



In a world that is rapidly advancing toward secularization, Catholicism faces unprecedented challenges. From relativistic ideologies to growing individualism, the attack of modernity on the faith is not merely a consequence of social change, but a direct confrontation with revealed Truth. This article aims to shed light on this phenomenon, offer a theological response, and equip the faithful with tools to live and defend their faith in a hostile world.

Modernity: Friend or Foe of Catholicism?

Modernity, with its technological, scientific, and social advancements, has undeniably brought benefits. However, it has also introduced philosophies that challenge the foundations of the Christian faith. Moral relativism, the rejection of absolute truth, and the exaltation of man above God are distinctive signs of this attack.

St. Thomas Aquinas, whose work remains a pillar of Catholic thought, asserted that truth is objective and found in God, the *summum bonum* (the supreme good). In the face of a modernity that relativizes everything, Thomistic theology reminds us that truth is not a human construction but a participation in God's very being.

Moral Relativism: An Obstacle to Truth

Moral relativism, the idea that "everyone has their own truth," is one of the greatest enemies of Catholicism in modernity. This mentality rejects the existence of absolute good and evil, replacing them with subjective ethics. However, according to St. Thomas, the natural law inscribed in the human heart allows us to discern between right and wrong. To deny this law is to deny the very dignity of the human person.

Practical Application: As Catholics, we are called to educate ourselves in the moral teachings of the Church and to form our consciences according to Christ's teachings. In daily life, this means being witnesses to the truth, even when it is uncomfortable, and promoting Christian values in our families, communities, and workplaces.

Individualism: The Breakdown of Social Fabric

Modernity exalts the individual above the community, fostering independence that often degenerates into spiritual isolation. This individualism directly clashes with the principle of subsidiarity, central to Catholic social doctrine. According to this principle, smaller and closer communities must be strengthened, and only when necessary should larger structures be relied upon.

St. Thomas emphasized that man is a social being by nature, created to live in communion



with others and, above all, with God. Modernity, by breaking these bonds, diverts man from his ultimate purpose.

Practical Application: Rescuing the sense of community in Christian life. Actively participating in parish life, fostering family prayer, and practicing charity are concrete ways to counteract individualism.

Faith in Times of Science and Reasoning

Another front of modernity's attack is the confrontation between faith and science. The false dichotomy between them has led many to think that religion is incompatible with progress. However, St. Thomas taught that faith and reason are not only compatible but complementary, as both come from God.

The First Vatican Council reaffirmed this teaching, declaring that the existence of God can be known through natural reason. Therefore, well-understood scientific advancements should not be feared but used to glorify God.

Practical Application: Cultivating an informed faith. Reading about the Church's contributions to human knowledge and engaging in dialogue with others from a perspective of openness and trust in the truth.

Evangelization in the Digital Age

Modernity has also transformed communication, offering Catholics a unique opportunity to evangelize. Social media, often criticized for its superficiality, can be a powerful tool for spreading the Gospel.

However, this evangelization must be anchored in truth and charity. It is not enough to simply share religious content; we must live what we preach, showing the world the joy of being disciples of Christ.

Practical Application: Being intentional in our use of social media, sharing messages that edify and evangelize. Additionally, we must be patient and charitable in our interactions, remembering that every person we encounter online is a beloved child of God.

The Role of Prayer and the Sacraments

Finally, no effort to defend the faith in times of modernity will be effective without a solid spiritual life. Prayer, the sacraments, and the study of God's Word are our main weapons in



this battle. As St. Thomas taught, grace perfects nature, and it is only through grace that we can resist the temptations of modernity.

Practical Application: Regularly attending Holy Mass, making confession a habitual practice, and dedicating daily time to personal and family prayer.

Conclusion: Hope in Christ

The attack of modernity on Catholicism is real but not insurmountable. The Church has faced similar challenges in the past and emerged stronger. Our mission, as Catholics, is to be light in the darkness, boldly proclaiming the truth and living the Gospel with authenticity.

By following the example of St. Thomas Aquinas and armed with the wisdom of the tradition, we can face the challenges of modernity with confidence, knowing that Christ has overcome the world. It is time to be bold witnesses of the faith, bringing the hope of Christ to a world that so desperately needs it.