

# De Valore Notarum Theologicarum et de Criteriis ad eas Dignoscendas (*On the Value of Theological Notes and on the Criteria for Recognizing Them*)

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## CAPUT 11: QUID SIT THEOLOGICE CERTUM

<i>Latin</i>	<i>English</i>
## CAPUT 11: QUID SIT THEOLOGICE CERTUM	## CHAPTER 11: WHAT IS THEOLOGICALLY CERTAIN
### I. DEFINITUR QUID SIT THEOLOGICE CERTUM ET CRITERIA AD IPSUM DIGNOSCENDUM.	### I. WHAT IS THEOLOGICALLY CERTAIN IS DEFINED AND THE CRITERIA FOR RECOGNIZING IT.
Duo elementa definiunt quænam sit propositio theologice certa: unum positivum, aliud negativum.	Two elements define what proposition is theologically certain: one positive, the other negative.
Positivum est certitudo veritatis ipsius propositionis theologice certæ, quæ certitudo habetur ex universalitate consensus ut in propositionem theologice certam, vel saltem ex intimo nexu cum doctrina fidei. Negativum est quod ista propositio non proponitur et prædicatur ut certo revelata ac de fide. Ratio vero cur non censeatur esse simpliciter de fide, licet universaliter teneatur ut certa, potest esse duplex: vel quia non constat sufficienter quod consensus sit in eam non solum ut in propositionem veram sed etiam ut in propositionem revelatam et de fide credendam, atque ideo antequam de illa definitio Ecclesiæ existat, theologi generatim fateantur non posse dici	The positive aspect is the certitude of the truth of the theological proposition itself that is theologically certain, which certitude is had either from the universality of consensus regarding it as a theologically certain proposition, or at least from an intimate connection with the doctrine of faith. The negative aspect is that this proposition is not proposed and proclaimed as certainly revealed and of the faith. The reason, moreover, why it is not considered to be simply of the faith, although it is universally held as certain, can be twofold: either because it is not sufficiently established that the consensus regarding it is not only as regarding a true proposition but also as regarding a revealed proposition to be believed as of the faith, and

simpliciter de fide; vel quia est **conclusio theologica** deducta ex una quidem propositione revelata, ex alia vero certa aliunde, scilicet vel theologicē vel lumine rationis.

**1. Theologice certa est quæ admittitur ab omnibus scholis ut intime connexa cum Revelatione.**

*Est conclusio theologica (non dico scholastica).* Ex hac propositione patet quod omnes theses *systematicæ* seu propriæ alicuius systematis non sunt theologicæ certæ; seu theses de quibus admittitur disputatio inter catholicos non sunt theologicæ certæ. Ita: de uno esse in Christo; quod non detur reprobatio negativa; et de medio cognitionis futuribilium ex parte Dei; quomodo sit quantitas et statura naturalis in Christo in Eucharistia; quomodo sit explicandus influxus Dei in hominem inspiratum.

Quando ergo in aliqua thesi habetur ut *adversarius aliquis theologus catholicus* qui non sit evidenter damnatus ab aliquo documento officiali, vel cuius doctrina non sit evidenter inconciliabilis cum doctrina alicuius concilii vel Pontificis posterioris illi theologo, vel cuius sententia non sit evidenter derelicta ab omnibus posterioribus theologis, ut sæpe evenit v.g.

*Durando et Occam aut Biel: signum est quod thesis dici non potest theologice certa.*

**2. Intime connexa cum Revelatione, seu virtualiter revelata, seu theologice certa est illa quæ deducitur ex una certo revelata et ex alia certa, licet non revelata.**

Potest esse certa ex quocumque campo, sive philosophico, sive theologico, sive historico. Quod requiritur prævia certitudo facti Revelationis est theologice certum: ex eo quod actus fidei est (*dogma*) rationabilis et irrevocabilis; quod ad cognoscenda miracula non requiritur per

therefore before a definition of the Church exists concerning it, theologians generally acknowledge that it cannot be called simply of the faith; or because it is a **theological conclusion** deduced from one proposition that is indeed revealed, but from another that is certain from elsewhere, namely either theologically or by the light of reason.

**1. Theologically certain is that which is admitted by all schools as intimately connected with Revelation.**

*It is a theological conclusion (I do not say scholastic).* From this proposition it is evident that all *systematic* theses or those proper to some particular system are not theologically certain; or theses concerning which disputation is admitted among Catholics are not theologically certain. Thus: that there is one being in Christ; that negative reprobation does not exist; and concerning the medium of knowledge of futuribles on the part of God; how quantity and natural stature exist in Christ in the Eucharist; how the influence of God upon an inspired man is to be explained.

Therefore, when in any given thesis there is found as *an adversary some Catholic theologian* who has not been evidently condemned by any official document, or whose doctrine is not evidently irreconcilable with the doctrine of any council or Pontiff posterior to that theologian, or whose opinion has not been evidently abandoned by all subsequent theologians, as frequently happens, for example,

*with Durandus and Ockham or Biel: it is a sign that the thesis cannot be called theologically certain.*

**2. Intimately connected with Revelation, or virtually revealed, or theologically certain is that which is deduced from one proposition certainly revealed and from another certain, though not revealed.**

[Certainty] can be certain from any field whatsoever, whether philosophical, theological, or historical. That prior certitude of the fact of Revelation is required is theologically certain: from the fact that the act of faith is (*dogma*) reasonable and irrevocable; that supernatural light is not required per

se lumen supernaturale, quia definitum est miracula esse signa certissima facti Revelationis: quod non esset verum si subjective convincere non possent *intellectum* sine illo lumine; quod inspiratio dicat illustrationem intellectus, motionem voluntatis et assistentiam: quia definita est *natura inspirationis* (Dz. 1787): Deus est auctor Scripturæ universæ; quod exsistentia Dei demonstrari potest; quod naturalis Dei cognitio in hac vita est *solum mediata*: quia in Concilio Viennensi damnatum est quod visio beatifica sit naturalis: sed perceptio immediata Ontologistarum videtur esse idem ac visio beatifica; quod cognoscimus Deum per formam propriam: nam naturalis cognitio non est nisi mediata, ut patet contra Ontologistas (hoc deducitur ex una revelata et alia theologicæ certa): ergo non est per formam propriam.

**3. Non est conclusio theologica, neque est ideo theologice certa illa quæ solum probabiliter et non evidenter deducitur ex principiis revelatis.**

Exemplum: quod visio Dei sit *absolute* supernaturalis est communis doctrina.

**4. Sunt theologice certæ propositiones in quibus omnes scholæ conveniunt ut in propositiones certas, sed non conveniunt ut in propositiones revelatas et de fide credendas.**

Signum quod sint theologice certæ est consensus ille qui non posset adesse si res non sit intime connexa cum revelatis: nam in aliis rebus, puta in thesibus quibusdam philosophicis, videmus adesse in scholis multas discepantias. Ita intelligis hanc notam quæ aliquando datur: est theologice certum ex *consensu* theologorum quod anima Christi habuerit gratiam habitualē et visionem beatificam.

Dogmata hic sunt pro visione beatifica *unio hypostatica*, pro gratia habituali quod Christus est causa meritoria nostræ iustificationis.

se for knowing miracles, because it has been defined that miracles are the most certain signs of the fact of Revelation: which would not be true if subjectively they could not convince the *intellect* without that light; that inspiration implies illumination of the intellect, motion of the will, and assistance: because the *nature of inspiration* has been defined (Dz. 1787): God is the author of all Scripture; that the existence of God can be demonstrated; that natural knowledge of God in this life is *only mediate*: because in the Council of Vienne it was condemned that the beatific vision is natural: but the immediate perception of the Ontologists seems to be the same as the beatific vision; that we know God through a proper form: for natural knowledge is only mediate, as is evident against the Ontologists (this is deduced from one revealed [truth] and another theologically certain): therefore it is not through a proper form.

**3. That which is only probably and not evidently deduced from revealed principles is not a theological conclusion, nor is it therefore theologically certain.**

Example: that the vision of God is *absolutely* supernatural is common doctrine.

**4. Those propositions in which all schools agree as certain propositions are theologically certain, but they do not agree [on them] as revealed propositions to be believed by faith.**

The sign that they are theologically certain is that consensus which could not be present unless the matter were intimately connected with revealed truths: for in other matters—for instance, in certain philosophical theses—we see that many disagreements are present in the schools. Thus you understand this note which is sometimes given: it is theologically certain from the *consensus* of theologians that the soul of Christ possessed habitual grace and the beatific vision.

The dogmas here are, for the beatific vision, the *hypostatic union*; for habitual grace, that Christ is the meritorious cause of our justification.

**5. Ut intelligas quæ sit propositio theologice certa, scias esse contradictoriam illarum quæ dicuntur erroneæ.**

a) Est erronea illa quæ opponitur alicui propositioni quæ, cum sit certa, tamen non est certum esse de fide;

b) vel quando oppositio, licet contradictoria sit certe de fide, non sit omnino certa et indubitata. Aliis verbis hic disputatio esset de ipsa oppositione (de ontologismo cf. P. Lennerz, *de Deo uno*, pag. 65: requiritur ratiocinium ad ostendendam illam oppositionem);

c) quæ negat immediate propositionem quæ non est de fide, sed conclusio theologica deducta evidenter ex una de fide et altera evidenti solum lumine naturæ. v.g. soli Episcopi sunt successores Apostolorum.

Hic verificatur notio erroris supra explicata. Qui enim negat conclusionem theologice certam non est hæreticus, quia non negat aliquid formaliter revelatum, nisi neget etiam præmissam de fide ex qua infertur; errat tamen gravissime, quia negat id ex quo negato convinci potest, exhibito alio principio naturali evidenti, ad negandum obiectum fidei (*exemplum*: de infallibilitate in conclusionibus theologicis et in factis dogmaticis). Qui enim negat conclusionem theologicam deductam evidenter ex præmissa certa de fide et ex alia præmissa evidenti ex lumine naturæ, eo ipso deducitur necessario ad negandum præmissam de fide, quantum est ex parte obiecti negati, quia præmissa evidens naturaliter necessitat ad eam non negandam; constat autem ex logica quod non potest conclusio esse falsa nisi una ex præmissis sit falsa, quia falsum non procedit a vero sed solum a falso, licet verum posset deduci a falso. Cum ergo etiam illatio sit evidens et negari non possit, est necesse quod neget præmissam de fide, quæ sola potest libere negari, quia alia est naturaliter evidens.

**5. That you may understand what a theologically certain proposition is, know that it is the contradictory of those which are called erroneous.**

a) That is erroneous which is opposed to some proposition which, although it is certain, nevertheless is not certain to be of the faith;

b) or when the opposition, although it is contradictory to what is certainly of the faith, is not entirely certain and beyond doubt. In other words, here there would be a dispute about the opposition itself (concerning ontologism cf. P[ater] Lennerz, *de Deo uno*, p. 65: reasoning is required to demonstrate that opposition);

c) which denies immediately a proposition that is not of the faith, but is a theological conclusion evidently deduced from one premise that is of the faith and another evident by the light of nature alone. e.g., only Bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

Here the notion of error explained above is verified. For he who denies a theologically certain conclusion is not a heretic, because he does not deny something formally revealed, unless he also denies the premise of faith from which it is inferred; nevertheless, he errs most gravely, because he denies that from whose denial it can be proved, by applying another evident natural principle, that he must deny an object of faith (*example*: concerning infallibility in theological conclusions and in dogmatic facts). For he who denies a theological conclusion evidently deduced from a certain premise of faith and from another premise evident by the light of nature, is thereby necessarily led to denying the premise of faith, insofar as concerns the object denied, because the naturally evident premise necessitates him not to deny it; moreover, it is established from logic that a conclusion cannot be false unless one of the premises is false, because the false does not proceed from the true but only from the false, although the true could be deduced from the false. Therefore, since the inference is also evident and cannot be denied, it is necessary that he deny the premise of faith, which alone can be freely denied, because the other is naturally evident.

**6. Quare signum certum et facile ad cognoscendam aliquam propositionem theologice certam est considerare an ex negatione eius sequatur negatio alicuius dogmatis.**

Cf. thesis de virtualiter revelatis et de factis dogmaticis; de singulis partibus quæ sunt inspiratæ.

**7. Sæpe nostræ theses, quamvis sint desumptæ ex conciliis, tamen non sunt dogmata sed solum theologice certæ, quia continent aliquam determinationem quæ non est in concilio et quæ tamen ex concilio deducitur.**

Concilia enim solent habere hanc regulam: eligunt in definiendo aliquam formulam satis genericam quæ possit explicari secundum varia systemata theologica; quia concilium vult, ut ita dicam, respectare seu salvare omnia systemata, si non sint evidenter falsa. Quare definitum minimum quod sufficit ad excludendum errorem contrarium. In libris autem theologorum res proponitur cum aliqua determinatione maiori, quæ certe immediate deducitur ex definitione, sed tamen in illa non invenitur. Theologus autem habet determinationem maiorem, quia hic præcise est unus ex scopis præcipuis theologiae: deducere ex principiis fidei conclusiones, ut comprehensio et extensio dogmatis distincte pateat in suis consequentiis.

*Dico quod ita augetur comprehensio textus: v.g. est definitum factum inspirationis et illud analyzando pervenio ad illa tria elementa: motionem in voluntatem, illuminationem in intellectum, assistentiam in executione. Extensio: est dogma quod Christus passus est pro nobis; extendo illud et dico etiam pro omnibus hominibus. Do multa alia exempla.*

*Existentia Dei demonstrari potest: Concilium dicit: "cognosci". Saltem theologice certum est quod anima sit immortalis natura sua, quia Concilium dicit quod est immortalis. Quod protoparentes constituti sint in gratia, est*

**6. Therefore, a certain and easy sign for recognizing some theologically certain proposition is to consider whether from its denial there follows the denial of some dogma.**

Cf. thesis concerning things virtually revealed and concerning dogmatic facts; concerning the individual parts which are inspired.

**7. Our theses are often, although they are drawn from councils, nevertheless not dogmas but only theologically certain, because they contain some determination which is not in the council and which nevertheless is deduced from the council.**

For councils are accustomed to observe this rule: in defining, they choose some sufficiently generic formula which can be explained according to various theological systems; because the council wishes, so to speak, to respect or preserve all systems, provided they are not evidently false. Wherefore they define the minimum which suffices to exclude the contrary error. In the books of theologians, however, the matter is set forth with some greater determination, which certainly is immediately deduced from the definition, but nevertheless is not found in it. The theologian, however, possesses a greater determination, because this is precisely one of the chief aims of theology: to deduce conclusions from the principles of faith, so that the comprehension and extension of the dogma may be distinctly evident in its consequences.

*I say that thus the comprehension of the text is increased: for example, the fact of inspiration is defined, and analyzing it I arrive at those three elements: motion in the will, illumination in the intellect, assistance in execution. Extension: it is a dogma that Christ suffered for us; I extend it and say also for all men. I give many other examples.*

*The existence of God can be demonstrated: The Council says: "can be known." At least it is theologically certain that the soul is immortal by its nature, because the Council says that it is immortal. That the first parents were constituted in grace is at*

saltem theologice certum; Concilium dicit quod constituti sunt in iustitia et sanctitate originali: et hoc est dogma fidei.

*Quod peccatum originale non consistat formaliter in concupiscentia* est theologice certum, quia definitum est quod peccatum originale per baptismum aufertur et tamen concupiscentia manet.

*De tenendis in Concilio Vaticano:* (Dz 1839) definit “tenendum”: non dicit “credendum”: ex quo deducitur esse infallibilis etiam in veritatibus connexis, quod est theologice certum. De iustitia quod non sit mere forensis est definitum; est saltem theologice certum quod sit aliquid permanens physice in anima nostra.

### ### II. QUOMODO EX DOGMATE DEDUCANTUR THEOLOGICE CERTA<sup>[^4]</sup>

Ex aliquo dogmate videbis quid sit theologice certum si :

- a) ante omnia eliminas quæ non sunt definitæ; et hæc sunt: vox ipsa, imago phantastica, conceptus technicus;
- b) deinde præcise discernas punctum definitum;
- c) demum si attente consideres quæ necessario ab hoc dogmate præsupponuntur vel cum eo sunt necessario connexa, vel ab eo necessario deducuntur.

#### 1. Voces, ut patet, non sunt definitæ.

Si quis velit adhibere aliud terminum ad significandam revelationem supernaturalem, vel mysterium, vel dogma, vel fidem, vel Trinitatem, vel unionem hypostaticam, vel gratiam, non est hæreticus: verba enim sunt signa conventionalia, licet in usu verborum nemo debeat recedere a sensu communi: ideo Apostolus prohibuit etiam vocum novitates, quia sola vox male electa potest esse causa multarum litium et revolutionum (cf. “liberté, égalité, fraternité”). Fere omnia quæ explicantur in nostris universitatibus modernis sunt

least theologically certain; the Council says that they were constituted in original justice and holiness: and this is a dogma of faith.

*That original sin does not formally consist in concupiscence* is theologically certain, because it is defined that original sin is taken away by baptism and yet concupiscence remains.

*Concerning what must be held from the Vatican Council:* (Dz 1839) it defines “to be held”: it does not say “to be believed”: from which it is deduced that [the Church] is also infallible in connected truths, which is theologically certain. Concerning justification, that it is not merely forensic is defined; it is at least theologically certain that it is something remaining physically in our soul.

### ### II. HOW THEOLOGICALLY CERTAIN TRUTHS ARE DEDUCED FROM DOGMA<sup>[^4]</sup>

You will see what is theologically certain from any dogma if:

- a) before all else you eliminate what has not been defined; and these are: the word itself, the phantastic image, the technical concept;
- b) then you precisely discern the defined point;
- c) finally, if you attentively consider what is necessarily presupposed by this dogma or is necessarily connected with it, or is necessarily deduced from it.

#### 1. Words, as is evident, are not defined.

If anyone wishes to employ another term to signify supernatural revelation, or mystery, or dogma, or faith, or the Trinity, or hypostatic union, or grace, he is not a heretic: for words are conventional signs, although in the use of words no one ought to depart from the common sense: therefore the Apostle also forbade novelties of expression, because a single poorly chosen word can be the cause of many disputes and revolutions (cf. “liberté, égalité, fraternité”). Nearly all things that are explained in our modern universities are profane novelties of expression.

profanæ vocum novitates.

**2. Sed neque imago phantasiæ, ut patet, est definita:**

“Descendit ad inferos”; “Tunc dicet rex iis qui a sinistris erunt”; “sedet ad dexteram Patris”; “inspiratio Spiritus Sancti”.

**3. Quando datur aliqua definitio a Conciliis vel a Papa, conceptus qui est definitus est conceptus communis, prout intelligitur ab omnibus, et non conceptus technicus aut systematicus proprius alicuius systematis.**

Do exempla multa et celeberrima:

*Quod anima sit forma corporis* (Dz. 481): conceptus technicus est conceptus aristotelicus formæ cum suis relationibus; hic conceptus non est definitus; sed Concilium voluit hoc definire: quod anima et corpus efficiunt unum et non merum compositum casuale vel accidentale, et quod anima est elementum specificum, seu perfectivum, seu formale corporis; aliis verbis, id ex quo corpus habet quod sit corpus hominis, et non animalis, est anima.

*Voluit ergo definire factum unionis, ut patet pro mysterio Incarnationis:* quia si esset unio accidentalis, passio corporis non fuisset passio alicuius animæ rationalis et liberæ, et periret tota redemptio quia periret passio quæ facta est in corpore Christi. Unde si quis velit esse Carthesianus vel atomista, non est contra Concilium, licet difficillime possit cohærere cum verbis eius.

Ita notiones Personæ et Naturæ quæ sunt definitæ in mysterio Trinitatis et Incarnationis (Dz. 428-429), non sunt definitiones technicæ aristotelicæ, scilicet pro natura: principium motus et quietis in eo in quo est et non secundum accidens; pro persona: rationalis naturæ individua substantia.

Sed pro natura intelligitur in dogmate id ex quo aliquid constituitur tale, v.g. homo,

**2. But neither is the phantasm of the imagination defined, as is evident:**

“He descended into hell”; “Then the king shall say to those who shall be on his left hand”; “he sitteth at the right hand of the Father”; “the inspiration of the Holy Spirit”.

**3. When any definition is given by Councils or by the Pope, the concept which is defined is the common concept, as it is understood by all, and not a technical or systematic concept proper to some particular system.**

Here are many most celebrated examples:

*That the soul is the form of the body* (Dz. 481): the technical concept is the Aristotelian concept of form with its relations; this concept is not defined; but the Council wished to define this: that the soul and body effect a unity and not a merely casual or accidental composite, and that the soul is the specific, or perfective, or formal element of the body; in other words, that from which the body has that it is a human body, and not that of an animal, is the soul.

*He wished, therefore, to define the fact of the union, as is evident in the case of the mystery of the Incarnation:* because if the union were accidental, the passion of the body would not have been the passion of any rational and free soul, and the entire redemption would perish because the passion which took place in the body of Christ would perish. Hence if anyone should wish to be a Cartesian or an atomist, it is not contrary to the Council, although he could cohere only with the greatest difficulty with its words.

Thus the notions of Person and Nature which are defined in the mystery of the Trinity and the Incarnation (Dz. 428-429) are not technical Aristotelian definitions, namely for nature: the principle of motion and rest in that in which it is and not accidentally; for person: an individual substance of a rational nature.

But by nature in dogma is understood that from which something is constituted as such, e.g., man,

et per quod distinguitur ab angelo et ab animali; et pro persona: sensus alicuius individui rationalis ab alio pariter individuo plene distincti, quo dicitur: aliquis, aliquis homo, et per quod respondetur ad interrogationem: quis est? Est Petrus vel Paulus. Dum natura respondet ad interrogationem: Quid est? Est petra, vel equus, vel homo, vel Deus.

Ita de gratia quæ est causa formalis iustificationis (Dz. 799): causa formalis id significat quod gratia est aliquid intrinsecum in nobis ex quo sumus realiter iusti; sed non est definitus sensus stricte Aristotelicus de aliquo comprincipio quod ut actus componat cum potentia seu cum materia.

Ita de lumine rationis (Dz. 1806) et de conversione: in Eucharistia (Dz. 877).

#### **4. Do nunc aliquam synthesim conceptuum communium omnium et conceptuum systematicorum.**

##### **a) Principia communia et immutabilia:**

> Hæc sunt puncta doctrinæ in quibus omnes theologi catholici conveniunt et convenire debent et ex quibus coniunctis cum revelatis deduci possunt veritates theologice certæ.

Ipsa etiam ut præsupposita in definitione sunt saltem theologice certa: (ex synthesis philosophiæ).

i) Quod existit veritas et quod sumus capaces cognoscendi veritatem, contra scepticismum (cf. thesim de Deo uno).

ii) Obiectivitas cognitionis, contra idealismum seu immanentiam (cf. damnatum Modernismum).

iii) Quod veritas sit absoluta, i.e. eadem pro omnibus; contra relativismum: nam si verum esset solum quod nunc appareret, nulla daretur norma comparationis ad distinguendum inter verum et falsum; unde omnis affirmatio æquivaleret suæ negationi.

iv) Quod conceptus nostri, saltem aliquomodo, sunt universales: nam si nullam admittis universalitatem nulla

and by which it is distinguished from an angel and from an animal; and by person: the sense of some rational individual fully distinct from another equally individual, by which is said: someone, some man, and by which one answers the question: who is it? It is Peter or Paul. While nature answers the question: What is it? It is a stone, or a horse, or a man, or God.

So also concerning grace which is the formal cause of justification (Dz. 799): formal cause signifies that grace is something intrinsic in us from which we are really just; but the strictly Aristotelian sense of some co-principle which as act is composed with potency or with matter is not defined.

So it is concerning the light of reason (Dz. 1806) and concerning conversion in the Eucharist (Dz. 877).

#### **4. Now give some synthesis of the concepts common to all and of systematic concepts.**

##### **a) Common and immutable principles:**

> These are the points of doctrine in which all Catholic theologians agree and ought to agree, and from which, when conjoined with revealed truths, theologically certain truths can be deduced.

These themselves, as presuppositions in the definition, are at least theologically certain: (from a synthesis of philosophy).

i) That truth exists and that we are capable of knowing the truth, against skepticism (cf. the thesis concerning the one God).

ii) The objectivity of knowledge, against idealism or immanentism (cf. the condemned Modernism).

iii) That truth is absolute, i.e., the same for all; against relativism: for if only that which now appeared were true, no standard of comparison would be given for distinguishing between the true and the false; whence every affirmation would be equivalent to its negation.

iv) That our concepts are, at least in some way, universal: for if you admit no universality, there would be no distinction between nature and person,

esset distinctio inter naturam et personam, et mysteria Trinitatis et Incarnationis esset contradicatio.

v) Quod certitudo mere naturalis, licet non scientifica, est tamen vera, v.g. in fide hominum simplicium.

vi) Quod homo est capax ratiocinandi; est enim theologicē certum quod potest demonstrare existentiam Dei.

vii) Atque ideo: prima principia entis ut contradictionis, rationis sufficientis, causalitatis, finalitatis. Quare non potes dicere: secundum logicam Kantianam vel Hegelianam hæc principia non habent sensum; nam illa logica est *absolute heretical*.

viii) Obiectivitas relationum, ut causalitatis, similitudinis: ad cognoscendam existentiam et essentiam Dei, quod est dogma contra agnosticos.

ix) Aliquomodo: existentia substantiae et accidentis (licet non necessario cum omnibus determinationibus Aristotelicis). Nam secus non posset explicari Transubstantiatio et gratia quæ non est idem ac anima et tamen est in anima.

x) Quod dantur mutationes: nam est dogma quod homo potest amittere gratiam, et quod in ea potest crescere.

xi) Distinctiones rationis cum fundamento in re; v.g. in Trinitate.

xii) Quod existant extensa seu corpora.

xiii) Quod esse in loco et in tempore dicant aliquid reale, seu quod tempus et spatium habeant fundamentum in re; nam aliter non haberet sensum quod Christus vixerit tali loco vel tempore.

xiv) In genere quod existat ens spirituale, contra materialismum.

xv) Quod homo habeat animam spiritualem et immortalem.

xvi) Quod anima in homine sit una tantum: quia si dicis quod anima sensitiva est alia ab intellectiva, dolores sensibiles Christi non fuissent dolores alicuius

and the mysteries of the Trinity and the Incarnation would be a contradiction.

v) That merely natural certitude, although not scientific, is nevertheless true, e.g., in the faith of simple people.

vi) That man is capable of reasoning; for it is theologically certain that he can demonstrate the existence of God.

vii) And therefore: the first principles of being, such as [the principles] of contradiction, sufficient reason, causality, [and] finality. Wherefore you cannot say: according to Kantian or Hegelian logic these principles have no meaning; for that logic is *absolutely heretical*.

viii) The objectivity of relations, such as causality [and] similarity: for knowing the existence and essence of God, which is a dogma against the agnostics.

ix) In some manner: the existence of substance and accident (although not necessarily with all the Aristotelian determinations). For otherwise Transubstantiation and grace could not be explained—[grace] which is not the same as the soul and yet is in the soul.

x) That changes occur: for it is a dogma that man can lose grace, and that he can grow in it.

xi) Distinctions of reason with foundation in reality; for example, in the Trinity.

xii) That extended things or bodies exist.

xiii) That being in place and in time signify something real, or that time and space have foundation in reality; for otherwise it would have no meaning that Christ lived in such a place or time.

xiv) In general, that spiritual being exists, against materialism.

xv) That man has a spiritual and immortal soul.

xvi) That in man the soul is only one: because if you say that the sensitive soul is other than the intellectual soul, the sensible sufferings of Christ would not have been the sufferings of any spiritual

animæ spiritualis.

xvii) Quod homo est homo ex unione animæ et corporis: anima est forma corporis.

xviii) Quod in homine sensus non sunt omnino idem ac intellectus, quia distinguitur concupiscentia a peccato.

xix) Quod homo habet liberum arbitrium (est dogma).

xx) Quod homo potest cognoscere et demonstrare existentiam Dei.

xxi) Qui Deus non est idem ac mundus, contra pantheismum.

xxii) Quod est personalis, liber atque ideo potest loqui nobiscum.

xxiii) Et quod Illum cognoscimus ut personale, quia cognoscimus ut principium et finem.

xxiv) Quod homo ad religionem teneatur, et si Deus loquatur, quod teneatur Illum audire.

xxv) Quod ex ipsa natura rerum existit discrimen inter bonum et malum; quod discrimen homo potest cognoscere; et quod ideo teneatur ad bonum faciendum et malum vitandum.

xxvi) Quod est facile cognoscere et facere primas applicationes saltem legis naturalis: ut amare parentes, non occidere, adiuvare proximum.

*Haec principia sunt patrimonium commune totius generis humani in omni tempore; systemata contingentia mutantur, hæc non mutantur; sunt autem necessaria ad cogitandum et ad affirmandum dogma.*

Si qua theologia vel philosophia hæc in dubium revocat vel de his nullo modo loquatur, est plene hæretica, docente etiam Encyclica *HUMANI GENERIS*:

> “ea quæ communi consensu a catholicis doctoribus composita per plura sæcula fuere ad aliquam dogmatis intelligentiam attingendam, tam caduco fundamento procul dubio non nituntur. Nituntur enim principiis ac notionibus ex vera rerum creatarum cognitione deductis; in quibus

soul.

xvii) That man is man from the union of soul and body: the soul is the form of the body.

xviii) That in man the senses are not altogether the same as the intellect, because concupiscence is distinguished from sin.

xix) That man has free will (this is a dogma).

xx) That man can know and demonstrate the existence of God.

xxi) That God is not the same as the world, against pantheism.

xxii) That He is personal, free, and therefore can speak with us.

xxiii) And that we know Him as personal, because we know Him as beginning and end.

xxiv) That man is bound to religion, and if God should speak, that he is bound to hear Him.

xxv) That from the very nature of things there exists a distinction between good and evil; that man can know this distinction; and that therefore he is bound to do good and avoid evil.

xxvi) That it is easy to know and to make at least the first applications of the natural law: such as to love parents, not to kill, to help one's neighbor.

*These principles are the common patrimony of the entire human race in all time; contingent systems change, but these do not change; they are, moreover, necessary for thinking and for affirming dogma.*

If any theology or philosophy calls these things into doubt or in no way speaks of these things, it is fully heretical, as the Encyclical *HUMANI GENERIS* also teaches:

> “those things which were composed by common consensus of Catholic doctors over many centuries for the purpose of attaining some understanding of dogma, without doubt do not rest upon so fragile a foundation. For they rest upon principles and notions deduced from a true knowledge of created things; in

quidem deducendis cognitionibus humanæ menti veritas divinitus revelata, quasi stella, per Ecclesiam illuxit. Quare mirum non est aliquas hujusmodi notiones a Conciliis Ecumenicis non solum adhibitae, sed etiam sancitas esse, *ita ut ab eis discedere nefas sit.*" (p. 566)

Et propter hanc rationem docet eadem Encyclica quod omnes *etiam in rebus philosophicis*, qua pars est reverentia animum intendere debent ad magisterium Ecclesiæ, "cuius profecto est, ex divina institutione, non solum veritatis divinitus revelatae depositum custodire et interpretari, sed ipsis etiam philosophicis disciplinis invigilare, ne quid detimenti ex placitis non rectis catholica patientur dogmata" (p. 575).

### b) Puncta systematica:

Alia et contra sunt puncta quædam systematica:

- i) Principium actus et potentiae;
- ii) distinctio realis inter naturam et personam;
- iii) distinctio materiæ et formæ, essentiæ et existentiæ in rebus creati;
- iv) quod facultates, habitus et actus specificantur ab obiecto formalis;
- v) de quantitate, de qualitatibus;
- vi) de diversis prædicamentis specificè intellecti;
- vii) de principio vitali in brutis;
- viii) de speciebus in cognitione;
- ix) de intellectu agente;
- x) de quinque viis specificè intellectis.

Istæ sunt theses quas Magisterium ecclesiasticum præfert inter alias, sed quas non supponit in suis definitionibus, licet verba definitionum desumantur ex hoc systemate.

Nota enim quod ista omnia possunt adhiberi ad significandos conceptus communes, quia aliqua distinctio inter essentiam et esse, inter actum et

which deductions, indeed, the divinely revealed truth shone forth, like a star, through the Church upon the human mind. Wherefore it is not surprising that some notions of this kind have not only been employed by Ecumenical Councils, but have even been sanctioned, *so that it is wrong to depart from them.*" (p. 566)

And for this reason the same Encyclical teaches that all, *even in philosophical matters*, must direct their mind with due reverence to the magisterium of the Church, "whose office it certainly is, by divine institution, not only to guard and interpret the deposit of divinely revealed truth, but also to keep watch over the philosophical disciplines themselves, lest Catholic dogmas suffer any harm from incorrect theories" (p. 575).

### b) Systematic Points:

Others, on the contrary, are certain systematic points:

- i) The principle of act and potency;
- ii) the real distinction between nature and person;
- iii) the distinction of matter and form, of essence and existence in created things;
- iv) that faculties, habits, and acts are specified by their formal object;
- v) concerning quantity, concerning qualities;
- vi) concerning diverse predicaments specifically understood;
- vii) concerning the vital principle in brute animals;
- viii) concerning species in cognition;
- ix) concerning the agent intellect;
- x) concerning the five ways specifically understood.

These are the theses which the ecclesiastical Magisterium prefers among others, but which it does not presuppose in its definitions, although the words of the definitions are drawn from this system.

Note, moreover, that all these things can be employed to signify common concepts, because some distinction between essence and existence, between act and potency, is absolutely necessary.

potentiam, est absolute necessaria.

Ita conceptus naturæ: est notio communis et necessaria pro theologia hoc sensu quod in omnibus hominibus sit aliquid identicum et stabile quod possumus cognoscere et relate ad quod possumus dicere cum infallibili certitudine: hoc ei debetur, illud non debetur.

*Ex his thesibus applicatis ad propositiones revelatas, non deducitur propositio theologice certa, neque hæc potes dicere theologice certa præcise quia non præsupponuntur in conciliis.* (Thesis de diverso obiecto formalí supernaturali in fide, licet videatur vera, non est plus quam probabilior). Notiones istæ sunt technicæ seu systematicæ; istæ non definiuntur, seu: *quæ definiuntur a concilio vel a Pontifice non sunt propria alicuius solius systematis.*

### ### III. DE DUPLICE RATIONE ALIQUID DEDUCENDI EX DOGMATE

#### a) Unice a priori

> Inter propositiones theologice certas quædam obtinentur via ratiocinii unice a priori: istæ vocantur a quibusdam *theologice certæ*, ab aliis *implicitè revelatæ*.

Et certe dici possunt *implicitè revelatæ* si deductio fieri potest cum omni certitudine et vere a priori, i.e. adhibendo solum prima principia rationis. Nam veritates revelatae in tantum intelliguntur a nobis in quantum sunt projectæ in nostram mentem et receptæ, assimilatæ, comprehensæ a nostra ratione cum suo apparatu primorum principiorum necessariorum.

Quare si adhibendo hæc prima principia nos in lucem ponimus diversos aspectus dati revelati obiective initialis, non concludimus ad veritates vere novas. Sicut construitur metaphysica generalis proficiendo ab aliquo dato initiali, i.e. a cogitatione humana obiectiva, sine recursu ad experientiam, quia ista est scientia legum necessiarum cognitionis obiectivæ, legum entis, atque ideo non habentur veritates vere novæ sed maior

Thus the concept of nature: it is a common and necessary notion for theology in this sense, that in all men there be something identical and stable which we can know and in relation to which we can say with infallible certitude: this is owed to it, that is not owed to it.

*From these theses applied to revealed propositions, no theologically certain proposition is deduced, nor can you call this theologically certain precisely because they are not presupposed in the councils.* (The thesis concerning the diverse supernatural formal object in faith, although it seems true, is no more than more probable). These notions are technical or systematic; these are not defined; or rather: *what is defined by a council or by a Pontiff does not belong properly to any one system alone.*

### ### III. ON THE TWOFOLD MANNER OF DEDUCING SOMETHING FROM DOGMA

#### a) Solely a priori

> Among theologically certain propositions, certain ones are obtained by way of reasoning solely a priori: these are called by some *theologically certain*, by others *implicitly revealed*.

And certainly they can be called *implicitly revealed* if the deduction can be made with complete certitude and truly a priori, i.e., by employing only the first principles of reason. For revealed truths are understood by us insofar as they are projected into our mind and received, assimilated, and comprehended by our reason with its apparatus of necessary first principles.

Wherefore, if by employing these first principles we bring to light diverse aspects of the initially given objective revealed datum, we do not conclude to truths that are truly new. Just as general metaphysics is constructed by proceeding from some initial given datum, i.e., from objective human thought, without recourse to experience, because it is the science of the necessary laws of objective thought, the laws of being, and therefore one does not obtain truths that are truly new but rather a greater explication of some

explicitatio alicuius obiecti per viam analysis: ita idem modus analyzingandi aliquod obiectum secundum suas partes essentiales in theologia non est aliud nisi ratiocinum explicativum per quod deducuntur formaliter implicite revelata.

Sic inveniuntur partes in toto et vice versa (Sacram. 7); ita elementa alicuius definitionis in obiecto quod cognoscitur; ita ideæ particulares in idea generali.

Si vocas has propositiones theologicæ certas, certe tamen hæ propositiones videntur definiri posse de fide catholica. In his enim ratiocinatio solum deservit ad explicandum sensum præmissæ quæ est revelata et quatenus est revelata.

### b) Addito facto contingentí

Si explicitatio fiat recurrendo ad aliquam veritatem facti, tunc est classis sequens.

Est classis illarum conclusionum quarum genesis supponit introductionem in ratiocinio alicuius veritatis non revelatae sed cognitæ per experientiam.

Facta dogmatica sunt illa quæ ut elementa facti ingrediuntur in aliquam propositionem quam nemo potest negare vel ut de fide vel ut theologicæ certam: quod Ecclesia sit infallibilis in facto dogmatico est saltem theologicæ certum.

Enumerantur omnia ista:

i) factum legitimatis alicuius Papæ vel alicuius concilii, ut Tridentini, (ingreditur ut elementum facti in omnibus dogmatibus Concilii Tridentini).

ii) sensus alicuius propositionis vel alicuius libri in relatione ad fidem (cf. Jansenium).

iii) character hæreticalis alicuius personæ (Nestorius, Wiclef): hoc potest esse necesse definire ne fideles inficiantur ab eorum doctrina.

iv) orthodoxy alicuius Patris Ecclesiæ vel alicuius eius libri.

v) sanctitas alicuius personæ (in

object by way of analysis: so likewise the same mode of analyzing some object according to its essential parts in theology is nothing other than explicative reasoning by which formally implicitly revealed truths are deduced.

Thus parts are found in the whole and vice versa (seven Sacraments); likewise the elements of some definition are found in the object that is known; likewise particular ideas are found in the general idea.

If you call these propositions theologically certain, nevertheless these propositions seem capable of being defined as matters of Catholic faith. For in these matters reasoning serves only to explain the meaning of a premise which is revealed and insofar as it is revealed.

### b) With the Addition of a Contingent Fact

If the explication is made by recourse to some truth of fact, then there is the following class.

This is the class of those conclusions whose genesis supposes the introduction into the reasoning of some truth that is not revealed but known through experience.

Dogmatic facts are those which as elements of fact enter into some proposition which no one can deny either as a matter of faith or as theologically certain: that the Church is infallible in dogmatic fact is at least theologically certain.

All these are enumerated:

i) the fact of the legitimacy of some Pope or of some council, such as Trent, (it enters as an element of fact in all the dogmas of the Council of Trent).

ii) the meaning of some proposition or of some book in relation to the faith (cf. Jansenius).

iii) the heretical character of some person (Nestorius, Wyclif): it may be necessary to define this lest the faithful be infected by their doctrine.

iv) the orthodoxy of some Father of the Church or of some book of his.

v) the sanctity of some person (in canonization).

canonizatione).

vi) nullitas vel realitas talis ordinationis, v.g. Anglicanorum.

vii) valor sanctificationis talis ordinis religiosi (approbatio ordinum religiosorum; non eo ipso omnes regulæ in particulari approbantur ut meliores).

viii) authenticitas Vulgatæ.

ix) factum talis obligationis quæ oritur ex tali lege ecclesiastica, v.g. sese confitendi semel in anno, vel communicandi in Pascha.

x) existentia sacramentalium.

xi) existentia talium impedimentorum in matrimonio.

Parum refert si non possumus dirimere quæstionem utrum quædam ex iis factis sint dogmata vel solum theologice certa: nam ex una parte videntur revelata hæc particularia: hoc ens creatum est, hic homo redemptus est, Concilium Tridentinum est infallibile, hic Papa est infallibilis: quia in iis casibus non fit additio Revelationis sed explicatio vel applicatio eius; ex alia tamen parte sciendum est quod multa in genere a Deo revelantur, ut credantur solum in genere: nam ego non teneor ad faciendum actum fidei quod hic puer sit natus in peccato originali, vel quod hic Papa sit infallibilis: sed teneor ad faciendum seu eliciendum actum fidei circa illa quæ ipse definiat.

Vel potes dicere quod quædam revelantur seu dicuntur a Deo non iam ad faciendum seu eliciendum actum fidei, sed per accidens vel cum ordine ad articulos fidei (ex. de pænula S. Pauli).

Deus enim loquendo nobiscum sese accommodat moribus humanis, sicut orator quædam dicit per accidens seu per transennam.

Propono alio modo punctum præcedens difficillimum: relate ad ea quæ deduci possunt, seu:

Relate ad virtualiter revelata, distinguendi sunt duo casus:

vi) the nullity or reality of such an ordination, for example, that of the Anglicans.

vii) the value of the sanctification of such a religious order (the approbation of religious orders; not thereby are all rules in particular approved as better).

viii) the authenticity of the Vulgate.

ix) the fact of such an obligation which arises from such an ecclesiastical law, for example, of confessing oneself once a year, or of communicating at Easter.

x) the existence of sacramentals.

xi) the existence of such impediments in matrimony.

It matters little if we cannot resolve the question whether certain of these facts are dogmas or only theologically certain: for on the one hand these particular things seem to be revealed: this being is created, this man is redeemed, the Council of Trent is infallible, this Pope is infallible: because in these cases there is no addition to Revelation but an explication or application of it; on the other hand, however, it must be known that many things are revealed by God in general, so that they are to be believed only in general: for I am not bound to make an act of faith that this child is born in original sin, or that this Pope is infallible: but I am bound to make or elicit an act of faith concerning those things which he himself defines.

Or you can say that certain things are revealed or spoken by God no longer for the purpose of making or eliciting an act of faith, but per accidens or in relation to the articles of faith (for example, concerning the cloak of St. Paul).

For God, in speaking with us, accommodates Himself to human customs, just as an orator says certain things incidentally or obliquely.

I propose in another manner the preceding most difficult point: in relation to those things which can be deduced, namely:

In relation to virtually revealed truths, two cases must be distinguished:

i) quædam conclusiones obtinentur ex dogmate mediante ratiocinio unice a priori, id est sine recursu ad experientiam seu ad aliquod factum contingens. In talibus conclusionibus est valde difficile definire præcise quænam sint formaliter implicite revelatae, quænam e contra solum virtualiter implicite revelatae; *videtur non admittenda illa distinctio inter syllogismum mere ostensivum, et syllogismum vere illativum.*

Nam ante definitionem Ecclesiæ tales conclusiones vocantur theologice certæ, ut Immaculata ante definitionem; post definitionem veniunt theologi et dicunt fidentes: illa est formaliter implicite revelata. De facto in his conclusionibus habetur vel solum novus conceptus eiusdem realitatis: sicut quando dico: est dogma cognitio Dei, ergo est theologice certa demonstratio: demonstratio enim est conceptus magis determinatus cognitionis; vel habetur proprietas quæ in realitate definita continetur ut in radice: est dogma quod Christus sit homo: ergo est theologice certum quod sit risibilis.

Istæ conclusiones possunt dici implicite revelatae si deductio fieri potest cum *vera certitudine adhibendo solum prima principia rationis*. In his valet plene ratiocinium Suresii et Lugonis; tales conclusiones possunt definiri et sunt credendæ de fide divina et catholica.

*Unica ratio quare saepe non possunt definiri est quia non sunt certæ, quia deducuntur cum aliqua minori rationis quæ non est absolute certa. Sed si propositio rationis esset absolute certa et a priori, certe conclusio posset definiri.*

*Et de facto tales conclusiones intrant in illam categoriam quam approbant auctores quando dicunt quod formaliter implicite revelatum est definitio in definito, conclusio in præmissis: illi conceptus novi, illæ proprietates, pertinent ad definitionem rei: nam nemo potest cum certitudine distinguere semper inter essentiam et proprietatem essentiale, et*

i) certain conclusions are obtained from dogma by means of reasoning uniquely *a priori*, that is, without recourse to experience or to any contingent fact. In such conclusions it is very difficult to define precisely which are formally implicitly revealed, which on the contrary are only virtually implicitly revealed; *it seems that distinction between a merely ostensive syllogism and a truly illative syllogism should not be admitted.*

For before the definition of the Church such conclusions are called theologically certain, as the Immaculate [Conception] before the definition; after the definition theologians come and say confidently: that is formally implicitly revealed. In fact in these conclusions there is had either only a new concept of the same reality: just as when I say: the knowledge of God is a dogma, therefore demonstration is theologically certain: for demonstration is a more determined concept of knowledge; or there is had a property which is contained in the defined reality as in a root: it is a dogma that Christ is man: therefore it is theologically certain that He is capable of laughter.

These conclusions can be said to be implicitly revealed if the deduction can be made with *true certitude employing only the first principles of reason*. In these matters the reasoning of Suresius and Lugo is fully valid; such conclusions can be defined and are to be believed with divine and Catholic faith.

*The sole reason why they often cannot be defined is that they are not certain, because they are deduced with some minor premise of reason which is not absolutely certain. But if the premise of reason were absolutely certain and a priori, certainly the conclusion could be defined.*

*And in fact such conclusions fall into that category which the authorities approve when they say that what is formally implicitly revealed is the definition in the defined, the conclusion in the premises: those new concepts, those properties, pertain to the definition of the thing: for no one can always distinguish with certainty between essence and essential property, and in distinctions of this kind*

in eiusmodi distinctionibus continetur semper aliquid arbitriarietatis.

*Et amplius: si tales conclusiones non possent definiri, nihil potest definiri novi nisi quod est expressis verbis in Scriptura: nam in omni syllogismo nos adhibemus prima principia rationis; v.g. ad deducendum quod Filius est consubstantialis Patri ex eo quod Christus dicit: "ego et Pater unum sumus", adhibeo principium identitatis et contradictionis.*

Supponamus nunc quod sit vera sententia thomistica quod persona constituatur a propria existentia, cur non posset definiri quod in Christo est tantum unum esse? Ratio praeceps quare hoc non potest definiri non est quia thesis illa de una existentia in una persona est veritas nova, sed quia non est veritas certa.

Omnis auctores dicunt: qui testatur aliquam veritatem formaliter explicite, implicite testatur omne illud quod sub his circumstantiis, et etiam futuris pro Deo, audiensi est eadem veritas. Iamvero audientes possunt esse diversi: si Christus dicit coram operario aliquo: "ego et Pater unum sumus", ille fere nihil intelligit; si dicit coram theologo, theologus dicit: est consubstantialis Patri; et in fine mundi quando cognitio Revelationis ex parte Ecclesiæ erit maior, melius adhuc intelligent illam veritatem et quæ necessario ex illa deducuntur possunt omnia dici formaliter implicite revelata.

Unde quod dicebant theologi veteres est verissimum: illæ consequentiæ sunt implicite revelatae quæ deducuntur ex revelata veritate, bona et necessaria consequentia.

ii) Sed sunt aliæ conclusiones, non *a priori* sed *a posteriori* in quarum præmissis continetur aliquid factum contingens, v.g. sanctitatis alicuius personæ in canonizatione; vel in authentia Vulgatae; in impedimentis matrimonii, quæ impedimenta omnino contingenter statuuntur ab Ecclesia; vel in cæremoniis Sacrificii Missæ et Sacramentorum, quæ etiam omnino contingenter statuuntur ab

there is always contained something of arbitrariness.

*And furthermore: if such conclusions could not be defined, nothing new could be defined except what is in express words in Scripture: for in every syllogism we employ the first principles of reason; for example, to deduce that the Son is consubstantial with the Father from the fact that Christ says: "I and the Father are one," I employ the principle of identity and contradiction.*

Let us now suppose that the Thomistic opinion is true that a person is constituted by its own existence, why could it not be defined that in Christ there is only one being? The reason precisely why this cannot be defined is not because that thesis concerning one existence in one person is a new truth, but because it is not a certain truth.

All authors say: whoever formally and explicitly testifies to some truth, implicitly testifies to all that which under these circumstances, and also in the future for God, is the same truth to the one hearing. Now indeed, hearers can be diverse: if Christ says before some workman: "I and the Father are one," he understands almost nothing; if He says this before a theologian, the theologian says: He is consubstantial with the Father; and at the end of the world when the knowledge of Revelation on the part of the Church will be greater, they will understand still better that truth, and all things which are necessarily deduced from it can be said to be formally implicitly revealed.

Whence what the ancient theologians said is most true: those consequences are implicitly revealed which are deduced from revealed truth by good and necessary consequence.

ii) But there are other conclusions, not *a priori* but *a posteriori*, in whose premises is contained some contingent fact, e.g., the sanctity of some person in canonization; or in the authenticity of the Vulgate; in the impediments to marriage, which impediments are established by the Church in an entirely contingent manner; or in the ceremonies of the Sacrifice of the Mass and of the Sacraments, which are also established by the Church in an entirely contingent

Ecclesia.

*Ista definiuntur et tamen non videntur revelata.* Ratio autem quare non sint credenda de fide divina et catholica videtur esse ista: adhuc non est dogma fidei quod Ecclesia in his definiendis sit infallibilis; est certum theologicamente. Si esset dogma, tunc etiam pro his plene valeret ratiocinium Suarezii et Lugonis: omnes definitiones Ecclesiæ, cuiuslibet generis, erunt dogmata fidei.

*Si enim Christus dixisset: ego vobis revelo quod Ecclesia in omnibus quæ definit est infallibilis, seu dicit verum,* Christus ipse cum illa propositione generali affirmavisset veritatem illarum definitionum. Quid est enim affirmare aliquam propositionem nisi dicere: est vera? Utique alia veritas est infallibilitas Ecclesiæ, alia veritas est propositio definita ab Ecclesia; sed sunt duas veritates necessario connexæ: unde qui affirmat unam, affirmat etiam aliam: sicut qui dicit: "Ego et Pater unus sumus", affirms etiam consubstantialitatem et qui affirms principia et videt conclusiones eo ipso affirms conclusiones quæ necessario ab ipsis videt deducendas esse.

*Breviter ergo:* illa quæ deducuntur cum absoluta certitudine unice a priori, videntur esse omnia revelata; unica distinctio est utrum sint implicite an explicitè revelata; et de facto etiam Encyclica "HUMANI GENERIS" loquitur solum de tali distinctione, ubi dicit:

> "Verum quoque est, theologis semper redeundum esse ad divinæ revelationis fontes: eorum enim est indicare qua ratione ea quæ a vivo Magisterio docentur, in Sacris Litteris et in divina 'traditione', sive explicitè, sive implicitè inveniantur" (p. 568). (Pius IX, *Inter gravissimas*, 28 oct. 1870, *Acta*, vol. I., p. 260).

*Alia distinctio inter formaliter revelatum et virtualiter revelatum, quasi virtualiter revelatum definiri non possit, licet deducatur cum certitudine a revelato,*

manner.

*These things are defined and yet they do not appear to be revealed.* But the reason why they are not to be believed as matters of divine and Catholic faith seems to be this: it is not yet a dogma of faith that the Church in defining these matters is infallible; it is theologically certain. If it were a dogma, then even for these matters the reasoning of Suárez and Lugon would be fully valid: all definitions of the Church, of whatever kind, will be dogmas of faith.

*For if Christ had said: I reveal to you that the Church in all things which it defines is infallible, or speaks the truth,* Christ Himself with that general proposition would have affirmed the truth of those definitions. For what is it to affirm any proposition except to say: it is true? Indeed, the infallibility of the Church is one truth, the proposition defined by the Church is another truth; but they are two truths necessarily connected: whence whoever affirms the one, also affirms the other: just as whoever says: "I and the Father are one," also affirms consubstantiality, and whoever affirms principles and sees conclusions thereby affirms the conclusions which he sees must necessarily be deduced from them.

*Briefly therefore:* those things which are deduced with absolute certainty solely from a priori reasoning, appear all to be revealed; the only distinction is whether they are implicitly or explicitly revealed; and in fact the Encyclical "HUMANI GENERIS" also speaks only of such a distinction, where it says:

> "It is likewise true that theologians must always return to the sources of divine revelation: for it is their task to indicate by what reasoning those things which are taught by the living Magisterium are to be found in Sacred Scripture and in divine 'tradition,' whether explicitly or implicitly" (p. 568). (Pius IX, *Inter gravissimas*, 28 October 1870, *Acta*, vol. I., p. 260).

*Another distinction between what is formally revealed and what is virtually revealed—as though what is virtually revealed cannot be defined, even though it is deduced with certainty from what is*

*videtur non esse admittenda.*

### IV. QUID ERGO SIT REVELATUM FORMALITER EXPLICITE, VEL IMPLICITE; QUID VIRTUALITER REVELATUM; DISTINCTIONIS INTER IPSA

**1. Explico ante omnia unde desumatur distinctio rationis ratiocinantis :**

... ex diversis scilicet respectibus unius rei vel conceptus ad alias res; Homo: animal rationale (essent denominations mere extrinsecæ); distinctio vero ratiocinatae rei desumitur ex eadem re quæ præbet fundamentum tali distinctioni.

Quia aliquid potest esse revelatum formaliter explicite vel formaliter implicite: quæ distinguuntur a conceptu revelato per distinctionem rationis ratiocinantis, ut Trinitas, ὁμοούσιος, unio hypostatica sunt formaliter implicite revelata; quæ distinguuntur distinctione rationis ratiocinatae sunt etiam formaliter implicite revelata, sed antequam proponantur ab Ecclesia, communiter dicuntur theologicæ certa; postquam vero proposita sunt, vera dogmata. Quæ autem distinguuntur realiter, non sunt revelata, nisi aliunde constet.

**2. Formaliter explicite revelatum est id quod ipsi termini locutionis exprimunt.**

Potest fieri termino proprio: Deus fortis, Deus dixit quæ sunt in libris sacris, Verbum caro factum est, locutus est per prophetas. Potest fieri termino metaphorico: dominus exercituum, ego sum vitis vos palmites.

*Sed non est confundendum id quod expressis verbis in propositione aliqua significatur, cum eo quod prima fronte ex sola lectione vel auditione propositionis percipitur.* Potest enim accidere quod sensus verborum solum ex longa inquisitione innotescat et multæ sunt veritates explicite revelatae quæ tales non apparent, nisi adhibeantur multa

*revealed—seems not to be admissible.*

### IV. WHAT THEREFORE IS FORMALLY REVEALED, WHETHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY; WHAT IS VIRTUALLY REVEALED; THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM

**1. I explain before all else whence is derived the distinction of reasoning reason:**

... namely, from the different relations of one thing or concept to other things; Man: rational animal (these would be merely extrinsic denominations); but the distinction of reasoned thing is derived from the same thing which provides the foundation for such a distinction.

Because something can be revealed formally explicitly or formally implicitly: those things which are distinguished from the revealed concept by a distinction of reasoning reason (*distinctio rationis ratiocinantis*), such as the Trinity, ὁμοούσιος [consubstantial], and hypostatic union, are formally implicitly revealed; those things which are distinguished by a distinction of reasoned reason (*distinctio rationis ratiocinatae*) are also formally implicitly revealed, but before they are proposed by the Church, they are commonly called theologically certain; after they have been proposed, however, they are true dogmas. Those things, moreover, which are distinguished really [*realiter*], are not revealed, unless it is established from another source.

**2. That which is formally explicitly revealed is that which the very terms of the expression convey.**

This can be done by a proper term: mighty God, God has spoken what is in the sacred books, the Word was made flesh, He has spoken through the prophets. It can be done by a metaphorical term: Lord of hosts, I am the vine, you are the branches.

*But that which is signified in expressed words in any proposition must not be confused with that which is perceived at first glance from the mere reading or hearing of the proposition.* For it can happen that the sense of the words becomes known only after long inquiry, and there are many truths explicitly revealed which do not appear as such unless many arguments are applied.

argumenta.

**3. Formaliter implicite revelatum est quod formaliter continetur in explicito revelato seu formaliter idem est cum explicite revelato.**

Sic continetur:

- a) definitio in definito et vice versa: hoc est corpus meum: transubstantiatio;
- b) relativum in correlative: ita revelata una propositione revelatum est contrariam et contradictoriam esse hæreticam;
- c) partes physicæ essentiales in toto et totum in partibus;
- d) propositio particularis in universalis;
- e) conclusio in præmissis. Nam principium ex quo syllogismus procedit se habet ad conclusionem ut totum ad partem et conclusio se habet ad principium ut pars ad totum. Quare consequens est pars antecedentis.

Do exemplum: initium fidei est actus supernaturalis; ad omnem actum supernaturalem requiritur gratia; ergo etiam ad initium fidei requiritur gratia.

Patet quod in his ut transeam ex uno ad aliud sufficit explicatio terminorum quia quodlibet ex his ingreditur in definitionem alterius. Qui locutus est nobis in Filio, eo ipso dixit revelationem esse possibilem, dixit esse convenientem (Dz. 1807). Supra locutus sum de propositionibus quæ obtinentur a propositione revelata unice a priori seu via metaphysica: sunt istæ.

Do autem exempla quæ probant hæc, antequam definiantur ab Ecclesia, haberi ut theologice certa:

- a) quod Trinitas, Incarnatio et Eucharistia sint mysteria;
- b) quod rationes contrariæ non sint cogentes seu evidentes;
- c) quod Trinitas, etiam post Revelationem divinam, non potest demonstrari sola

**3. That which is formally implicitly revealed is what is formally contained in the explicitly revealed, or is formally the same as the explicitly revealed.**

It is thus contained:

- a) the definition in the thing defined and vice versa: this is my body: transubstantiation;
- b) the relative in its correlative: thus, with one proposition having been revealed, it is revealed that the contrary and contradictory [proposition] is heretical;
- c) the essential physical parts in the whole and the whole in the parts;
- d) the particular proposition in the universal;
- e) the conclusion in the premises. For the principle from which the syllogism proceeds is related to the conclusion as the whole to the part, and the conclusion is related to the principle as the part to the whole. Wherefore the consequent is part of the antecedent.

I give an example: the beginning of faith is a supernatural act; for every supernatural act grace is required; therefore for the beginning of faith also grace is required.

It is evident that in these matters, in order to pass from one to another, the explication of terms suffices, because each of these enters into the definition of the other. He who has spoken to us in the Son, by that very fact has said that revelation is possible, has said that it is fitting (Dz. 1807). Above I have spoken of propositions which are obtained from a revealed proposition solely *a priori* or by the metaphysical way: these are they.

I give, moreover, examples which prove that these, before they are defined by the Church, are held as theologically certain:

- a) that the Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Eucharist are mysteries;
- b) that contrary arguments are not cogent or evident;
- c) that the Trinity, even after divine Revelation, cannot be demonstrated by reason alone.

ratione.

Hic autem adverte aliquam differentiam in terminologia auctorum. De mysterio Incarnationis quidam dicunt esse doctrinam catholicam quod sit mysterium, quia Pius IX nominat illud mysterium in aliqua epistola afferendo illud ut exemplum de mysteriis, et quod rationes non sint evidentes dicunt quod est theologice certum; de Trinitate quod non possit demonstrari ; alii dicunt esse proximum fidei.

**4.** Testis testando aliquam veritatem formaliter et explicite, æquivalenter seu implicite testatur omne id quod in his circumstantiis, et etiam futuris pro Deo, in verbis suis continetur.

Hæc sunt quæ mere a priori cum firma certitudine deduci possunt a sua propositione attestata. Agitur enim de sensu locutionis attestantis. Ita qui testatur Christum esse hominem perfectum testatur eo ipso eum habere voluntatem humanam; Deus qui testatur se esse cum Apostolis usque ad finem mundi, testatur futuros quosdam successores Apostolorum (episcopos); qui testatur dari mysteria (Dz. 1796) (“loquimur Dei sapientiam in mysterio quæ abscondita est”), eo ipso revelat ad cognoscenda mysteria necessariam esse revelationem.

**5.** Sed possunt evenire quædam adjuncta in sæculis futuris in quibus verba a Spiritu Sancto inspirata plenius intelliguntur; ut nunc nos quædam percipimus in Scriptura et Traditione quæ antea non percipiebant.

Hoc criterium bene explicat quomodo nunc possit esse de fide quod antea erat v.g. solum theologice certum, vel doctrina catholica, quin tamen fiat nunc nova revelatio.

Debes enim retinere et conciliare hæc duo:

> i) Revelatio clausa est cum Apostolis, quod est saltem *theologice certum*.

Nam:

Here, however, note a certain difference in the terminology of authors. Concerning the mystery of the Incarnation, some say it is Catholic doctrine that it is a mystery, because Pius IX names it a mystery in a certain epistle, bringing it forward as an example of mysteries, and that the reasons [for it] are not evident they say is theologically certain; concerning the Trinity, that it cannot be demonstrated; others say it is proximate to the faith.

**4.** A witness, in bearing witness to some truth formally and explicitly, equivalently or implicitly bears witness to everything that is contained in his words in these circumstances, and also in future ones for God.

These are things which can be deduced purely a priori with firm certitude from his attested proposition. For it is a question of the sense of the utterance of the one bearing witness. Thus he who bears witness that Christ is a perfect man thereby bears witness that He has a human will; God who bears witness that He is with the Apostles until the end of the world, bears witness that there will be certain successors of the Apostles (bishops); he who bears witness that mysteries are given (Dz. 1796) (“we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery which is hidden”), by that very fact reveals that revelation is necessary for knowing the mysteries.

**5.** But certain circumstances can occur in future centuries in which words inspired by the Holy Spirit are more fully understood; just as we now perceive certain things in Scripture and Tradition which previously they did not perceive.

This criterion well explains how something can now be a matter of faith which previously was, for example, only theologically certain, or Catholic doctrine, without, however, any new revelation now being made.

For you must retain and reconcile these two things:

> i) Revelation was closed with the Apostles, which is at least *theologically certain*.

For:

a) nimis patet ex *Scriptura* quod præsens œconomia Ecclesiæ Jesu Christi est status ultimus atque supremus divinæ manifestationis pro hac conditione mortali generis humani.

b) Christus in ultima cœna dicit Apostolis, loquendo de Spiritu Sancto: *docebit vos omnem veritatem*, scilicet totam veritatem salutarem revelandam; patet autem quod hic spectat Apostolos personaliter, nam ipsi sunt qui multa quæ Christus dicturus esset non possunt portare modo, et qui e contra, cum venerit Spiritus veritatis, docebuntur omnem veritatem.

c) Ascensurus autem in cœlum Christus dicit Apostolis: *docete eos servare omnia quæcumque mandavi vobis*; et hoc explicat quid sint illa omnia de quibus loquebatur in ultima cœna;

d) S. Paulus semper commendat suis discipulis custodire depositum et prohibet recipere eos qui proferant aliquid, præter doctrinam quam “*vos didicistis*”, quia omnes fideles sunt ædificandi supra fundamentum Apostolorum et prophetarum, et non super aliud fundamentum.

e) Si quod dubium adhuc maneret, quæstio deciditur ex diserta doctrina et pratico agendi modo totius Ecclesiæ. Semper enim valebat hoc principium: quidquid novum est non ad fidem pertinet, sed ad haeresim. Definire autem quod aliquod caput ad fidem catholicam pertineat est idem, secundum stilum conciliorum, quod talis doctrina ad nos pervenit ut revelata ab Apostolis, sive in divina Scriptura, sive in Traditione etiam sine scripto.

> ii) Licet autem Revelatio sit clausa, nunc tamen sunt quædam dogmata quæ antea explicate non cognoscabantur.

Aliud enim est propositionem aliquam *secundum se esse de fide*, aliud vero esse *nobis de fide*. Ad primum sufficit quod sit a Deo revelata; ad secundum requiritur quod Revelationis sensus et significatio nobis constet sufficienter.

a) it is *too evident from Scripture* that the present economy of the Church of Jesus Christ is the ultimate and supreme state of divine manifestation for this mortal condition of the human race.

b) Christ at the Last Supper says to the Apostles, speaking of the Holy Spirit: *he will teach you all truth*, namely, the whole saving truth to be revealed; but it is clear that this regards the Apostles personally, for they are the ones who cannot now bear the many things which Christ was about to say, and who, on the contrary, when the Spirit of truth shall come, will be taught all truth.

c) Moreover, Christ ascending into heaven says to the Apostles: *teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*; and this explains what are those all things of which He was speaking at the Last Supper;

d) St. Paul always commends to his disciples to guard the deposit and forbids them to receive those who put forward anything beyond the doctrine which “you have learned,” because all the faithful are to be built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, and not upon another foundation.

e) If any doubt should still remain, the question is decided from the express teaching and practical mode of acting of the entire Church. For this principle has always held: whatever is new does not pertain to the faith, but to heresy. Moreover, to define that some article pertains to the Catholic faith is the same thing, according to the style of councils, as [to say] that such a doctrine has come down to us as revealed by the Apostles, whether in divine Scripture or in Tradition even without writing.

> ii) Although Revelation is closed, nevertheless there are now certain dogmas which were not previously known explicitly.

For it is one thing for a proposition to be of the faith *in itself*, another thing indeed for it to be of the faith *for us*. For the first it suffices that it be revealed by God; for the second it is required that the sense and signification of the Revelation be sufficiently

Exemplum est in Scriptura: quando coram rege Baltassare scripta fuerunt in pariete verba illa: *mane, thecel, phares*, quibus significabatur quod Deus numeraverat regnum Baltassaris et quod illud regnum erat in fine; quare, posita illa scriptura, iam hæc veritas erat revelata a Deo, et Daniel, ubi primum scripturam illam legerat, debebat ex fide obiectum illud credere tanquam a Deo revelatum. Rex tamen, antequam a Daniele explicaretur de quo obiecto loqueretur Deus, non debebat nec poterat veritatem illam de fide credere. Erat ergo veritas illa iam *de fide secundum se*; regi tamen et aliis nondum erat de fide.

Ita Deus iam dixit nobis in Scriptura et Traditione omnia quæ volebat dicere; sed nos intelligimus secundum capacitatem nostram; in sæculis futuris non negabunt quæ nos dicimus, quia dogmata sunt immutabilia, sed *pleniū intelligent*. Quis enim posset plene exponere illum textum: *Verbum caro factum est?* Quis posset exaurire sensum illorum verborum: *Ego sum vitis, vos palmites?*

Unde Encyclica "Humani Generis" docet:  
 > "... uterque doctrinæ divinitus revelatae fons tot tantosque continet thesauros veritatis, ut numquam reapse exauriatur." (p. 568)

Cum hoc criterio ruit totus apparatus scientificus Modernistarum, (Dz. 2039; 2040), qui putant se facessere magnam difficultatem Ecclesiæ ex eo quod quædam dogmata historicæ probari nequeant ex toto decursu sæculorum incipiendo ab Apostolis usque ad nos. Non est indispensabile omnia probare a sæculis præteritis: Spiritus Sanctus etiam hodie assistit Ecclesiæ atque viis nobis ignotis dirigit attentionem eius ad melius intelligenda quæ Ipse locutus est per prophetas.

**6. Si revelata est essentia metaphysica alicuius rei, revelatae sunt etiam eius proprietates metaphysicæ, non autem eius proprietates etiam physicæ; si**

established to us.

An example is in Scripture: when those words were written on the wall before King Belshazzar: *mane, tekel, peres*, by which it was signified that God had numbered the kingdom of Belshazzar and that kingdom was at its end; therefore, once that writing was set forth, this truth was already revealed by God, and Daniel, as soon as he had read that writing, ought to have believed that object from faith as revealed by God. The king, however, before it was explained by Daniel concerning what object God was speaking, neither ought to have nor could have believed that truth as of the faith. Therefore that truth was already *of the faith in itself*; for the king, however, and for others it was not yet of the faith.

Thus God has already said to us in Scripture and Tradition all that He wished to say; but we understand according to our capacity; in future ages they will not deny what we say, because dogmas are immutable, but *they will understand more fully*. For who could fully expound that text: *The Word was made flesh?* Who could exhaust the meaning of those words: *I am the vine, you are the branches?*

Hence the Encyclical "Humani Generis" teaches:

> "... each source of divinely revealed doctrine contains so many and such great treasures of truth that they can never really be exhausted." (p. 568)

With this criterion the entire scientific apparatus of the Modernists collapses, (Dz. 2039; 2040), who think they are removing a great difficulty from the Church by the fact that certain dogmas cannot be historically proven throughout the entire course of centuries beginning from the Apostles down to us. It is not indispensable to prove everything from past centuries: the Holy Spirit even today assists the Church and by ways unknown to us directs its attention to a better understanding of what He Himself has spoken through the prophets.

**6. If the metaphysical essence of something has been revealed, its metaphysical properties have also been revealed, but not its physical properties**

**revelata est essentia in suo statu connaturali, revelatae sunt proprietates connaturales; si revelata est essentia ut in statu perfecto, revelatae sunt etiam omnes perfectiones accidentales.**

Ita de Christo revelata est essentia humana metaphysice spectata et in statu perfecto, non autem in statu suo connaturali; ex hac triplici consideratione S. Thomas construit theses de proprietatibus illius naturae humanae. In Eucharistia revelata est praesentia Christi, sed non in statu connaturali quia non occupat locum.

Revelatum est quod Maria sit Mater Dei, sed non modo naturali quia *ex Spiritu Sancto*: esse Matrem et esse Matrem modo naturali realiter distinguuntur.

Resumo dando exempla:

- a) (i) “Verbum caro factum est” (*formaliter explicite revelatum*).  
 (ii) Verbum personaliter seu hypostatico naturae humanae unitum est (*implicite revelatum*).  
 (iii) Ergo conceptus personae in genere aliquomodo distinguitur a conceptu naturae (*theologice certum*).
- b)(i) “Qui vero non crediderit condemnabitur”.  
 (ii) Fides necessaria et irrevocabilis (*implicite revelatum*).  
 (iii) Ergo requiritur prævia certitudo facti Revelationis (*theologice certum*).
- c) (i) “Erant nudi et non erubescabant”.  
 (ii) Non habebant concupiscentiam (*implicite revelatum*).  
 (iii) Ergo integritas est donum indebitum, quia per peccatum concupiscentia venit et tamen natura non est corrupta.
- d) (i) “Hoc est corpus meum”.  
 (ii) Transubstantiatio.  
 (iii) Ergo manent accidentia.
- e) (i) “Ego rogavi pro te ut non deficiat fides tua”.

**as well; if the essence has been revealed in its connatural state, the connatural properties have been revealed; if the essence has been revealed as in a perfect state, all accidental perfections have also been revealed.**

Thus concerning Christ, the human essence was revealed as considered metaphysically and in a perfect state, but not in its connatural state; from this threefold consideration St. Thomas constructs theses concerning the properties of that human nature. In the Eucharist, the presence of Christ was revealed, but not in a connatural state because He does not occupy a place.

It was revealed that Mary is the Mother of God, but not in a natural mode because *by the Holy Spirit*: to be Mother and to be Mother in a natural mode are really distinguished.

I summarize by giving examples:

- a) (i) “The Word was made flesh” (*formally explicitly revealed*).  
 (ii) The Word is personally or hypostatically united to human nature (*implicitly revealed*).  
 (iii) Therefore the concept of person in general is in some way distinguished from the concept of nature (*theologically certain*).
- b)(i) “But he who does not believe will be condemned.”  
 (ii) Faith necessary and irrevocable (*implicitly revealed*).  
 (iii) Therefore prior certitude of the fact of Revelation is required (*theologically certain*).
- c) (i) “They were naked and were not ashamed.”  
 (ii) They did not have concupiscence (*implicitly revealed*).  
 (iii) Therefore integrity is an unowed gift, because through sin concupiscence came and yet nature is not corrupted.
- d) (i) “This is my body.”  
 (ii) Transubstantiation.  
 (iii) Therefore the accidents remain.
- e) (i) “I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not”.

- (ii) Ergo Petrus est infallibilis.
- (iii) Ergo est infallibilis etiam in facto dogmatico.
- f) (i) Pater Deus, Filius Deus, Spiritus Sanctus Deus.
- (ii) Ergo sunt consubstantiales.
- (iii) Ergo est distinctio saltem rationis inter naturam et personam in genere.

**7. Etiam ex praxi Ecclesiæ, scilicet ex iure canonico, ex vita liturgica, ascetica, mystica Ecclesiæ sicut possunt probari quædam quæ sunt dogmata, ita possunt etiam quædam quæ sunt doctrina catholica vel theologicæ certa cum illis coniuncta.**

Præsertim circa vitam mysticam et asceticam sunt multa documenta doctrinalia sive positiva sive negativa quæ statuant doctrinam vel damnant errores de vita spirituali (Dz. 1221 sq.).

Sunt etiam documenta practica:

a) in legibus ecclesiasticis spectantibus varios status qui perfectionem vel postulant vel assequi conantur, ut status ecclesiasticus et religiosus: ex quibus elucet quænam sit mens Ecclesiæ de mediis aptis ad perfectionem obtainendam et de periculis cavendis in eius studio; hæc omnia possunt dici doctrina catholica vel theologicæ certa.

In hoc puncto hodie sæpe auditur: quid faciunt v.g. illæ moniales quæ numquam exeunt? Cur non exeunt ad faciendam actionem catholicam? *Respondeo* quod faciunt sacrificium suæ vitæ, quod est maximum quod potest fieri in hoc mundo pro actione catholica.

Si ita putavisset S. Theresia ab Infante Iesu, hodie non haberemus in Ecclesia tale prodigium sanctitatis. Sed neque ipse Christus ita putavit: mansit per 30 annos in vita fabri. Cur potius non exivit ad faciendam actionem catholicam? Quæ, ut patet, est nimis stulta interrogatio.

b) quando approbat ordines religiosos

- (ii) Therefore Peter is infallible.
- (iii) Therefore he is infallible also in dogmatic fact.
- f) (i) The Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God.
- (ii) Therefore they are consubstantial.
- (iii) Therefore there is at least a rational distinction between nature and person in general.

**7. Also from the practice of the Church, namely from canon law, from the liturgical, ascetical, and mystical life of the Church, just as certain matters which are dogmas can be proven, so also certain matters which are Catholic doctrine or theologically certain connected with them can be proven.**

Especially concerning the mystical and ascetical life, there are many doctrinal documents both positive and negative which establish doctrine or condemn errors concerning the spiritual life (Denzinger 1221 ff.).

There are also practical documents:

a) in ecclesiastical laws pertaining to various states which either require perfection or strive to attain it, such as the ecclesiastical and religious state: from which is made clear what the mind of the Church is concerning the means suitable for obtaining perfection and concerning the dangers to be avoided in its pursuit; all these matters can be called Catholic doctrine or theologically certain.

On this point today one frequently hears: what are they doing, for example, those nuns who never go out? Why do they not go out to engage in Catholic action? *I respond* that they make a sacrifice of their life, which is the greatest thing that can be done in this world for Catholic action.

If Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus had thought thus, today we would not have in the Church such a prodigy of sanctity. But neither did Christ himself think thus: he remained for 30 years in the life of a craftsman. Why rather did he not go out to engage in Catholic action? Which, as is evident, is an exceedingly foolish question.

b) when the Church approves religious orders, she

Ecclesia authentice declarat talem formam vitæ esse medium aptum ad sectandam perfectionem: unde quod regula S. Francisci vel S. Dominici vel S. Ignatii sit regula apta etiam hodie si Ecclesia non putat esse mutandam, est doctrina catholica vel theologice certum. Non loquor, ut patet, de singulis regulis in minimis.

Etiam hic auditur aliquando: sunt multa reformanda, sunt res veteres, res mediævales.

Etiam ego puto quod multa sint melius adaptanda exigentibus modernis et temporibus mutatis, sed ista adaptatio facienda est a Pontifice et ab episcopis. At initiativa potest esse a privatis?

Concedo, sed initiativa quæ fundetur in discretione, in modestia, in patientia, in humilitate.

c) in canonizatione sanctorum est doctrina catholica vel theologice certum quod vita sancti sit eximium exemplar vitæ christianæ: sancitur utique complexus generalis vitæ servi Dei, non autem valor singulorum actuum et multo minus imitabilitas eorundem seu aptitudo ut imitentur ab omnibus. Hoc non sancitur. Unde non ex eo quod aliquid est factum vel dictum ab aliquo sancto, ista potest esse unica ratio cur possit fieri ab omnibus.

Ita S. Paulus restitit in faciem Petri quia reprehensibilis erat: et tamen esset nimis periculoso velle illum imitari in hoc punto.

**8. Qui negat propositionem vere theologice certam et sciat esse propositionem theologice certam committit peccatum grave.**

Ista culpa est suo modo contra fidem propter connexionem quam conclusio theologica vel factum dogmaticum habet cum fide.

## PARS SECUNDA: *DE NOTIS SIMUL COMPARATIS*

| NUMERUS | NOTA THEOLOGICA |

authentically declares that such a form of life is a suitable means for pursuing perfection: whence the fact that the rule of Saint Francis or Saint Dominic or Saint Ignatius is a rule suitable even today if the Church does not judge it ought to be changed, is Catholic doctrine or theologically certain. I do not speak, as is evident, of individual rules in minor matters.

Here too one sometimes hears: there are many things to be reformed, these are old things, medieval things.

I too think that many things ought to be better adapted to modern requirements and changed times, but this adaptation must be made by the Pontiff and by the bishops. But can the initiative come from private persons?

I grant it, but an initiative which is founded on discretion, on modesty, on patience, on humility.

c) in the canonization of saints it is Catholic doctrine, or theologically certain, that the life of the saint be an outstanding exemplar of Christian life: what is sanctioned is indeed the general complex of the life of the Servant of God, but not the value of individual acts and much less their imitability or aptitude to be imitated by all. This is not sanctioned. Whence it does not follow that because something was done or said by some saint, this alone can be the reason why it may be done by all.

Thus St. Paul resisted Peter to his face because he was to be blamed: and yet it would be exceedingly dangerous to wish to imitate him in this point.

**8. Whoever denies a proposition that is truly theologically certain and knows it to be a theologically certain proposition commits a grave sin.**

This fault is in its own way against the faith by reason of the connection which a theological conclusion or dogmatic fact has with the faith.

## PART TWO: *CONCERNING THE SIGNS COMPARED TOGETHER*

| NUMBER | THEOLOGICAL NOTE | CENSURE |

## CENSURA | ASSENSUS |

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| 1 | **DOGMA FIDEI** = DE FIDE, = DE FIDE CATHOLICA; = DE FIDE DIVINA ET CATHOLICA (Dz 1792). Doctrina (= iudicium) revelata, revelatione publica, de fide et moribus, definita ut revelata | *Anathema sit* Hæresis contra fidem divinam | *Absolutus ex lumine fidei divinæ* |

| 2 | **DE FIDE ECCLESIASTICA DEFINITA** | *Anathema sit* Hæresis contra fidem ecclesiasticam | *Absolutus Ex lumine fidei ecclesiastica* |

| 3 | **DE FIDE DIVINA** = Materia revelata sed non proposita ab Ecclesia | Error in fide | *Absolutus Ex lumine fidei divinæ* |

| 4 | **PROXIMA FIDEI** | Errori proxima | *Theologicus ex lumine* : • fidei • Magisterii Ecclesiæ rationis |

| 5 | **THEOLOGICE CERTUM** | Error in theology | *Theologicus ex lumine* : • fidei • Magisterii Ecclesiæ rationis |

| 6 | **DOCTRINA CATHOLICA** Aliqui ponunt ante *Theologice Certum* | Saltem temeraria | *Theologicus ex lumine* : • fidei • Magisterii Ecclesiæ rationis |

| 7 | **CERTUM, COMMUNE ET CERTUM, MORALITER CERTUM** Pro aliquibus = *Theologice certum* | Temeraria | *Theologicus ex lumine* : • fidei • Magisterii Ecclesiæ rationis |

| 8 | **SECURUM seu TUTUM** Contrarium tuto doceri non potest | Temeraria | *Externus* (+ *Internus* nisi obstet ratio gravis) |

| 9 | **COMMUNIUS, COMMUNISSIMUM** — quod dicit minus quam *commune* | Nulla | Liber |

| 10 | **PROBABILIUS, PROBABLE** • probabilitate extrinseca ex auctoritate • probabilitate intrinseca ex natura rei | Nulla | Liber |

| **PECCATUM | EXPLICATIONES | EXEMPLA |**

## ASSENT |

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| 1 | **DOGMA OF FAITH** = OF FAITH, = OF CATHOLIC FAITH; = OF DIVINE AND CATHOLIC FAITH (Denzinger 1792). Doctrine (= judgment) revealed, by public revelation, concerning faith and morals, defined as revealed | *Anathema sit* Heresy against divine faith | *Absolute from the light of divine faith* |

| 2 | **OF ECCLESIASTICAL FAITH DEFINED** | *Anathema sit* Heresy against ecclesiastical faith | *Absolute From the light of ecclesiastical faith* |

| 3 | **OF DIVINE FAITH** = Matter revealed but not proposed by the Church | Error in faith | *Absolute From the light of divine faith* |

| 4 | **PROXIMATE TO FAITH** | Proximate to error | *Theological from the light of:* • faith • Magisterium of the Church reason |

| 5 | **THEOLOGICALLY CERTAIN** | Error in theology | *Theological from the light of:* • faith • Magisterium of the Church reason |

| 6 | **CATHOLIC DOCTRINE** Some place this before *Theologically Certain* | At least rash | *Theological from the light of:* • faith • Magisterium of the Church reason |

| 7 | **CERTAIN, COMMON AND CERTAIN, MORALLY CERTAIN** For some = *Theologically certain* | Rash | *Theological from the light of:* • faith • Magisterium of the Church reason |

| 8 | **SAFE or SECURE** The contrary cannot be safely taught | Rash | *External* (+ *Internal* unless a grave reason stands in the way) |

| 9 | **MORE COMMON, MOST COMMON** — which says less than *common* | None | Free |

| 10 | **MORE PROBABLE, PROBABLE** • with extrinsic probability from authority • with intrinsic probability from the nature of the thing | None | Free |

| **SIN/ERROR | EXPLANATIONS | EXAMPLES** |

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| *Mortale* Directe contra fidem + pœna canonica | = Dogma solemni modo definitum a Papa vel a Concilio Generali  
**De Fide Definita** | • Immaculata Conceptio Beatæ Mariæ Virginis • Sacrificium Missæ • Iurisdictio Pontificis definita in Vaticano |

| *Mortale* Directe contra fidem + pœna canonica | = Dogma ex ordinario Magisterio propositum in documentis officialibus et in symbolis | • Absentia omnis erroris in textu inspirato (Dz 1952) • Symbolum Athanasii |

| *Mortale* Directe contra fidem + pœna canonica | Materia non revelata sed definita ex cathedra | • Communio sub una specie (Dz 626) • Chrismatio (Dz 872) • ordines minores (Dz 962) |

| *Mortale* Directe contra fidem | Differt a dogmate quia non proponitur ab Ecclesia | • Christus ab initio vitæ suæ dixit se esse Messiam • Meruit sibi animæ impassibilitatem et corporis gloriam |

| *Mortale* Indirecte contra fidem | Ex fere unanimi consensu habetur ut revelata | • Gratia habitualis et visio beatifica in Christo • Monogenismus contra polygenismum |

| *Mortale* Indirecte contra fidem | • Ex propositionibus revelata et certa aliunde • Facta dogmatica | • Existencia Dei potest demonstrari • Concilium Tridentinum est legitimum |

| *Mortale* Indirecte contra fidem | Nondum ut Verbum Dei sed expresse et authentice docetur, v.g. in encyclicis | Auctores inspirati sunt auctores veri sed secundarii |

| *Possibile mortale* temeritatis | • Commune omnibus scholis • Certum sed minus immediate conclusum ex veritate revelata | • Quod integritas sit donum indebitum • Sacramenta sunt veræ causæ |

| *Mortale inobedientiae* | Absolute non repugnat quod sit aliquid falsi | • Quæ continentur in decretis doctrinalibus Congregationum Romanarum

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| *Mortal* Directly against the faith + canonical penalty | = Dogma solemnly defined by the Pope or by a General Council **Of Defined Faith** | • Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary • Sacrifice of the Mass • Jurisdiction of the Pontiff defined at Vatican |

| *Mortal* Directly against the faith + canonical penalty | = Dogma proposed by the ordinary Magisterium in official documents and in creeds | • Absence of all error in inspired text (Dz 1952) • Athanasian Creed |

| *Mortal* Directly against the faith + canonical penalty | Matter not revealed but defined ex cathedra | • Communion under one species (Dz 626) • Chrismation (Dz 872) • minor orders (Dz 962) |

| *Mortal* Directly against the faith | Differs from dogma because it is not proposed by the Church | • Christ from the beginning of his life said he was the Messiah • He merited for his soul impassibility and glory of body |

| *Mortal* Indirectly against the faith | From nearly unanimous consent it is held as revealed | • Habitual grace and beatific vision in Christ • Monogenism against polygenism |

| *Mortal* Indirectly against the faith | • From revealed propositions and certain from elsewhere • Dogmatic facts | • The existence of God can be demonstrated • The Council of Trent is legitimate |

| *Mortal* Indirectly against the faith | Not yet as Word of God but expressly and authentically taught, e.g. in encyclicals | Inspired authors are true but secondary authors |

| *Possibly mortal* of temerity | • Common to all schools • Certain but less immediately concluded from revealed truth | • That integrity is an unowed gift • Sacraments are true causes |

| *Mortal of disobedience* | It is absolutely not repugnant that there be something false | • What is contained in the doctrinal decrees of the Roman Congregations |

| Nullum | Absolute non repugnat quod sit aliquid falsi | • Deletio peccati per ipsam infusionem gratiæ • Filiatio adoptiva ex ipsa gratia creata |

| Nullum | Absolute non repugnat quod sit aliquid falsi | Systemata (v.g. Molinismus vel Bañezianismus) |

| None | It is absolutely not repugnant that there be something false | • Deletion of sin through the very infusion of grace • Adoptive filiation from created grace itself |

| None | It is absolutely not repugnant that there be something false | Systems (e.g. Molinism or Bañezianism) |