



The Armor of Faith

Topic Summary: By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them *Part V: Tactics of the Wolves – Disinformation/Framing*



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Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican, which is also known as the Order of Preachers, and she, along with her husband Dan, are engaged in youth catechesis and music ministry at Saint Philip Benizi Catholic Mission in Cedaredge, Colorado. Sharon is our token cradle Catholic, and, as everyone by now knows, I am simply here to ask questions, because, as we have been told over and over, “There are no stupid questions,” so, its kind of safe ground for me. The ones I through into the danger zone of having to answer the questions are our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray.

Discussion:

As I mentioned last time, the purpose of this series is not to sow distrust of our clergy or others within the hierarchy of the church, for we are blessed with many good shepherds and we must endeavor to follow and enable them. As sin raises its head in the form of scandals, our cry is for justice, but for justice to be done, the truth must first be revealed. We must be careful about rushing to judgment, for there are also those who will take advantage of our desire for justice. Indeed, Satan loves witch hunts, for it is often the innocent who suffer in such environments.

Again, the purpose of this series is not to prepare us to sleuth out the wolves, for that can be a very difficult task which may frustrate even the most experienced of investigators. Consider Matthew 24:24, "*False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect.*" Our objective is to raise awareness of the hidden threats we face and the best means of defense for our church and our collective souls, which is understanding what God asks of us. This understanding will make the work of the deceiver more difficult and enable us to evaluate the motives and consequences of the entire problem solving process such that problem solving does not become a game of thrones, but truly enables us to do what is right and just in the eyes of God.

If we are to recognize deception, we must first be capable of recognizing God's truth. We must also remember that the most effective forms of deception are those which are wrapped in blankets of truth.

Today, we will begin to discuss the tactics of disinformation and framing as they were and continue to be used against the Catholic Church. Dealing with such deceptions is no easy task, especially when they are rooted in a political environment where disinformation is employed to sow divisions and weaken the just. If we endeavor to know our faith, if we endeavor to discern truth, if we are committed to doing what God asks of us, then, we must trust the Holy Spirit will guide us in defense of the church, which we must remember, Jesus promised that the gates of the netherworld would not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

As I mentioned during previous episodes of this series, an awakening moment for me was the documentary, "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing," (Arcadia Films LTD). While its focus was upon the philosophies of activist Saul Alinsky, because of my military experience during the Cold War, I recognized the Marxist/Leninist fingerprints upon Alinsky's efforts and similarities to tactics of the intelligence agencies of the former Soviet Union. As timing would have it, a little more than a month earlier, I began reading another book I had bought at a local Salvation Army, entitled, Disinformation, written by LTG Ion Pacepa. This book outlines Soviet disinformation operations as LTG experienced them from his position in Romanian intelligence before he defected to the United States.

Just as I expected to find in the book, there was mention of the Soviet disinformation efforts against NATO countries and the United States in particular. I knew, from my military experience during the Cold War, that the Soviets had used many peace organizations, to include church organizations, to achieve their objectives. What surprised me as I read the book was the magnitude of their efforts directed against the Catholic Church.

In an article LTG Pacepa published in National Review, he wrote, "The Soviet Union was never comfortable living in the same world with the Vatican. The most recent disclosures document

that the Kremlin was prepared to go to any lengths to counter the Catholic Church's strong anti-Communism." (Pacepa, *National Review*) LTG Pacepa related the article subsequently led to the writing of the book *Disinformation*, which was published in 2013. (Pacepa, *Disinformation*, 34) Again, what surprised me is that at least half of the book was devoted to exposing Soviet disinformation campaigns against the Vatican.

(Question 1: Disinformation is often designed to turn public opinion. What could the Soviet Union gain by slandering the Catholic Church? Why would a nation concern itself with a religion?)

Of course, disinformation is nothing really new. We have mentioned before Chapter 3 of Genesis where we find the conversation between Eve and the serpent of the garden.

(Genesis 3:1-7)

1 Now *the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals* that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden'?"

2 The woman answered the snake: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

3 *it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.'*"

4 But the snake said to the woman: "*You certainly will not die!*"

5 God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil."

6 The woman saw that the tree was good for food and *pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable* for gaining wisdom. *So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

(Question 2: The serpent responded, "You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil." What did the serpent do here to tempt Eve away from obedience to God?)

(Question 3: Disinformation, of course, is designed to deceive and influence public opinion, but to accomplish the goal, it must be communicated. How might disinformation be communicated to the public square?)

"The truth is, the Western media are quite easily manipulated, for they often craft their stories from press releases and tend, on the whole, to be indiscriminate about the nature and reliability of their sources." (Pacepa, *Disinformation*, 17)

(Question 4: This statement by LTG Pacepa is fairly critical of the Western media. Does this mean those in the media are complicit in spreading disinformation?)

In the book, *AA-1025, The Memoires of an Anti-Apostle*, the agent priest is told by his handler:

See, an idea is good when some idiot writer presents it as one of his own. Nobody is more conceited than a writer. We rely much on such writers and we do not have to train them. They work for us without knowing it, or rather without wanting to.

(Carrie, 13)

(Note: As I mentioned in our last episode, [AA-1025, The Memoires of an Anti-Apostle](#) is a bit of a problem for me to use as a reference in that it is not clear if it is a true story or a dramatization. It has been characterized as both or something in between. I only present it in that it presents the value of the media to the wolves.)

Kalugin [a former KGB general] spent years spying in the United States for the KGB under the cover as a journalist. One of his tasks was to recruit agents in American left-leaning magazines and newspapers. Kalugin would even, on occasion, finance these magazines and newspapers and then plant stories reflecting the Soviet line, hoping that other news outlets would repeat them.

(Pacepa, [Disinformation](#), 145)

The journal that seeks to be Catholic and at the same time has the name or reputation of Liberal becomes in the general opinion an ally of those who, under the Liberal banner, combat the Church in front and rear. Vainly will the editor of such a journal explain himself; his excuses and his explanations grow wearisome.

(Salvany, 71)

Moreover there is little doubt that the readers of such journals are little prepared to distinguish the subtle limitations drawn by editors of this character between Liberalism and Liberalism. Most readers know the word in its common usage and class all things Liberal in a lump. When they see an ostensibly Catholic journal practically making common cause with the Liberal creed by sanctioning its name, they are easily led into the dangerous belief that Liberalism has some affinity with their faith, and, this once engrafted in their minds, they become ready adepts of Rationalism.

(Salvany, 72-73)

(Question 5: From these quotes, we see a range from the complicit to those who amplify. **What is the difference between the complicit and the amplifiers? Who can become an amplifier?)**

In KGB jargon, changing people's pasts was called "framing," and it was a highly classified disinformation specialty. (Pacepa, [Disinformation](#), 44)

The Kremlin's framings can be negative, for demotion, or positive, for promotion; either way, they can literally affect the course of world history. (Pacepa, [Disinformation](#), 45)

One of Sakharovsky's [General Aleksandr Sakharovsky was the spy chief for Khrushchev] projects was to seek Romanian cooperation in the smearing of Pius XII. The pope had died a few months earlier, and thus could no longer defend himself....They intended to change Pius's past image from Jew-defender to Jew-hater so as to compromise the Vatican...Khrushchev and Sakharovsky naturally realized that they

could not put the Vatican out of business, but they did hope that by representing its head as a Jew-hater they could ignite a war between the Catholics and the Jews that would distract both groups from making any serious attempt to condemn Khrushchev's next planned move; a military blockade of West Berlin. (Pacepa, Disinformation, 112)

The majority of LTG Pacepa's book is devoted to outlining the efforts for which he and his Romanian intelligence organization, the DIE, was tasked; which was to assist the KGB with the framing of Pope Pius XII. He explains how agents within the entertainment media wrote a play called, *The Deputy*, which was a fictionalized account of history that gave rise to the conjecture that Pope Pius II acted in collusion with Hitler. The narrative was subsequently picked up in the news media and amplified.

The intelligence structure needed to make the Vatican toothless by changing Pius's past was already in place. The first thing to do was to have as many intelligence assets as possible start spreading the word all around the world that Pius had indeed been “Hitler's Pope” – that simple, catchy epithet launched by Radio Moscow in 1945. (Pacepa, Disinformation, 113)

(Question 6: Note the strategy LTG Pacepa reveals about a framing operation. He states, “ The first thing to do was to have as many intelligence assets as possible start spreading the word...” Who do you think those intelligence assets were and what is their reach?)

(**Question 6:** As I observe framing, it is a matter of planting seeds of doubt, employing kernels of truth to lend credibility, in a manner that gains echos in the media from which public opinion is influenced. If we look at the way word spreads in society, what other word might we use to describe the flow and damage of framing? How might we defend ourselves against such tactics of deception?)

(**Question 7:** From LTG Pacepa's book, we can see that when framing hits the media, it can wiggle its way through entertainment media, broadcast media, and printed media. What is the danger of framing becoming documented in durable forms?)

Quotes:

“True revolutionaries do not flaunt their radicalism. They cut their hair, put on suits and infiltrate the system from within.”

– *Saul Alinsky*

In spite of Soviet communism's demise, *disinformation* and its undercover international apparatus are still very much alive and well today. They continue to distort the way millions of people view the United States, they still manipulate religion – every religion – and they play a substantive role in fueling today's international terrorism.

– *LTG Ion Pacepa*

The Cold War is over, but the Kremlin's framing operations seem to be still en vogue – and even to be infecting the United States.

– *LTG Ion Pacepa*

Final Thoughts:

Our discussion today barely scratched the surface of disinformation and framing. Because of our trusting nature, we tend to believe what we are told and what we read. Look at the success of the *National Enquirer*, even though it is a publication with a reputation of low credibility, there are those who read its stories and justify their ensuing gossip with, “They wouldn't have printed it if at least part of it wasn't true.”

For the wolves, they do not need everyone to believe the disinformation or framing, they only need enough by which power is seized. The more the better, but even a few can change the conversation and subsequently how a society may act towards doing what is right and just.

If you have been a listener from the beginning, you might remember that our first episode was about the first component of the armor of God as described in Ephesians 6:10-17, which is the belt of truth. Unfortunately, the effort to uncover truth is a daunting task. If, though, we are to do what is right and just, we must endeavor to discern truth. We must be wary of the tactics of deception, such as forgeries, false witnesses, cloaks of credibility (the effort to spread deception through credible sources), words presented out of context, context connected which does not apply, or promoting guilt by association. Identifying these tactics can be quite difficult to accomplish in our reading, watching, and conversations.

In this battle, information is both our friend and our enemy. We can use history as our teacher, but only if we are able to discern the truth of history, which means we must find credible sources of both history and information. In today's information age, that appears to be another problem. Next time, we will scratch the surface as to how the tactics of deception pollutes our history.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we pick up our discussion with the corruption of history.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to open and discuss Your Holy Word. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: By Their Fruits You Shall Know Them – Part VI: The Tactics of the Wolves – Corrupting History

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