

The Pastor's Column - July 6th, 2023



Quote of the Week:

"Errors are not corrected by persecution or control, but by the growth of faith and wisdom."

This refreshing statement was made by Archbishop Víctor Manuel Fernández on Facebook last week after being named the new head of the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith.

His appointment by Pope Francis to the former office of the inquisition set off a minor theological earthquake last week in some segments of our Church. Archbishop Fernández has been a close theological advisor to Pope Francis and drafted the Papal Exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" on the Family. This office was held previously by Pope Benedict XVI, then Cardinal Josef Ratzinger who gained the humorous nickname "God's Rottweiler."

Pope Francis seeks a new focus for the office on the faith. In his appointment letter to Archbishop Fernández he wrote:

The Dicastery over which you will preside in other times came to use immoral methods. Those were times when, rather than promoting theological knowledge, possible doctrinal errors were pursued. What I expect from you is certainly something very different. I ask you as prefect to dedicate your personal commitment more directly to the main purpose of the Dicastery, which is "keeping the faith."

On Facebook, the Archbishop explained that he will be: **"promoting a way of thinking that knows how to dialogue with what people live, encouraging free, creative, and profound Christian thought."** He sees this as "a wonderful challenge," though he expects to find opposition, as "there are people who prefer a more rigid, structured way of thinking, at war with the world."

Let us pray for the Archbishop, asking God to help him find new opportunities and methods to share the faith to an increasingly disinterested world. God willing, he will fulfill the adage of Paulist Founder, Servant of God Fr. Isaac Hecker, and bring "old truths in new forms, fresh new tone and spirit."

As they say: "Watch this space..."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Eric".

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