Two Harmful Heresies

Two different but dangerous heresies gained many followers in the Post-Reformation Church: Jansenism and Quietism. Read each statement below and decide to which heresy it refers—if Jansenism, mark the statement with a J, if Quietism, mark with a Q.

1. _____ There is little people can do to gain holiness.

2. _____ Human nature is totally depraved.

3. _____ Viewed most other Christians as morally corrupt and beneath them.

4. _____ It is God’s will that temptations come our way.

5. _____ God is stern and demanding.

6. _____ Associated with a sort of false or exaggerated mysticism.

7. _____ Spiritual effort is a waste of time.

8. _____ The Gospel is a Gospel of suffering, not joy.

9. _____ Human beings are powerless to resist temptations.

10. _____ God’s grace is destined for only a few.

11. _____ Possible slogan: “Don’t worry. Be oblivious.”

12. _____ Possible slogan: “Work hard, do good, die and go to hell anyway.”

What is the response of authentic Catholic spirituality to Jansenism and Quietism?
CHURCH UNITY

The task of fostering unity in the Church belongs to us all. What contribution are you making? Below are some factors that can promote unity. Judge how well you are doing as a commUNITY builder.

5 = a strong point with me
4 = a good description of me
3 = sometimes describes me
2 = needs work
1 = a long way to go

____ I study hard because I want to do my best to get ready for a vocation that will be of service to others.

____ I fully participate in the Eucharistic liturgy, thus supporting my fellow believers and deriving strength from God.

____ When I’m trying to do the right thing, I ask for advice from respected adults.

____ I listen to others and respect their opinions.

____ I seek to accept the teachings of the Church and its religious guides.

____ While I don’t shrink from facing up to the Church’s faults, I remain proud to be a Catholic.

____ When I’ve hurt others, I express my sorrow, seek forgiveness, and do my best to make amends.

____ When others hurt me, I am quick to forgive and refuse to hold a grudge.

____ I develop my talents and share them with others. Likewise, I share my material goods.

Review your personal strengths and talents. Then list three additional activities you might engage in that would help bring people together and promote unity.
The Call to **Holiness**

“Young people of every continent, do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium! Be contemplative, love prayer; be coherent with your faith and generous in the service of your brothers and sisters, be active members of the Church and builders of peace.”

With these words, Pope John Paul II reissued the ancient call to holiness to young people across the globe as the new millennium dawned. That call is rooted in our being created in God’s image and in our re-creation in Baptism where we first claimed our inheritance in the life of the Trinity. So rooted, holiness must grow, for it is not simply a state in which God invites us to dwell, but a task God asks us to undertake.

Each of us is called and has a “vocation to holiness, that is, the perfection of charity. Holiness is the greatest testimony of the dignity conferred on a disciple of Christ and the basic charge entrusted to all the sons and daughters of the Church” (*The Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful People, On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the World* #16, Pope John Paul II, 1996).

**Signs of Holiness**

Below are some signs of holiness. Discuss with a partner the meaning of each. Star the five you believe are most needed in today’s world. Finally, check those points that are already strong in your life.

- ___ a loving person
- ___ a community builder
- ___ obedient
- ___ looks out for others
- ___ forgiving
- ___ pure
- ___ patient
- ___ hopeful
- ___ gentle
- ___ announces the Gospel
- ___ faithful
- ___ merciful
- ___ prayerful
- ___ humble
- ___ expresses sorrow when he or she sins
- ___ celebrates the sacraments regularly

**Times of Holiness**

On the back of this sheet, write about times when you exhibited each of the points you checked.

**IT’S A FACT!**

**The Universal Call to Holiness measures 780 square feet and weighs 38.5 tons!**

The Universal Call to Holiness mentioned here is a marble relief that adorns the south wall of the Upper Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The Virgin Mary, Pope John Paul II, and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta are among the nearly fifty figures depicted on the relief, which portrays people from various states of life, social classes, and ethnic origins being drawn toward the Holy Spirit.
Saintly Advice

St. Isaac Jogues
St. Louise de Marillac
St. Vincent de Paul
Blessed Frederic Ozanam
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
St. John Baptist de La Salle

Based on your reading of the text, decide which of the holy people listed above offered each of the following pieces of saintly advice.

1. Love one another in imitation of the union and life of the Lord. And above all, live together in great union and cordiality. _________________________________

2. My heart tells me that if I have the happiness of being employed in this mission, I will go and not return; but I shall be happy if the Lord will complete the sacrifice where he has begun it, and make the little blood I have shed in that land, the earnest of what I would give. _____________________________

3. I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of God. _________________________________

4. The poor have the honor to represent the members of Jesus Christ, who regards the services rendered to them as rendered to himself. Let us cherish the poor as our masters, for the poor have the image of God imprinted on them. _________________________________

5. God, who guides all things with wisdom and serenity, whose way it is not to force the inclinations of persons, willed to commit me entirely to the development of the schools. He did this in an imperceptible way and over a long period of time so that one commitment led to another in a way that I did not foresee in the beginning. _________________________________

6. Christianity is not about ideas but about deeds inspired by love. _________________________________
Study Guide: The Mission

Write your responses to these questions after viewing the film.

Major Characters: Father Gabriel, Rodrigo Mendoza, Altamirano

1. How is Altamirano a typical bureaucrat?
2. Do you empathize with Altamirano’s ethical dilemma?
3. Why doesn’t Gabriel bless Rodrigo before battle?
4. How are the Guarani involved in Rodrigo’s reconciliation?
5. Whose response to violence do you find more admirable, Gabriel’s or Rodrigo’s?
6. Why does Rodrigo carry the heavy armor up the cliff?
7. What part does music play in the spiritual life of the Guarani?
8. Does music play a part in your spiritual life?
9. How are Gabriel and Rodrigo heroic?

Application: Explain how the following terms are presented in The Mission.

Forgiveness

Prejudice

Music

Nonviolence vs. violence

Missions

Ethical decision-making

Research the life of one of the following persons. Each gave his or her life for the love of God and the People of Latin/South America. Write a two- or three-paragraph essay on a new sheet of paper describing the person’s “mission.”

Rutilio Grande

Oscar Romero

The U.S. martyrs Dorothy Kazel, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford, and Maura Clark

Chico Mendez
PAPAL INFALLIBILITY

The doctrine of papal infallibility confuses both Catholics and non-Catholics. Study the columns below to see what Vatican I and Vatican II teach about infallibility. Then answer the questions.

PAPAL INFALLIBILITY IS:

• a belief that the Pope is preserved from error when teaching on matters of faith and morals. Guaranteed by Christ: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. . . . I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 16:18–19).

• concerned with the teachings of the Gospel that are necessary for salvation.

• addressed to the whole Church by the Pope after consulting the traditional faith of the Church.

• an explicit statement by the Pope that what he is teaching is binding, to be believed by all.

PAPAL INFALLIBILITY IS NOT:

• absolute power granted the Pope as a person; it belongs to his office.

• dependent on numerical acceptance (i.e., on majority agreement).

• a guarantee that the Pope is free from error in his personal judgments.

• a guarantee that the Pope will never sin.

• an ex cathedra teaching, that is, the Pope in his role as the official teacher for the whole church.

Given the conditions in the left column, answer the questions “yes” or “no.”

1. _____ Can the Pope declare infallibly that Mary was assumed into heaven?

2. _____ Can the Pope rightfully exercise papal infallibility to predict the winner of the World Cup?

3. _____ Can the Pope teach infallibly that Jesus married during his earthly life and fathered children?

4. _____ Is the Pope able to declare infallibly the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (that Mary was born without the stain of Original Sin)?

5. _____ Can the Pope teach infallibly that all Catholics must give thirty percent of their earnings to the poor?