April 29, 1975

The enclosed letter is being mailed, together with a copy of "Holding Fast", to some 1,500 priests in the Archdiocese of New York and in the Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey.

Fr. Francis E. Fenton



Orthodox Roman Catholic Movement, Inc.

Post Office Box 542
Stratford, Connecticut 06497
(203) 375-9240

May 5, 1975

Dear Father:

As a Roman Catholic priest, I believe that the Church to which I belong is the one true Church established by the Son of God for the sanctification and salvation of all men and that, in the words of Pope Pius XII, "nothing more glorious, nothing nobler, nothing, surely, more ennobling can be imagined than to belong to the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church." Consequently, I believe that the entire body of divine truth which that Church has taught throughout the centuries is every bit as important and as valid today as it has been down through the centuries and that any tampering with those truths, be it in the name of ecumenism, brotherhood, accomodation with the world or whatever, is contrary to the will of God and offensive to Him. In a word, I adhere as fully and as firmly today as ever to the Profession of Faith and the Oath Against Modernism to which I subscribed without reservation on the occasion of my ordination to the priesthood in 1944.

Over the past dozen years or so I have seen our beloved Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, so torn and undermined and desacralized that it is today but a shell of what it once was. So thorough has been the subversion to which it has been subjected by its enemies (Communism, Zionism, Freemasonry) that it now bears but little external resemblance to the traditional and historic one true Church for whose service I had spent 13 years of seminary training. Indeed, in many areas it gives the appearance of being far more Protestant than Catholic.

To contend that all of this has just happened or that it is the consequence of needed change or that it is, God forbid, the work of the Holy Spirit, how anyone, particularly a priest, can seriously accept any of these contentions is beyond my comprehension. Surely, a far more logical explanation, and the one I fully accept, is that the destruction of the Church which we are witnessing today has been planned that way. "An enemy hath done this." To my mind, there is no question that the Roman Catholic Church, humanly speaking, is here and now in an advanced stage of demolition and that nothing less than an uncompromising adherence and commitment to the totality of traditional Roman Catholic orthodoxy is necessary to save it.

Being thoroughly convinced, then, that our Church is currently facing a crisis without precedent in the Christian centuries, I, for one, refuse to stand idly by and to go along with all this in the name of blind obedience or for any other reason. Such being my conviction, I was instrumental in forming the Orthodox Roman Catholic Movement (ORCM) a couple of years back, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the traditional Latin Mass and of the entirety of our God-given faith. The enclosed brochure tells our story and presents the justification for the stand we take.

In my opinion, there is no better way of meeting the challenge posed by the crisis confronting us in the Church today than along the path the ORCM has chosen to follow. In the scant two years of our existence we have made, I believe, very satisfactory and encouraging progress. With five priest-members and six other priests assisting them, we now have ORCM chapels and/or ORCM-sponsored Masses in eight locations around the country. We are completely Roman Catholic and not schismatic or bordering on schism in any respect, unless, that is, in the upside-down world in which we live, total loyalty to, and observance of, the Faith of our Fathers can be construed as such. We have the organization. We have the interest and support of thousands of traditional Roman Catholics from coast to coast who adamantly refuse to accept the subversion of their beloved faith and the Protestantization of their Church. We have tremendous potential. What we don't have, obviously, is a sufficiency of priests even to begin to satisfy that potential.

Hence, this letter to you. If you agree with the thoughts so briefly outlined herein and with the contents of the enclosed brochure, and if you are willing to take the uncompromising stand we take, we would be delighted to hear from you and to arrange for further discussion. Perhaps your health or age would prevent you from being fully active with us. No matter, we will be pleased to have priests who can do no more than offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for us. There are scores of traditional Roman Catholic groups across the land for whom such a priest would be a God-sent answer to their fervent daily prayers. As for security, housing, financial support, etc., were you to be associated with us, I assure you that you need have no worry in the world about such matters.

While we seek only hard-core, thoroughly traditional Roman Catholic priests, yet we desperately need priests of such caliber in order to carry out and to expand the apostolate to which we are committed. If you are one of these and are interested, I will be very pleased to hear from you.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Francis E. Fenton

Fr. Francis E. Fenton, STL

FEF/ams

May 6, 1975

Regarding my letter to priests, you might indicate that the brochure to which it refers is "Holding Fast" and that, in case any reader wanted copies of the letter to give to priests of their acquaintance, they can secure them from the ORCM. "Holding Fast" sells at five copies for $1.00. There would be no charge for a few copies of the letter.

Despite the fact that I make no mention of the JBS in the ORCM News or from the altar, I am being bombarded on the subject of an alleged affiliation between the ORCM and the JBS. I would guess that maybe 50% of the ORCM'ers around the country are not Birchers. While some of them are well disposed toward the JBS, others are not. A letter just received yesterday and signed by three Catholic Birchers says that they are considering dropping out of the Birch Society if the ORCM doesn't get out of the JBS! Assuming such people are sincere, I grant that they obviously are not well informed. To say this is hardly the solution to the problem, however.

In any case, I strongly believe that the policy we have been following in the ORCM is, all things considered, a sound and sensible one. Since you are a priest-member of the ORCM, I do think that a portion of the readers of your Newsnotes considers your promotion of the JBS as an indication that the ORCM and the Birch Society are allied in some fashion. My request to you is a simple one, namely, that you carry in some prominent place in each issue a statement some thing to the effect that, while you are a member of the ORCM, your publication is not an official ORCM organ. Perhaps in this way this increasingly difficult problem may be partially solved.

Fr. F. Fenton