

Pastoral Thinking

TEMPERAMENTS — Ancient & Modern

THE full altar editions of the new *Roman Missal* for Australia have collects for **bushfires & droughts** (p. 1368), and for **floods & cyclones** (p. 1369) to use with the ‘Prayers over the Offerings’ and ‘After Communion’ from the *Mass for Any Need* (p. 1383).

The new people’s Missals for Sundays and Week-days omit them, since it would take double volumes to hold them, such is the variety of prayers & readings.

These prayers triggered the realization that the four crisis situations are roughly linked with the Four Elements of ancient science, thus:-

bushfires	fire
droughts	earth
floods	water
cyclones	air

The Ancients linked these four elements with our body parts and their fluids, and these in turn with a psychology of four temperaments:-

fire	spleen	yellow bile	choleric
earth	gall bladder	black bile	melancholic
water	lungs	phlegm	phlegmatic
air	liver	blood	sanguine

In modern times, there has been a revival of some ancient wisdoms relating to the **four temperaments and their linkage with human behaviour:-**

TEMPERAMENT	possible problems ?	possible advantages !
choleric	anger, bad temper	zeal, achiever
melancholic	gloomy, pessimistic	earnest, philosophic
phlegmatic	slow, unemotional	calm, dependable
sanguine	passionate, extrovert	optimistic, cheery,

Many ancients and moderns authors add that people usually a blend of these temperaments, sometimes with a predominance of one or other. We must **reject biological determinism**, of course, and assert free will and responsibility for our actions (except when asleep, etc).

Thus we realize that:-

- Man’s free will is linked with understanding.
- “Behaviour is purposive”.
- “There’s a reason for everything”.
- “Everything has a cause” i.e. every contingent being or event depends on sometime else, something prior in time or prior in hierarchic action.

Further Reading

The four temperaments psychology has been revived in recent years. See *Pure Attraction, a guide to human sexuality*, by Father Peter Murphy, pp. 60-68, with an application to growth in virtue, pp. 68-70. It is strongly **recommended for marriage preparation**, for general spiritual progress, and for confessors. 117pp, from Cardinal Newman Faith Resources, as on foot of next page: **\$18.95**.

MORAL CONSUMERISM

TODAY’S AUSTRALIANS are living off the accumulated capital of the moral strengths of our Christian forebears. As with any capital, whether food or money, using some depletes what is left. It needs a continuous production and income.

Pollution is corrupting the modern environment of nature, meaning the air, water, land and see.

Moral pollution is corrupting the human spirit and the morale of national character.

The prevailing **political correctness** insists on atheism, evolution and the materialism that all is matter and that nothing else matters because it doesn’t exist.

In other words, Australian society, civilization and culture has a terminal disease.

APOLOGETICS from a sociologist and a psychiatrist

CHRISTIANS CAN COUNTER the accusation that their arguments depend on “blind bigoted faith” and are thereby worthless by **quoting secular professionals and/or atheist sources.**

- *How the West Really Lost God* by Mary Eberstadt, a **sociologist** and Catholic mother on the two way causality between a society without God and the decline in family life. Carefully argued and strongly recommended: 268pp, \$49.90 @ *News Weekly*.

- *Mothering Matters, The sources of love, and how our culture harms infants, women, and society*, by Dr Peter Cook, a **psychiatrist**, evolutionist and atheist, on the evils of child-minding centres and mother-deprivation. Each chapter is a solid monograph like a learned journal. See review in *Handouts* n. 82: 205pp, \$24.95 from *News Weekly*.

APOLOGETICS from an anthropologist and a novelist

- *The Inevitability of Patriarchy* by Steven Goldberg, **anthropologist**, atheist & evolutionist: 1977. He refutes the 1970s feminists and their unisex blurring of the sexes. It is heavy going but carefully argued with much repetition. Well worth getting via internet Amazon etc.

- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, was first published in 1931. It is truly horrible **fiction** — and meant to be. Today, 2014, it is all coming true before our very eyes: the sexual revolution, test tube babies, contraception, fornication promoted to a national sport, a vacuous life of sin in alluring shades of grey. Huxley highlights the abolition of marriage, the abolition of fathers, mothers and family — and the reduction of these very words to “filthy language”, exactly as today’s trendies are forcing on our entire society. We must resist it with Godly standards — or people will be forced to live in a **fur-lined mouse trap!**

WARNING: This book is dangerous to the faith of weaker Christians. Aldous Huxley was an agnostic, a brother of atheistic evolutionist Sir Julian Huxley, and they were grandsons of Sir Thomas Huxley — who was known as “Darwin’s Bulldog”.

The Second Annunciation

THE VISITATION of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Elizabeth her kinswoman, is the Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. It is like a Second Annunciation.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Luke 1:42

Through an angel, God made the first annunciation to Our Lady and a second annunciation to her through her kinswoman. It is often so, even with us.

Moreover, Elizabeth is not jealous that Our Lady has the greater vocation and holiness, nor that Our Lady's child is so superior to hers and with the greatest vocation, the Messiah. Rather, she is glad to be an agent or instrument in God's mysterious plan.

She too is a humble handmaid of the Lord, and welcomes being "a handmaid to the handmaid", just as St John the Baptist was glad to be the forerunner of the Son of God.

Likewise with us:

first, Acceptance, then Adjustment and Achievement, as in the *Prayer of Serenity*:

Lord, may I accept the things I cannot change;
have the courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference.

The first Annunciation, that of St Gabriel the Archangel, evoked Our Lady's *fiat*:

Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum, Be it done to me according to thy word.

Her *fiat* echoed God's *fiat* at creation:

Fiat lux, let there be light.

St Elizabeth is a wonderful example of inner peace, of contentment, that "peace of God which surpasses all understanding," Philippians 4:7.

The alternative, and most to be feared, is discontent, a perpetual dissatisfaction with everybody and everything, who and which are greeted (or more accurately, merely met) with scowls, argument and abuse.

Unhappy People

GLOOMER are unhappy people in need of our help. Be patient and kind, be patient and firm with them... and somehow lead them to **laugh at themselves — laughter is the best medicine.**

- **WORRIERS** — Making themselves sick in soul and sicker in body. Strive for Matthew 6:34.
- **SNARLERS** — "Youse is all wrong and youse is doing everything wrong — except me!" (of course) Pharisees in John 7:49.
- **SNAPPERS** — It's in their visage and tone of voice, a confrontational put-down. "Am I my, brother's keeper?" Cain snapping at God, Genesis 4:9.
- **SOOKERS** — turned their face to the wall and wouldn't eat, like Achab in 1 Kings 21:4 or Hezekiah in Isaiah 38:1-2.
- **SCREAMERS** — "The Screamer [a race horse] stuck his tongue out and he won by half a tongue," wrote Henry Lawson. Better not to be a screamer...

- **ARGUERS** — Always disagreeing and known as disagreeable... Pharisees (John 9:8-34).
- **KNOW-ALLS** — Who know nothing at all! In the comparative degree, they are **boasters**, in the superlative, **blatherskites**. As for our coping with them, "What can't be cured must be endured..."

Combinations of the **glooming syndrome** are exemplified in verse:

"We'll all be rooned," said Hanrahan, "before the year is out" — by droughts, floods or fires. Apparently he didn't know about cyclones. Thus wrote John O'Brien (Monsignor Patrick Hartiga P.P.).

"Prophets of the tomb," as Banjo Paterson called them. And "Their motto is *nil admirari* [nothing is to be admired], they've been bored from the days of their birth" (and that was about 1890!)

"**Gloomers**" of all varieties are their own worst enemies. And they spread gloom, indeed, they often seem to insist on it, albeit unwittingly. "If you were really 'with it', you'd be gloomy and confused, too."

Discriminate!

DISCRIMINATION between good and evil is an essential activity for every human being.

Discrimination was what Solomon prayed for:

That I may discern between good and evil.

1 Kings 3:9

It's an important part of giving a reason for the hope that is in us to weak Catholics, lapsed Catholics, ex-Catholics, Separated Protestant Brethren and the non-Catholics.

Submarine Catholics

SUBMARINE CATHOLICS are those not practising the faith often or regularly.

They come up for fresh air and recharging batteries from time to time. Alas, they often submerge again.

They are akin to C of E (Church of England!) Catholics, C for Christmas, E for Easter.

Nearly 90% of the Catholics in Australia are non-practising. They range from the 'submarine' type throught to those 'sunk to the bottom'.

The **New Evangelization** is a grand program launched by Pope St John Paul and continued by Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. The latter's plans and preparations for the October Synod 2014 on the Family, and its follow up in 2015, are part of it.

See *Handouts* n. 102 on Good News for Families.

Salve, Regina — Hail, Holy Queen

There are three groups of each of three words:-

our life	our sweetness	our hope
sighs	mourning	weeping
O clement	O loving	O sweet

In the Latin (as in English), the first are nouns; the second are verbs or parts of verbs, and the third (as in English) are adjectives. It's ornate piety, and good!

We can savour their power and persuasion if we avoid a pious gallop at the end of our Rosary...