

## **\* CURE FOR THE CRISIS OF FAITH?**

*Errol Duke, a subscriber, felt moved to write these thoughts and share them with us. He feels that perhaps a further set of commandments updated for today, may help.*

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME JESUS:** After all, He died for us all! His example of love, humility, obedience, compassion, justice and self-sacrifice was given for all time. (And some 2000 years later - that includes US!)

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME THE POPE:** He is only trying to uphold the Truth, in conjunction with the guarantee of the Holy Spirit. The Truth does not often win "popularity contests"!

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME THE ARCHBISHOP:** In his position, he can only guide, encourage and pray for us. He is in no position to grant us "soft options".

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME THE CLERGY:** Always remember, they are in "the front line of battle", and subjected to social pressures. Through ordination, they have special gifts to share and stimulate our Spiritual growth. Do we regularly participate in the Sacraments? Do we pray for, and encourage, our clergy? Or do we just sit back and criticize their every move? They, too, are only human.

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:** School religious education can do no more than support and compliment what is taught in the home, and by regular attendance at Sunday Mass.

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME THE WORLD:** Because we are human, the world is affected by greed, materialism and sin of all descriptions. We Christians are called and chosen to try to live by following Jesus, by giving good example, and by changing wrong, if we can - not get caught up in it.

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME THE HOLY FAMILY:** Particularly in this century, Jesus, Mary and Joseph have gone to extraordinary lengths, with messages and Spiritual Revelations to specially chosen souls like Padre Pio, to show us how we can conquer the evil of our times.

**THOU SHALT NOT BLAME SATAN:** How often we forget that his influence can be magnified or reduced by our response to choices presented to us in this world. We have been given the gift of Free Will by God. So the choices we make are our decision - our responsibility.

**BUT - THOU SHALT BLAME ME!:** Yes, me. We must look at ourselves. We maybe have not set the example in our homes to our children. Maybe we've drifted away from our Faith. Perhaps not practiced what we've preached, taking the soft options - compromise, comforts. Not taking responsibility for our own actions.

*Thank you for your thoughts, Errol. Yes we should be taking responsibility for what we do in our times. Everyone seems to be blaming someone else - It's time we changed and accepted that what we do is our responsibility and no one else's. - Ed.*