

## PASTORAL COUNCIL

### Thoughts For Reflection

January 31, 2016

#### *What Will the Other Churches Look Like?*

*About a month ago, we read how the worldly culture is bearing down on Christianity. Fr. Longenecker, a convert to Catholicism, stated that the Catholic Church will stand out as the only remaining supernatural religion. What will the other churches look like?*

*Fr. Longenecker writes:*

“Protestantism will move away from any pretense of being a supernatural religion. It will become one of three things: a dry exercise in fundamentalist biblical exegesis applied in practical ways, or a superficially stimulating blend of self help teaching and inspiring religious feelings, or a fellowship of religiously inspired social activists. What it [Protestantism] will not be is a supernatural religion claiming supernatural authority instituted on earth for the salvation of souls.

“Catholics will also become clear about their mission. Those who have turned Catholicism into an inspiring self-help program or a fellowship for social activism will die out. Their shallow religion will prove to be no religion at all, and those who desire this false religion will go to the Protestants where it will be done more effectively and efficiently. This new religion (which will grow out of Protestantism) will increasingly become the religion of the state. The anti-Christ state will realize that some religion is better than no religion at all, and as the Chinese have established a false Catholic Church, the American people will increasingly follow this hollow form of ‘advanced’ Protestantism.

“The most insidious form of this new religion will be the evolution of ‘conservative’ Evangelical [churches]... Each one will be, even more than they have been in the past, a law unto themselves. They will not be limited to Christian teaching, but will adopt and adapt Eastern religious practices and New Age practices as they seem to fit, and they will do so with slick marketing, high technology and attractive communication techniques.

“As the old mainline ‘liberal’ Protestantism dies out their social activism and moral laxity will be absorbed by this new syncretism. Trendy megachurch pastors will make headlines for their work with the poor and their courage for setting up a church in the slums. They will campaign for women’s rights and homosexual liberation. They will trumpet ‘forgiveness’ after divorce and remarriage, will admit that ‘sometimes abortion is a necessary solution to a difficult problem,’ and they will espouse contraception and overlook fornication and cohabitation as ‘the way things are now.’”