

**PAGANISM RUNS AMOK IN THE U.S.A.!**  
**(A MINI-HOMILY)**

Fr. Dr. Photios+ (W)

Every Christian, when faced with an attack on the faith he confesses, is obliged to defend it to the extent of his intellectual ability, not waiting for any special authorisation, since the Church has no official advocates.

Lay Theologian Alexei Khomiakov [considered by some a doctor of the Church], in his classic *On the Western Confessions of Faith*

Do you live in a city where the newspaper has a “Religious” section nowadays? I use quotes in an illustrative way to indicate the underlying lack of appropriate coverage for the religion our country was built upon, Christianity! It is true that the Christianity we have espoused in the United States has rarely been orthodox, much less True Orthodox! Yet, in our early years of development we were much closer to the truth of the Lord than we are today!

We are mired in the muck of political correctness to such an extent that our religious freedom is being threatened. Yet, we don’t seem to notice. Apparently, we believe that any absurd New Age view is preferable to Christ’s way. The long arm of the law is being called into play more and more by the less than one percent to take away the religious freedom of the rest of us. And this is being done in the guise of freedom, separation of Church and State.

Just try to get your solid Orthodox views published in one of our news rags today. Not a chance unless, of course, the news outlet sees an opportunity of vilifying the author as unlearned and backward. Then your article may be published but its effect largely nullified by publishing a variety of politically correct letters or articles in opposition to yours, most effectively at the same time.

Remember when these papers published the True Holy Days of the Church. I mean from the Christian Church calendar. These didn’t follow the Orthodox Calendar, a fact determined by our Western heritage which includes the influence of the Latins (Roman Catholics) and the Protestants. But, at least, these Holy Days were Scripturally based on the Divine Scriptures of Christianity.

Imagine our forefathers’ expressions of utter disbelief and chagrin if they are reading the newspaper I am referring to above. Here is a listing in the Saturday’s Religious section for HOLY DAYS: June 16-22, 2007:

Today: Martyrdom of Guru

**Arjan Dev – Sikh**

Commemoration of the death of the fifth Sikh guru, who was also the first Sikh martyr

**Ganga Dussehra** – Hindu day honoring the sacred Ganges River, believed to wash away the sins of mankind

**THURSDAY: Summer solstice**

Wiccan/neopagan observance of the longest day of the year; also called Litha or Midsummer's Eve

[SOURCE: 'interfaithcalendar.com';]

This newspaper is the major one in a metropolitan area of two to three million people. Wonder how many Sikhs, Hindus and Wiccans are within this number? Very very few indeed. See what we have come to, from promoting religious (and otherwise) tolerance, a good virtue, to the ousting of Christ from our daily, increasingly more pagan, lives.

If you're a witch, you have a lot of rights and media coverage. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Indians, some believing in reincarnation and/or animal spirits also enjoy wondrous disproportionate coverage as well as Scientologists! The more outrageous and absurd a claim to 'religion' is the more gates are opened here in the U.S.A. [as well as elsewhere] for it.

Why does the lunatic [the politically correct 'one-worlders'] fringe dictate the course of the spiritual battle? For that **is** what it is: a battle for our minds. Once the evil one can convince us with his duplicity and deception that all so-called faiths are equal and should be granted equal access to our hearts, he is on his way to destroying our resolve.

Of course, we can resist his lure, but we must be spiritually strong. God allows him to pester and test us during our lives on earth and until the Final Judgment. But the Lord is in control. Christ has already defeated him.

What can you and I do about these phenomena? Nothing. What should we do about it? Nothing, except prepare ourselves for examination and judgement by Him when He comes the last time. Let's resist the temptation to 'strike back' at these charlatans who devalue Christ's way. Look inward to our hearts and pray for our enemies, pray that they come back, or, to Christ, but bear them no malice.

Prepare for a long spiritual winter within the secular trap we are experiencing. Be like the Amish or Old Believers, segregate yourselves as much as possible from evil. Don't attend the Liturgy where ecumenism, the heresy of all heresies, is

practised. Don't despair that so few staunch followers of Christ will remain. Take heart from these words:

One should not be troubled by the fact that not many good shepherds are left and that there are only few of those faithful to the precepts of the Holy Church. 'Let not your heart be troubled and in fear!', wrote Metropolitan Innokenty of Peking (+1931), 'True worshippers of the Lord were few at all times. He Himself was abandoned even by His true disciples; and He Himself foretold that at the end-times love would grow cold and people would be at war not only with each other, but also with God Himself. Truth never had numerous followers; they always were and will be persecuted. Neither fame, nor wealth is their lot in this world, but the way of the Cross. But only in this way can they reach the Kingdom of God. Whoever believes in God, need not fear the sons of this world. If Christ is within us, who is against us! With Him we are given victory over the world.'

[The collection of the Russian St. Elias Skete on Mt. Athos, *The Teaching of the Orthodox Church Concerning the Holy Tradition and its Attitude to the New Style*, Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, N.Y., 1989, p. 39, cited in *Ecumenism – A Path to Perdition, Church of the Wicked*, p. 7 of 10 at <http://www.ecumenizm.tripod.com/ECUMENIZM/id34.html>.]

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.