

# CMRI “homealone” accusations refuted

## “Bishops” cannot constitute Christ’s Church without the Pope

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In the interests of truth, it is necessary to set the record straight here regarding accusations leveled by CMRI “clergy” against Catholics who pray at home. Please note as explained below that these arguments all stem from either a) what is termed in scholastic method as a fallacy, (sometimes called sophisms, which are “deliberately constructed to deceive” Joseph Walsh, Walsh, S.J., *Logic*, 1940) or b) misrepresentation of Canon Law and the teachings of the Church.

**First Point:** The allegation made by CMRI claiming that “homealorners” believe the papacy no longer exists is an out and out lie. I have spent over 40 years defending the papacy and Traditionalists’ blatant denial of its very existence by their refusal to follow papal teaching as can easily be seen from reading articles at [betrayedcatholics.com](http://betrayedcatholics.com) A few pages on a blog dating back several years is not going to suffice to overcome the massive amounts of evidence presented on that site since 2003. Those who pray at home **PRACTICE** their faith by obedience to **ALL** the continual magisterium has ever taught no matter what sacrifices that might require from them. Traditionalists openly deny papal authority **by their very existence outside the established order Christ intended for His Church**. They shamefully disobey infallible Church teaching and pervert and dismiss Canon Law. They may believe the “papacy yet exists,” but they do not believe, as their actions pointedly show, that we are bound to give a firm and irrevocable assent to all that the popes taught in the past **because their infallible teaching yet binds us**. This will be proven at length below.

**Second Point:** **NO ONE** has declared **anyone** excommunicated or suspended or reduced them to the lay state: **this has been declared by Canon Law itself**.

As Revs. Woywod-Smith write under Can. 2288 regarding vindictive penalties: “If the law itself imposes the penalty, **on the very violation of the law** (*latae sententiae* penalties) **the penalty is automatically incurred**. Issuance of a declaratory sentence is required “only in certain cases” listed under Can. 2223. Canon 2223 states that a superior “**must issue the declaratory sentence if an interested party demands it or if the public welfare requires it**.” It is a known fact that “bishops” were consecrated without a papal mandate; men were ordained “priests” by schismatics and heretics proven so by their own public deeds and statements and therefore these acts were **notorious facts** (Can. 2197, no. 3). It was abundantly clear that Lefebvre and Thuc were members of the Novus Ordo, since Lefebvre received the charter for his “seminary” from that church and Thuc his title as bishop of Bulla Regia from Paul 6. Rev. Francis E. Hyland, in his 1928 Canon Law dissertation, *Excommunication*, observes regarding Can. 2232 §1 “...No one can exact the observance of a [*latae sententiae*] penalty in the external forum **unless the delict is notorious**.” Traditionalists who cooperated with these two men in their crimes are treated under Can. 2316 regarding accomplices and their guilt in offenses.

We read from Can. 2316: “A person who of his own accord and knowingly helps in any manner to propagate heresy **OR** who communicates in sacred rites (*in divinas*) with heretics in violation

of the prohibition of Can. 1258 incurs suspicion of heresy," and after six months falls under the prescriptions of Can. 2315 (Revs. Woywod-Smith). Canon 2315 states that if those communicating in the sacraments of heretics do not amend within six months, they are liable to the penalties for heresy. Any cooperation must be committed *knowingly*, yet Woywod-Smith comment under Can. 2200: "***The authorities presume the subject knows the law and if he violates it he is considered to have broken it willfully. If he claims to be free from liability, THE BURDEN OF PROOF RESTS WITH HIM.***"

Rev. Adolphe Tanquerey teaches in his *Dogmatic Theology*, Vol I, p. 160: "All theologians teach that publicly known heretics, that is ***those who belong to a heterodox sect through public profession or those who refuse the infallible teaching authority of the Church*** are excluded from the body of the Church ***even if their heresy is only material heresy.***" This amounts to the unanimous opinion of theologians, which binds Catholics under pain of mortal sin. And this is not even taking into consideration Canons 2370 and 2372, suspending all these so-called clerics from acts of jurisdiction of any kind, even if received in good faith, until the Roman Pontiff lifts the suspension! Until it is lifted, they are forbidden to exercise the orders received. But while those laws are applicable when we have a reigning Pontiff and are still in force, our situation is governed by Pope Pius XII's *Vacantis Apostolicae Sedis*, written specifically for interregnums, which declares null and void all acts usurping papal jurisdiction or correcting, changing or dispensing from papal laws.

So blame the law, not those sneeringly referred to by Cekada as "homealoners." Even if what Woywod-Smith said above was not the case, which it most certainly is, Can.1935 allows the laity to make such accusations whenever "an obligation to denounce an offender exists... by *law* (Can.1325) or in view of ***danger to the faith or religion*** or other imminent public evil." So sorry CMRI, that gives the laity ***a right to denounce you.*** Can. 1325 commands Catholics to profess their faith ***publicly*** "Whenever silence, subterfuge or manner of acting" would indicate "an implicit denial of their faith, contempt of religion, an insult to God or scandal to their neighbor." The impious idea that bishops can rule the Church in the absence of the Roman Pontiff has been condemned by the Church numerous times as the old Catholic/Gallicanist heresy. Canon 1325 obligates ***ALL*** Catholics to rise up in defense of the papacy and condemn Traditionalist clergy impersonating true priests and bishops and presenting themselves as the continuation of Christ's Church on earth.

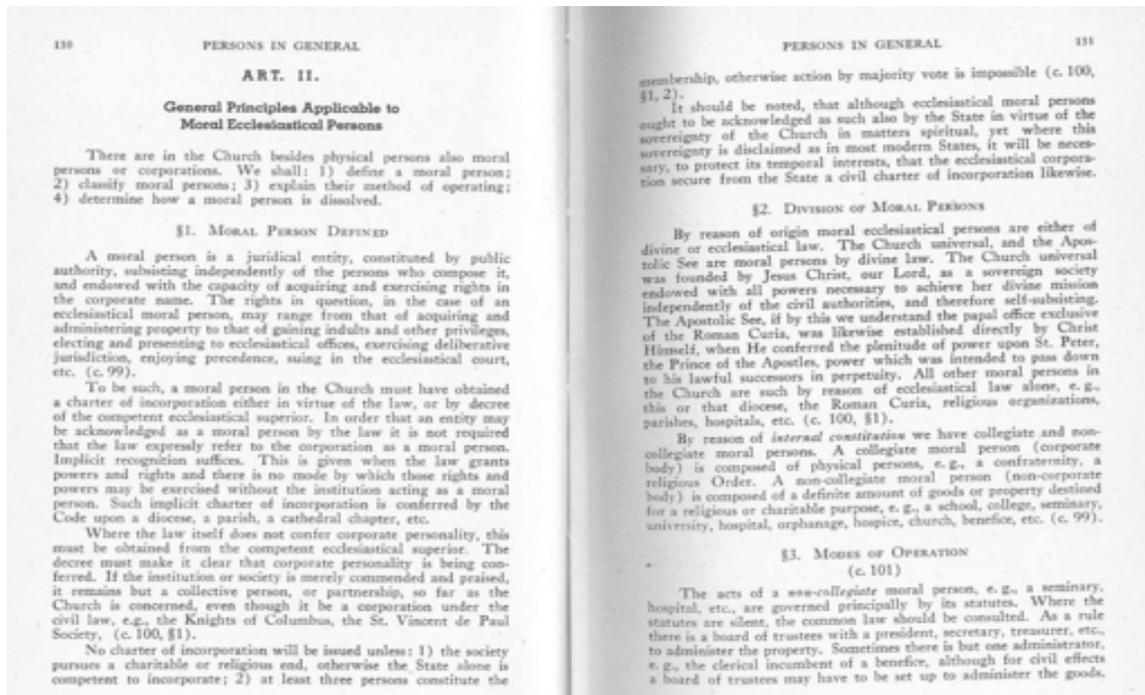
**Third Point:** And while we are on the subject of the law, another comment needs to be addressed: that homealoners say all Traditionalist clergy must stop offering the Mass and dispensing the Sacraments and return to the lay state. Once again, this is not our opinion or something we made up — it comes straight from the popes themselves, Canon Law, the practice of the Church and the Sacred Congregations. These teachings have been repeatedly used as proofs in articles on the website. Because Traditionalists present as the continuation of the true Catholic Church minus Her head, the Roman Pontiff, they and their supporters are guilty of the Old Catholic/Gallicanist heresy. We have frequently quoted Pope Pius VI's *Charitas*, Pope Pius IX's *Etsi Multa*, also *Graves ac Diuturnae*, especially, which clearly teaches that the faithful cannot resort to schismatics and those without a legitimate mission when deprived of their pastors.

"...It has always been especially characteristic of heretics and schismatics to use lies and deception... They love to deceive the unwary and the innocent and to draw them into error by deception and hypocrisy. They repeatedly state openly that they do not in the least reject the Catholic Church and its visible head but rather that they are zealous for the purity of Catholic doctrine, declaring that they

are the heirs of the ancient faith and the only true Catholics. But in fact they refuse to acknowledge all the divine prerogatives of the vicar of Christ on earth and do not submit to His supreme magisterium... **[The faithful] should totally shun their religious celebrations, their buildings... writings and all contact with them. They should not have any dealings or meetings with usurping priests and apostates from the faith who dare to exercise the duties of an ecclesiastical minister WITHOUT POSSESSING A LEGITIMATE MISSION OR ANY JURISDICTION. They should avoid them as strangers and thieves who come only to steal, slay, and destroy... Give support strongly and constantly to your legitimate shepherds who have received a legitimate mission from this Apostolic See**" (Graves ac Diuturnae).

How can the faithful ignore this command of the pope to **utterly reject** the ministrations of those who cannot and have not proven they possess a legitimate mission? What right has anyone to refuse to obey a papal decree in favor of the "infallible" hierarchs of Traditionalism?! Episcopal mission can be granted only by the papal mandate, not consecration itself, **and therefore these men have no jurisdiction and cannot grant it.** Canon 200 states that "**He who claims to possess delegated jurisdiction has the burden of proving the delegation.**" These men also must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that they are **not** guilty of heresy per Can.2200 (see the subhead *The doubtful pope rule*, no. 3, in the *Material-formal Hypothesis Is a Trojan Horse* article). They avoid providing this proof by invoking *epikeia*; but *epikeia* has been proven over and over again to be inapplicable to this situation, as explained on *betrayedcatholics* and related sites. It is a tool that was initially employed by the Gallicanists and so it should be no surprise that it has become the watchword for these **new** Gallicanists now presenting as the true Church. See <https://www.betrayedcatholics.com/epikeia-use-in-papal-mandate-necessity-a-gallicanist-ruse/>

Since law is the topic here, let us also address the preposterous pretensions of these Traditionalists to possess authority over Catholics by virtue of their existence as legal or moral entities. See paragraphs two, three and four, page 130, below.



This page is taken from *A Manual of Canon Law* by Rev. Matthew Ramstein, S.T., Mag., J.U.D., OFM, 1947. Paragraph two reads: "To be such, a moral person in the Church must have obtained a charter of incorporation either in virtue of the law or by decree of the **competent ecclesiastical superior**..." Paragraph three reads: "Where the law itself does not confer corporate personality, this must be obtained from the **competent ecclesiastical superior**." This we find in Can. 147: "An ecclesiastic office cannot be validly obtained without canonical appointment. By canonical appointment is understood the conferring of an ecclesiastical office **by the competent ecclesiastical authority in harmony with the sacred canons**." There is no Traditionalist who can produce any such charter as referred to above since Traditionalism has never even been *considered* for approval by the Holy See as a corporate personality. Nor are there any laws that they can construe as granting them such status. They cannot claim to issue from competent ecclesiastical authority without the papal mandate, assignment to a diocese and papal permission to establish seminaries. Schismatics such as Thuc and Lefebvre lost all status as such legal persons under Can. 188 no. 4 by their adherence to the Novus Ordo church, so are scarcely considered competent ecclesiastical authorities. Power comes with **canonical appointment to an office**, not from one's status as a moral/legal person.

As Ramstein notes, legal or moral persons, baptized or not, lose their status as such when they cease to be members of the Church (by public heresy, apostasy or schism). Those advocating this craziness are appealing to this corporate entity concept knowing it is classified in law as a "legal fiction." A legal fiction is defined as: "...a rule of law which assumes as true, for a just cause, something which is false but is not impossible... 'Where there is **truth**, fiction of law does not exist.'...Legal fiction is admissible only in cases explicitly mentioned by law. It must not be extended to similar cases... **This rule of law is not applicable to penalties**" (*Canon Law*, Abp. Amleto Cicognani, 1935). According to the Catholic Encyclopedia under Bigamy: "Many of the best canonists of today (e.g. D'Annibale and Gaspari)" hold [that] a legal fiction "at all times is dangerous." So Traditionalists can add legal fiction to their long list of desperate measures to bolster their non-existent legitimacy. Oh, and by the way, Ramstein notes that "**In the absence of an authentic declaration concerning the meaning of the law anyone may interpret the law for himself provided he observes the rules set down by the lawgiver in Canons 18-21**," (pg. 93). So, Traditionalists have no right to demonize "lay canonists."

**Fourth Point:** "Homealoners" **DO SAY** that **Traditional pseudo-bishops do not possess jurisdiction and cannot possess it because all jurisdiction comes from the Pope**. Why? Because **the popes themselves say this**, not us, and even a superficial study of the Vatican Council documents shows this is true.

Hear what Pope Pius XII teaches in *Mystici Corporis*, 1943:

"Bishops must be considered as the more illustrious members of the Universal Church, for they are united by a very special bond to the divine Head of the whole Body and so are rightly called 'principal parts of the members of the Lord;' moreover, as far as his own diocese is concerned, each one as a true Shepherd feeds the flock entrusted to him and rules it in the name of Christ. **Yet in exercising this office they are not altogether independent but are subordinate to the lawful authority of the Roman Pontiff, although enjoying the ordinary power of jurisdiction which they receive directly from the same Supreme Pontiff.**"  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-xii\\_enc\\_29061943\\_mystici-corporis-christi.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_29061943_mystici-corporis-christi.html)

And from this same pope in *Ad sinarum gentum*, 1954:

“...The power of orders (through which the ecclesiastical hierarchy is composed of Bishops, priests, and ministers) comes from receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders. **BUT THE POWER OF JURISDICTION, WHICH IS CONFERRED UPON THE SUPREME PONTIFF DIRECTLY BY DIVINE RIGHTS, FLOWS TO THE BISHOPS BY THE SAME RIGHT, BUT ONLY THROUGH THE SUCCESSOR OF ST. PETER**, to whom not only the simple faithful, but even all the Bishops must be constantly subject, **and to whom they must be bound by obedience and with the bond of unity.**”  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-xii\\_enc\\_07101954\\_ad-sinarum-gentem.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_07101954_ad-sinarum-gentem.html)

And from Pope Leo XIII in *Satis Cognitum*:

“...Indeed, Holy Writ attests that the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven **were given to Peter alone**, and that the power of binding and loosening was granted to the Apostles and to Peter; **but there is nothing to show that the Apostles received supreme power without Peter, and against Peter. Such power they certainly did not receive from Jesus Christ.** Wherefore, in the decree of the Vatican Council as to the nature and authority of the primacy of the Roman Pontiff, no newly conceived opinion is set forth, but the venerable and constant belief of every age (The Vatican Council, Sess. iv., cap. 3)” [https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_l-xiii\\_enc\\_29061896\\_satis-cognitum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_29061896_satis-cognitum.html)

*Satis cognitum* above directly contradicts Cekada, who stated that Sedevacantists and Traditionalists in general receive their jurisdiction directly from Christ, just as the early Protestants claimed! Now, please explain to me how you can ignore the popes and the Vatican Council to take the word of men who definitely have a horse in the race when it comes to proving they are “true bishops” who constitute the continuation of the Catholic Church. Has it never occurred to anyone that these pseudo-clerics are protecting their considerable financial resources and elevated “ecclesiastical” status? And certainly they wish to avoid at all costs the embarrassment that would follow if Catholics actually followed papal teaching regarding their orders and not the hype they pump out for the gullible. As Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed, all who wish to save their immortal souls must be obedient to the Roman Pontiffs, but that seems to mean very little to those who heatedly defend the very men expecting them to believe lies.

**Fifth Point:** One CMRI pseudo-cleric uses the strawman argument opposed to logic, also known in scholastic terms as *ignorantio elenchi*, to condemn those who pray at home. A strawman is a fallacious argument that distorts an opposing stance in order to make it easier to attack. Essentially, the person using the strawman **appears** to attack their opponent’s stance, while in reality they are actually attacking a distorted **version** of that stance. I have made it clear in articles on my site that I still believe the Mystical Body, the **interior and even material** aspect of the Church, yet exists. I use the word **juridical** to qualify its lack of physical and visible (clerical) existence. I state only a **proven fact**, which even some Traditionalists admit: the Church as we knew it no longer exists. The pseudo-cleric in question presents what I said as denying that the Church exists **altogether**, a **distortion** of something I never wrote or intended, and this can be proven. He also asks people to believe that there is no difference between what he states and what I write. He then uses that **distortion** to justify all his other conclusions and further indictments. This is nothing more than a lie dressed up as truth.

This pseudo-cleric also says homealoners teach that the Church and the papacy have ceased to exist and so promote their own (foreign) idea of a true church. This is actually a patent lie and can be proven as such, since I have done nothing but defend the papacy and demand obedience to

the popes from St. Peter to Pius XII, precisely because Traditionalists have so flagrantly failed to do this. I insist on obedience to **ALL** the popes have ever taught, just as they have taught it: they demand obedience first to their own sect and only to their skewed interpretation of what the popes teach. I think it is rather clear that we do not at the present time have a true pope, but I have never said and would never say that the papacy has ceased to exist altogether because I have no way of knowing this, an important distinction Mr. Pseudo-cleric fails to make. I have said that the *juridical* Church has ceased to exist because it has, since the bishops alone cannot constitute it without Peter at their head, as the popes have clearly stated many times. This is a truth all Catholics are bound to believe. Traditionalists are asking us to believe the opposite of that truth: that during an interregnum men not even certainly validly ordained or consecrated, with no official recognition from the Church or reconciliation of their clerical status, can constitute the Church in the absence of a true pope. This is contrary to all Church law and infallible papal teaching, as I have gone to great lengths to demonstrate.

Henry Cardinal Manning believed that “he who withholdeth” was the pope and he would be taken out of the way when Antichrist appeared. This means that Cardinal Manning foresaw that the Church would be left without the pope, which has happened. He also predicts that the flock would then be scattered. Did he believe it would then exist as it had before in the body of bishops? No; he wrote an entire book (*The Pastoral Office*) and other works testifying to the fact that without the pope there can be no *juridical* Church. So do Traditionalists want to also condemn one of the greatest champions of the papacy that ever lived?! I also have said it would take Divine intervention now, given the present situation, to restore the papacy, and many scriptural commentators, saints and holy seers state that Our Lord alone will be able to restore order in the Church and the world during this time, or will end everything with His Second Coming.

And while I am accused of promoting an idea of the Church different from what the Church Herself holds, what has been presented on my website so far on this subject has been based on nothing but papal and conciliar documents and the works of approved theologians. Traditionalists who question this only betray their ignorance of the wondrous fashioning of ***Christ's Mystical Body*** and its precious treasures; they distort and misconstrue what they cannot understand. The interior life is something so far removed from them, devoting themselves to exterior aspects of the Church's existence as they do, that they cannot possibly fathom it. Future articles expanding on the Church's teaching regarding the nature of the Mystical Body and the role of the laity in the Church for these times are now in production and should be available soon.

**Last Point and summary:** It is both preposterous and an indication of a certain species of desperation on the part of CMRI to assert that homealoners are trying to overthrow the papacy and are in league with the Siri sycophants and the usurpers in Rome to accomplish this. The absurdity of the Siri hypothesis from a canonical and doctrinal standpoint was first addressed in the 1990 book, *Will the Catholic Church Survive...* Articles available at [betrayedcatholics.com](http://betrayedcatholics.com) clearly demonstrate that the Siri nonsense has no basis whatsoever in fact, and there is a mountain of evidence not yet published that further confirms this. As for any affiliation with Rome, anyone who reads site articles and *The Phantom Church in Rome* know how false such a claim truly is. If a rational outsider were to take an objective look at Traditionalism and do a little investigating to determine who really has the most to lose in all this, they would soon discover it is certainly not “homealoners.” So what's all this fuss *really* about?

Catholics who pray at home are united in faith but scattered all over the world, consist of individual families with few community ties if any, wish only to follow their consciences and worship God according to His will for these times and to be left alone. It is hard, therefore, to understand how any establishment such as ***CMRI and related organizations worth literally millions in real***

**estate assets alone** could portray such a group as any real threat. Unless, of course, their **doctrinal and moral existence is at risk** (which is the real issue here). Otherwise, attacking “homealoners” is a little like smashing an ant with a sledgehammer. More than just a few individuals, including CMRI itself, have hinted that certain Traditionalists secretly sympathize or have dealt with the Vatican 2 church. So let us reiterate even more loudly: **they are the ones reaping the profits, they exact obedience, they receive the acclaim**, not those praying quietly at home or even the comical “hidden pope” crowd.

The proof of the pudding is found first in Holy Scripture, Tradition, papal and conciliar decrees, the doctors and saints and then the teachings of canonists and approved theologians. These in our times are the only trustworthy sources of authentic teaching, not some questionably valid bishop or priests piously preaching their Sunday sermon. Anyone not clinging primarily to the teachings of the continual magisterium cannot claim to be Catholic and certainly cannot take it upon themselves to instruct the faithful. For further confirmation of what is stated here, see the author’s work on the material-formal issue, addressing the recent controversy between Dolan and Sanborn on its legitimacy: *Material-formal Hypothesis a Trojan Horse: CMRI’s papal authority kerfuffle*. And please do enjoy the comments below by a young person who finds it very difficult indeed to logically sort out the accusations made by CMRI against “homealoners.”

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***But I am so focused!***

By “C”

***“C” asks: Am I missing something here?  
They seem to be intent upon proving themselves wrong!***

**CMRI:** Homealoners” say the Church and papacy no longer exist and follow their own ideas of what “the true Church” means.

**Answer:** No they don’t. They say there is no pope **at the present time** which is what Trads believe apparently, according to point 6 below (‘the reality of the vacancy of the Holy See’). We believe in the papacy and all it has proclaimed since the time of Christ, which is more than Trads do. Trads act without a pope’s authority (by their own admission — where is their pope?) and reject any past papal pronouncements which challenge the Trad stance.

The church is as it has always been, but there is no pope (as Trads believe, see point 6 again). And so there are no clergy, because they can only act through authority given by a pope. Without papal authority, you’re not Catholic clergy. That is what heretics and schismatics do — claim authority without a pope.

**CMRI:** Traditionalists have no jurisdiction since there is no Pope, so all Traditional clergy must stop offering Mass and dispensing the Sacraments, voluntarily returning to the lay state.

**Answer:** This is correct. And Trads seem to agree with us, according to 4 below.

**CMRI:** “Homealoners” say that Traditional Catholic bishops don’t possess jurisdiction because all jurisdiction comes from the Pope.

**Answer:** Correct. And Trads seem to agree with us, according to 4 below.

**CMRI:** Only a true Pope is vested with the authority to pronounce a sentence on the status of those ordained and consecrated since 1958 and whether or not they possess jurisdiction. Self-appointed lay "canonists" do not possess that power.

**Answer:** Correct again. So who is the pope that has pronounced sentence giving authority to the Trad 'bishops'? If there's no pope to pronounce their authority (and Trads believe this as stated in point 6 below), this statement says there can be no bishops. Also, how can anyone prove they are anything more than a layman, without a pope to say otherwise? And I'm sorry, but you really can't give yourself authority.

So why are you asking me to pronounce that you have jurisdiction and are valid? In order to accept your authority and anything you say, I would need to pronounce your validity and jurisdiction. This statement of yours says I cannot do that and there's no pope to do it, either. According to you, I must not pronounce that any bishop has validity and jurisdiction. So I can't follow any 'traditional' clergy. Or any clergy.

**CMRI:** Laymen have no right to judge Traditional bishops if they were consecrated by valid bishops who used valid matter and pronounced the valid form of the Sacrament during the Consecrations.

**Answer:** OK. So without a pope to say otherwise, what makes these Trad 'bishops' anything more than laymen? (See point 4 again.) And by the way — any person off the street could have "valid matter and pronounce the valid form of the sacrament". But without a pope it is obviously meaningless. It doesn't make them *consecrated* unless you're a heretic or schismatic. Then you don't need the pope. In fact the two unfailingly go together, by definition.

And how can we know this (that they were valid bishops)? You just said only a pope can pronounce whether or not a bishop is valid.

**CMRI:** CMRI has the right to conclude that it is "hidden pope" believers and "homealorners," in collusion with the false Vatican 2 church, who are trying to overthrow the papacy. In this way they project their own guilt onto the Traditional Catholic bishops and priests, to divert attention from their own sins. Traditionalists "recognize the reality of the vacancy of the Holy See."

**Answer:** Overthrow the papacy? But you just said you "recognise the reality of the vacancy of the Holy See". So do we. Trads do seem remarkably keen to reject past popes' pronouncements if it doesn't suit them and assume authority/jurisdiction without a pope. Sounds like they might be "trying to overthrow the papacy". This point makes even less sense than the others.

### **CMRI points referenced above**

1. "Homealorners" say the Church and papacy no longer exist and follow their own ideas of what "the true Church" means.
2. Traditionalists have no jurisdiction since there is no Pope, so all Traditional clergy must stop offering Mass and dispensing the Sacraments, voluntarily returning to the lay state.

3. "Homealoners" say that Traditional Catholic bishops and priests don't possess jurisdiction because all jurisdiction comes from the Pope.

4. Only a true Pope is vested with the authority to pronounce a sentence on the status of those ordained and consecrated since 1958 and whether or not they possess jurisdiction. Self-appointed lay "canonists" do not possess that power.

5. Laymen cannot judge whether Traditional bishops were consecrated (or not) by valid bishops if they used valid matter and pronounced the valid form of the Sacrament during the Consecrations.

6. It is right for CMRI to conclude that it is "hidden pope" believers and "homealoners," in collusion with the false Vatican 2 church, who are trying to overthrow the papacy. In this way they project their own guilt onto the Traditional Catholic bishops and priests, to divert attention from their own sins. Traditionalists "recognize the reality of the vacancy of the Holy See."