

REFORM OF THE CHURCH

7 Points of Pope John Paul II - *Tertio Millenio Ineunte*

From Fr. Benedict Groeschel

1. **Liturgy and prayer** must be devout, with reverence and worthy of God. People today are too casual, dressing for Mass as if they're going to the beach. Get dressed to meet God in church. Prayer should always reflect reverence, especially at the time of confession and the Eucharist.
2. Our **Catholic Education** today is deficient in content and texts, and it's worse in higher education. Remember that greed is the root of all evil. Catholic Education should be a coveted privilege. We need to raise the standards of our Catholic schools from kindergarten through college.
3. **Catholic hospitals and social agencies** need to be in line with Catholic teaching, especially in regard to contraception. Be critical of hospitals that fail to follow the Church. We need to contact these agencies as Catholics and let them know that we expect them to live according to the teachings of the Church.
4. **Religious orders** are taking too much from psychology and not enough from the gospels. There is a complete lack of prayer life in some orders and, consequently, open disloyalty to the Church and the Holy Father. A few intrepid souls are needed to renew and reform many of these congregations.
5. In **philosophy and theology**, we are riddled with skepticism. Read the New Testament. We need solid Catholic-based commentaries and writing based upon the foundations of the New Catechism to feed the minds of today's Catholics. Look for and encourage newspapers, books, authors, and other media that support and espouse Catholic thought.
6. Watch out for **the influence of psychology**, notably that which is drawn from big names such as Freud, Jung and Adler. A trend today is toward bio-social psychology. We need to find new sources and voices for teaching values and building character throughout society. "Teach thy tongue to say, 'I do not know', and then you will seek for wisdom."
7. **Pro-Life.** Encourage everyone to speak up for life! The culture of death attacks the Church.
8. Support anything that supports **prayer, liturgy and devotion.**
9. **Support and encourage good priests.** Priests today are, by and large, good men, dedicated to God, to the Church and to their priesthood. No man is an island. Support them with your prayers, with a willingness to help and with words of encouragement.

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