

TBO Wrap Up

In Two Quotes

#1. Pg 3 last paragraph: If we are going to survive, we have to return to the roots of our faith, both in thought and in practice. We are going to have to learn habits of the heart forgotten by believers in the West. We are going to have to change our lives, and our approach to life, in radical ways. In short, *we are going to have to be the Church*, without compromise, no matter what it costs. (Emphasis original to the author)

Now, following is the same quote as marked up by Fr. Cunningham in study.

If we are going to **survive**, we have to **return** to the **roots of our faith**, both **in thought** and **in practice**. We are going to have **to learn** **habits of the heart forgotten by believers** in the West. We are going to have to **change** our lives, and our approach to life, in radical ways. In short, *we are going to have to be the Church*, without compromise, no matter what it costs.

- Survive: Christianity is under attack and the fight is raging on multiple fronts, both internal and external.
- Return: This implies that the Church has lost its way, has wondered from its essence, and needs to recover its true Mission, which will require deep reflexion, unblinking honesty and sustained course correction
- Roots of the faith: the answers will be found in the ancient paths and not in something fundamentally new.
- In thought and in practice: a vitally important phrase, we must recover both the philosophical understandings of who we are (re-learning how to answer the big questions of our existence) and we must set about to live in accordance with the truth of the faith. In other words, we must orient both our souls and bodies toward wisdom.
- To learn: again, The Benedict Option involves the long fight to learn truth
- Habits of the heart: these are the disciplines of a life lived with one overarching goal – to please God in every thought and deed.
- Forgotten by believers: we should recognize that these disciplines have been largely lost to modern Christians. Whatever disciplines mark the Modern Church, they are failing, and the Old Disciplines need to be recovered. They aren't intuitive, they must be learned.
- Change: What the Church has been doing in the West has been failing for a long time (Look at Christianity in Europe and the Middle East) This necessarily means that Christians in the West must change their current thought and practice or suffer the same end as Europe.
- To be the Church: Here is the goal of St. Benedict and the goal of the Benedict Option (and frankly my goal in having our parish read The Benedict Option.) We must re-discover the Church, in all her intended glory. The next generations of Christians depend upon our success in re-discovering the Church and edifying her for the next offensive in the war against the world the flesh and the devil.

#2 p.18 last paragraph It will be those who learn how to endure with faith and creativity, to deepen their own prayer lives and adopting practices, focusing on families and communities instead of partisan politics, and building churches, schools, and other **institutions** within which the Orthodox Christian faith can survive and prosper through the coming flood. (Emphasis Fr. Cunningham)

Institutions Needing Recovery, Rediscovery and Building

1. The Institution of the Family
Anthropology – What is Mankind (What is a man)
The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony
Human Sexuality
Christian Parenting
Catechesis in Faith (all ages)
2. The Institution of the Church
Recover the Definition and Mission of Christ's Church
Sacramental Worldview (Recovery of a true conception of Reality)
Recovery of all seven Sacraments in the practice of Christian Living
Christian Community as the seat of Christian Life
Recovery of Practical Disciplines in the lives of parishioners (Feasting / Fasting / Ordo
Kalendar / Lectio Divina / Daily Offices / Intercessory Prayer /
3. The Institution of Christian Formation
The Parish as Cultural Incubator
The Parish as a Ceaseless Center of Education
Parochial Schools for Children
Colleges for higher learning
Seminaries for training new clergy / evangelists