

Sunday with Octave of Christmas (Star Wars??)

“Behold, this Child is set for the fall, and for the resurrection of many in Israel: and for a sign which shall be contradicted...”

1. Some years ago, at the turning of the 21st Century, I was traveling across this great country of ours with my cousin. We stopped in Santa Fe, New Mexico and took a little time to look around including going to Los Alamos to visit the Bradbury Science Museum. Wearing my cassock, as I entered, a young man and his girl became distracted by my presence and said quite loudly, “Hey, what are you?” I responded: “A Roman Catholic Priest. What did you think I am?” He replied, “A Jedi Knight.” I responded: “that is fake; this is real!” Hmmmmm. A black robed man of serious bearing... celibate... dedicated to a cause. They are similar, no? Of course, Jedi Knights are not real but fantasy figures in George Lucas’ Star Wars series.
2. Are there Wars going on in the Stars? “Star Wars”? The Scriptures speak of angels as Stars... whether they be those that are in heaven or those of hell described as fallen or wandering stars. What is more the Sacred Scriptures are clear that there is indeed a war going on between them, heaven and hell, good angels and bad angels, from the beginning of time... and war will continue even to the end...with us right in the middle. We must be worth fighting for. But is there life in other places of the Universe where battles are being conducted in outer space between various races of aliens and peoples?
3. No, there are not. At least there are no indications in Divine Revelation that there any other kinds of rational life other than angels and men in the entire Universe. Think about it. When heaven is opened up in the Scriptures and in the private revelations of the saints... the only things seen in the heavenly abode are angels and men. No aliens! Unless of course they are all in hell. Does that sound like God?
4. What is more, science is constantly being confronted with the fact that we seem to be at the center of the Universe... This is being proved time and time again by new discoveries. Thus the reason for the documentary “the Principle.”
5. Philosophy and Theology both teach us that we humans are a microcosmos of the macrocosmos, meaning that we capture all levels of being and existence of God’s Creation inside of us... This is a way of saying, WE ARE IT... the centerpiece of God’s creation. The war of the

angels is about us! Christ came here to this earth, this rock and established His Church. There is only One Christ, One Mother of God, Immaculately Conceived...ONE Church. We are it! Pope Zachary (d. 752) seems to have confirmed this to some degree stating to St. Boniface: "if it shall be clearly established that he [a priest] professes belief in another world and other people existing beneath the earth, or in [another] sun and moon there, thou art to hold a council, and deprive him of his sacerdotal rank, and expel him from the Church." We are it! There is only ONE CHRISTMAS!

6. What does this say about the movies called "Star Wars" that are always coming back and are so popular? They are fantasy. They do not represent reality (same holds for all other sci-fi stories...Star Trek, etc). Does that mean they are just fun entertainment and anyone can safely watch and enjoy them?? I would say, no... and that, if there were still an Index of Forbidden or Dangerous books and movies, this would be listed among them. This is not very popular thing to preach on! Then again, the Index was never very popular either but needed and helpful!
7. Apart from breaking all the laws of physics, the Star Wars shows promote bad philosophy and bad theology... but more importantly, and the reason for this sermon today, they promote the occult—bad spirituality. Yes, without doubt they have captivating and imaginative stories... and great special effects... but, as the Council of Trent says, "that all may know not only what they must hold and follow, but also what to avoid and shun," let us turn to Cardinal Burke and John Senior for some assistance in seeing the dangers with stories and movies like Star Wars.
8. Before converting to the Holy Catholic Faith in the 1960's, John Senior conducted a serious study of the occult and mapped out many of its ideas and false principles. He describes them in his book, published in 1959 (i.e., way before Star Wars movies), called *The Way Down and Out*. He writes: "Here are some, at least, of the [occult] beliefs of "primitive" people: (1) the universe is animate; (2) there is an animating "force"; (3) this force can be controlled through sympathy and contagion in various kinds of ritual and discipline. These beliefs are not of course necessarily primitive. They are held by people who are neither charlatans nor fools in our own time and are the basis of the "occult" worldview in all times and places." Hmmmm. The Universe is alive. It has a force. It can be

controlled. Sound familiar?? Note he determined that this is the basis of the occult world view ... that seeks to gain information and power through this force... just like what we see in Star Wars where the force is described as "the all-pervading vital energy of the universe."

9. John Senior goes on to describe how the occult is fundamentally dualistic in its approach to the world, stating for the occult: "The created universe is composed of paired "opposites" — male-female, light-dark — which generated their own equilibrium or harmony." In Star Wars, the so-called force is fundamentally dualistic... with no side coming out necessarily stronger than the other. No is Creator mentioned or honored or adored.
10. And what about the saying "The force be with you"? Does that not sound like: "the Lord be with you" or "God be with you"?? George Lucas is on record as saying: "Most of the spiritual reality in the movie[s] is based on a synthesis of all religions."
11. It is very important to take the author and his sources at their word and not try project upon these movies our own Catholic Thought. George Lucas is a fan and follower of the writings of the myth and new age philosopher Joseph Campbell. As a result, Campbell's ideas are woven throughout the Star Wars series. The films are based on New Age--occult ideas.
12. Okay... but can we not just watch such things for fun? They are very entertaining are they not?
13. When his Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke was ordinary of LaCrosse Wisconsin back in 2003, he sent a letter regarding the dangers of the occult to all the priests and teachers of his diocese. In this letter, he wrote: "it is my solemn duty to warn the faithful against the presentations of the occult, which often are considered a form of entertainment or amusement but in fact pose a great danger to the salvation of souls."
14. He continues: "The faithful, especially parents and those who care for the young, must exercise special vigilance over books, movies and other forms of entertainment which present occult practices in an attractive manner. More and more, Christianity and Christian spirituality are completely absent from the media. The spiritual forces which our children are likely to learn about in current literature or in the theater are associated with the New Age or the occult."

15. To see why this is important consider this simple exchange from a interview of Bill Moyers with Joseph Campbell. Moyers: "When I saw Star Wars, I remember the phrase from the apostle Paul: 'I wrestle against principalities and powers.' That was two thousand years ago. ... Here in our modern technological myths we are still wrestling." Campbell: "Man should not submit to the powers of from outside but command them. How to do it is the problem." Moyers: "After our youngest son had seen Star Wars for the twelfth or thirteenth time, I said, 'Why do you go so often?' He said, 'for the same reason you have been reading the Old Testament all your life.' He was in a new world of myth." Is this where we want our children to be?? Note how Campbell wants what all new agers want... self-realization... such that we can command the forces that be... if only we wake up to the fact we are gods.
16. Cardinal Burke: "I would remind those, who are deeply attached to forms of entertainment or recreation that focus on New Age or occult forms of spirituality, of the larger cultural context, that is, of the deepening erosion of the Christian faith in a world which often lives "as if God does not exist." We must ask ourselves: Do our children know God's miracles worked in the lives of the saints, or do they know only the magical deeds of imaginary heroes? Do our young people know the richness of our traditional devotional life, or do they experiment with New Age forms of mysticism to satisfy their spiritual needs? Do we ourselves toy with New Age or the occult, without recognizing the inherent spiritual harm in these forms of entertainment?"
17. Perhaps some are wondering: "will a person be cursed for viewing Star Wars?" Not likely. BUT they will surely open doors to the fallen stars to come and encourage us to want more and more of the same...
18. At Christmas Midnight Mass we learned about how the prophecy of Jeremias regarding the Ark of the Covenant lost on Mount Nebo was indeed fulfilled in the cave outside of Bethlehem... The Ark is Blessed Mary and She was found with Her Sacred and Kingly contents lying in a manger. We have seen the power of this Ark on display at Fatima a century ago... At her command the earth opened up to reveal hell and the Sun came out of the sky and threatened the earth... And this ark is not approached by self-realization but by humble prayer and consecration of our hearts, minds and all we have and are to Her Immaculate Heart. Let's

serve Her and the Sacred Contents of her womb with truth, goodness and virtue... being true knights of God and His Queen... rather than lovers of strange useless and dangerous fantasy tales that will only confuse our minds and our children. Star Wars is bad physics, bad philosophy and bad theology... It is bad spirituality too. Enough with the fantasy nonsense... let's get back to reality and engage in the battle that is really raging between heaven and hell.