Ukraine.”⁹

Kazakhstan, sharing as it does an over 4700-mile border with Russia, has historically been regarded as Russia’s greatest ally after Belarus. Kazakhstan is thus in the unenviable position of being a Russian ally, but open to the West. Francis wanted to strengthen its ties with the West and weaken its ties to Russia.

As for China, ties between China and Kazakhstan are strong, and trade between China and the European Union makes much use of Kazakh railways. Chinese leader Xi Jinping visited the capital of Kazakhstan on his way to a meeting with Putin of Russia – and his meeting with the president of Kazakhstan, Tokayev, was to occur *one day after* the Jesuit pope met with Tokayev. How’s that for “coincidence”! It was of course perfectly timed, as Francis thus had the opportunity to influence Tokayev before Jinping got to him.

Conclusion

When the pope of Rome makes any papal excursion to foreign countries, it is *always* with motives which go way beyond the “official” ones given. This trip to Kazakhstan would never have been made merely for the tiny minority of Roman Catholics living there. The real reasons have to do with influencing world events and increasing papal power in the world.

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ENDNOTES:

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 2. *Vatican News*, September 12, 2022. “A glimpse of the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.” www.vaticannews.va.
 3. *Church Militant*, September 15, 2022. “Francis Cancels Jesus at Kazakhstan Gabfest.” www.churchmilitant.com.
 4. *Church Militant*, September 15, 2022. “Francis Cancels Jesus at Kazakhstan Gabfest.”
 5. *Catholic News Agency*, September 15, 2022. “Interreligious dialogue an urgent need, Pope Francis says at close of Kazakhstan congress.”

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6. *Catholic News Agency*, September 16, 2022. “A ‘supermarket of religions,’ God’s will, and the wisdom of a tweaked declaration.”
 7. *Catholic News Agency*, September 16, 2022.
 8. *The Russia/Ukraine Standoff and the Threat of War*, by Shaun Willcock. Bible Based Ministries, 2022. Available as a free download on our website:
<https://www.biblebasedministries.co.uk/category/rome/rome-and-communism/>
 9. *Catholic News Agency*, September 14, 2022. “Pope Francis says his thoughts are with war-torn Ukraine on feast of the Holy Cross.”