

Homily Outline Worldview Marginalization of God

Last Wednesday night videos: *Bishop Barron on original sin* and *Bishop Barron Karl Marx and Millennials*

In its manifold forms, the modern narrative myth is constant in this: it marginalizes God as an actor in human history. ... most commonly the modern vision does not say “God does not exist,” but rather, “God does not matter.” From Christendom to Apostolic Mission. University of St. Mary. Pg. 81

Introduction

Probably the best image we could use for this is if you ever get a chance to visit Europe and travel to some medieval cities in France or Italy you can see even from the layout and design of the city the centrality of the faith. Because at the center of the town is a cathedral or parish church, with space around it for people to gather and then everything else flows out from that like the spokes of a wheel.

1. What does the “Marginalization of God” (MOG) look like in general?

- make our laws without reference to God
- run our institutions, government, schools etc. separate from any religious principles
- do not allow our relationship with God to determine the form of our lives
 - only check in to get His approval on my plans
- turn to God when we feel bad
 - when I have a bad relationship, or lose a job, or lose a loved one, or when someone I love gets sick then we think of God
- turn to God when we want something better than we have
 - want to do good on a test, we want to get a job, we want our favorite team to win
 - when life is going well no reason to pray
- don't really need God and, frankly, God doesn't really care (has bigger fish to fry)

1.a The Marginalization of God in the Church and Christian Community

- When we start to look at the Church as merely a non-profit charity working for (social justice, life, the poor, the sick - whatever) rather than the community of disciples of Jesus Christ – meaning the Church is about following Jesus and helping everyone to come to know the Truth of Jesus as the Only Savior of the World.
- Even many practicing Catholics are not interested in God and religion as an account of reality, rather it is something that should enhance our experience of life and help us deal with the stress of existence.
- This is exemplified when people get angry with priests and bishops (or laypeople and friends) for saying things that are faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ – and convicting of people's choices and lifestyle.
- So, even amongst believers, the “marginalization of God” means that even we can lose track of why we exist as religion and institutions, community – and when we are only interested in God when He affirms what we already think.

1.b Another description of “Marginalization of God” is this famous, “Moralistic Therapeutic Deism”

1. A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

2. An important effect of MOG: Faith and the relationship with God becomes very private and personal

It is no surprise that a historically irresponsible statement like “religions have been the greatest cause of wars in history” can be taken seriously by modern progressives. From Christendom to Apostolic Mission. University of St. Mary. Pg. 82

3. The danger: When you move the True God to the margins you make room for something or someone else at the center

“The problem, it turns out, is that there’s no such thing as an irreligious person or an irreligious society. We all place something or someone at the top of our hierarchy — something or someone we’re willing to sacrifice for and to, some thing or someone we placed on the pedestal of worship. Religion is inescapable “you gotta serve somebody.” *It Is Right and Just*. By Scott Hahn and Brandon McGinley. Pg. 62

As Bob Dylan said:

*You’re gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you’re gonna have to serve somebody*

Justice Anthony Kennedy in the Planned Parenthood vs. Casey decision that affirmed Roe vs. Wade:

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”

Conclusion

We may not be able to center the layout of our cities on great cathedrals – or to shift our culture around to be centered on God but for our families, our homes, and our lives – we can put God at the center and make God a part of everything in our life.