

The Guest Speaker Rev. Fr. Lawrence Lee was briefly introduced by Past International President Thomas Wong. Rev. Fr. Lawrence Lee handed two sets of detailed notes covering his talk on "Exorcism", which will be summarized as below:-

(A) Introduction

There is only one Almighty God in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God never created any evil. In this creation, some angels rebelled against God and became evil, commonly referred to as "devils/demons; also sometimes called "Satan" or "powers of evil".

According to the teaching of the Catholic Church, there are "three evils" that must be surmounted on the road to "Sanctification" – (i) the devil, (ii) social morality and (iii) personal desires.

(B) The New Testament

Jesus is recorded as performing "healing/cure" as well as driving out the devil – both physically and spiritually to show that the "Kingdom of God" has arrived.

(C) Church Dogma

The existence of the devil is defined at the Ecumenical Councils in 1215. In the Vatican Ecumenical Council II, the devil was mentioned 18 times.

(D) Diabolical Intervention

This can be divided into two types:-

(i) Ordinary

(ii) Extraordinary – local infestation confined to a geographical location; personal infestation or diabolical obsession disturbing different bodily parts; diabolical possession where the person is controlled or manipulated by the demon. This can be manifested in two ways:-

(a) Psychiatric – split personality, bodily contortion

(b) Parapsychological conditions such as speaking in strange languages not known to the person possessed, or supernatural knowledge of events or levitation.

(E) The Rite of Exorcism

The sacrament of Holy Orders confers the power of an exorcist on the priest. All priests can perform simple exorcism; but in 1983, under the Code of Canon Law article 1172 of the Latin Church, the Bishop or Vicar General is to designate an official exorcist who is a priest endowed with piety, knowledge, prudence and integrity of life.

The Rite of Exorcism involves saying certain special prayers, sprinkling of holy water and using the crucifix to drive out the devil. This process may be repeated many times. The priest performing the exorcism rite must prepare himself with fasting repentance of past sins and celebrating holy Mass. Pagans or non-Christians can request exorcism by the church. This rite is best performed in a church or other sacred places.

The actual rite of exorcism is described in details in the notes handed out.

This interesting and informative talk was followed by sharing by Serrans. .