

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SECULARISATION IN THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF THE XXTH CENTURY

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Abstract

The author describes the forms of secularization and tries to understand the limits of distancing oneself from God. Under certain political circumstances secularization might become very dangerous. Secularization means a process when a human being tries to ‘free oneself’ from religious influence in the society, leaving the religion in a ‘private corner’. The author bravely maintains that the highest liberation from the influence of God can be seen in the philosophy of Nietzsche: it simply ‘killed’ God. Nietzschean philosophy was adopted by Hitler and Europe was ‘liberated in the best way’ from Christian influence by death of million people. The author makes references to well-known historians, proving that both ideologies, rejecting the God, – Marxism and Leninism of Soviet Russia –collaborated with Nazism until the beginning of the World War Two. In short, secularisation can reach its expression in the most radical forms of totalitarian regimes, such as Marxism-Leninism and Nazism. The author has presented a review of godless systems, comparing similarities and differences of Nazism and Communism, and has analysed what lessons modern society can draw out of it.

Keywords: Theologian, secularisation, globalisation, religion, Christianity, European Union

Abbreviations:

AAS	Acta Apostolicae Sedis
Artc.	Article
EU	European Union
EC	European Council
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
CCEE	European Council of Bishops’ Conference
LR	The Republic of Lithuania
LURK	The Conference of Rectors of Lithuanian Universities
LBC	The Conference of Lithuanian Bishops’

HS The Holy See
Ref. Reference

Introduction

The aim of this article is to perceive the moral mission and responsibility of Christians in developing the spirituality of the society, the knowledge of the truths revealed by God, spreading of Christian humanism by cherishing democratic values under conditions of globalization and secularization of society; it also aims at analysing how far the godless and totally secularized society can go. The International Words' Dictionary gives three definitions of "secularisation" (French. *sécularisation*, Latin. *secularis* – secular): 1. „transference of something belonging to the Church or clergymen to disposition of laity; 2. conversion of a clergyman into laity; 3. liberation of activity, creativity, and mentality of ecclesiastic influence. We shall consider the possibility or impossibility to prevent the spread of secularization"¹. Having in mind the fact that EU was established by Christian political leaders we shall try to understand the influence of Catholic Church to the culture of European nations².

The object of analysis is Christian religion because its communities and denominations are most widely spread in Europe. One cannot deny the impact of the existence of Christians in the European continent, but Christians should show respect to confessors of any faith as to their neighbours.

I. De-Christianisation and the Peril of Totalitarianism. The analysis of historical examples will illustrate what happens when the secularization of the society absolutely deletes God, and reveal how these two forms of totalitarian regime could have emerged. We shall try to legally define what a legal and a totalitarian state is and to describe their relationship with ecclesiastic communities.

The highest level of secularisation was reached in totalitarian political systems: Marxism and Nazism. The Dictionary of International Words gives the following definition of totalitarianism: „The state fully controlling social, political, cultural life while there is no public control"³. Other authors

¹*The Dictionary of International Words*. Vilnius. 1985. P. 440.

² Cnf. *Dictionnaire de la Langue Francaise petit Robert*. Paris. 1979. P. 1788. Explains the meaning of secularisation in the same way **secularisation** as taking of property, lands, institutions, privileges from Church and transmission of them to secular authorities, the society. Secularisation started in ancient Egypt. In Europe, it began in the State of Francs: the majordome Carol Martel (714–741) he used to give lands of the Church to those who distinguished themselves in military or administrative service. It acquired especially high scope during the Reformation, bourgeoisie and social revolutions. In the Grand Duchy of Lithuania it was first carried out in 1773 when the state took over the property of the liquidated Jesuit Order.

³ Chief Editorial Board of *Encyclopedias. International Dictionary*. Vilnius. 1985. P. 495.

describe totalitarian regime in encyclopedias in the following way: totalitarian system (lot. *totalitas* – „full, absolute“), management of totalitarian system is a political system where a state is governed by individual, group or class. It does not approve the limits of its authority and wants to reach an absolute public and private life control. Totalitarian system is connected with certain ideology or system of points of view. It is very similar to Fascism, Nazism or Communism⁴.

Bolshevik revolution in 1917 was a tragic experience for Europe. A handful of Bolsheviks managed to seize power, to kill the elite of Russian nation and to exercise control over the vast territory of Russia. It was the greatest disaster for mankind. Till now historians cannot exactly estimate how many million people Bolsheviks have put to death. The estimations vary from 60 to 100 million: A. Solzhenitsyn argues that 100 million people perished in exile, prisons, uprising or simply died of hunger as in the Ukraine. This figure is documentarily reliable, presented in the book *Il libro nero del comunismo*⁵. Having destroyed the image of God in the human soul, Soviet communism chose the Marxist-Leninist ideology as the basis for its policy; later it was called “an atheist theology”. Mikhail Gorbachev was the first to admit that in the era of communism building ~200,000 clergymen of different denominations and religions were put to death. It is a pity that Europe did not learn anything from the history of Bolshevism: it did not bother to analyse the causes of this phenomenon or to make proper conclusions.

Nazis, on the contrary, learnt a lot from Soviet Russia. In 1933, after having won democratic elections, Hitler came into power and decided to establish a faithless and godless state. He assimilated the Nietzschean ideology of God “killing”; with the idea of God’s death started “liberal time of collapse, destruction, wrecks, failures“. In his book *Human, All Too Human* Nietzsche says: „We have killed him, [...] the holiest and the most powerful Being in the world has been pouring with blood wounded with our knives“⁶. Europe, boasting of so many universities, libraries and the army of theologians from village parsons to Deans of the Faculties of Theology and Rectors of Universities, has condemned itself! Maybe in the pre-war European society it was an obvious manifestation of secularization process which sympathized with any form of godlessness. Western Europeans have heard of Stalin’s concentration camps, have seen the consequences of

⁴ Cnf. Conquest R. *Reflections on a Ravaged Century*, ISBN 0-393-04818-7, 2000. P. 74

⁵ Courtois St. Werth N. Pannè J.L. Paczkowski A. Bartosek K. Margolin J-L. *Il libro nero del comunismo. Crimini, terore, repressione*. Paris, 1997. P. 6: „Il totale si avvicina ai 100 milioni di morti“ (Translation) In total up to 100 million victims.

⁶ Artiklis: Nietzsche : *The Idea of the God’s Death*, www.spauda.lt/plato/god-death.htm (Ref. 20/1/2013).

Bolshevik revolution and, being at a loss, misunderstood Hitler's projects and could not estimate the scale of future tragedy. Surely, consciousness of the Germans was strongly influenced by political reasons because Germany after the defeat in World War I experienced allies' contempt, had to endure a heavy tax load. Hitler simply managed to deceive the Germans with his organising competencies and they started to trust him. Nazism could get stronger and spread due to political blindness of the leaders of Western Europe and the USA. They did not realize that limitless concessions to Hitler's territorial demands exceed all degrees of tolerance. Had the democratic world thought about it in the very beginning of Hitler's deeds and unified its forces, the Nazism could have been destroyed more easily, with lesser casualties. But the Allies woke up and entered into a fatal battle with Hitler's forces only when the entire Europe was yoked to the Third Reich. Marxist and Nazi ideologies ("God killers") intimately collaborated finding many things in common⁷. Please, read carefully the quotation 7, the summary of a comprehensive article of a historian A. Kasperavičius on this topic!

The Holy See did not keep a quiet tongue. On March 14, 1936 Pope Pius XI in his encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* distinctly condemned Nazism for its anti-semitic, anti-Christian and totalitarian approach⁸. From 1934 to 1936 the Holy See dispatched 34 letters and diplomatic notes to Berlin, but no reply was given. The 34th Eucharistic Congress that was held in Budapest in May, 1938 in Hitler's eyes seemed an anti-Nazi one. The Catholic Church opposed Hitler: formal condemnation of Nazi regime cost it 4,000 lives of clergymen.⁹ Pius XII in his encyclical *Summi pontificatus* (October 20, 1939) shows the situation of mankind shocked by war tragedies, comparing the world to Golgotha: „According to the Holy Gospel, there was darkness over all land when the Christ was crucified. It is a

⁷ Germany (Republic of Weimar/the Third Reich) was the most important political, military and economic partner of the USSR. After signing the Rapallo Treaty (April, 1922), an intensive military-political collaboration between the USSR and Germany went on until June 1941, experiencing only a slight decline in the period of 1934–1938. A. Hitler ratified Moscow Protocol on May 5, 1933. On the collaboration between the Soviet Union and the Third Reich, see: A. Kasperavičius. "History of Collaboration between the USSR and the Third Reich: or What is Hidden in the Notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. //www.delfi.lt/.../akasperavicius-ssrs-ir-treciojo-reicho- (Ref. 28/01/2013)

⁸ Cf. AAS, vol. 24, 1932. P. 180.

⁹ Buika M. "An Exclusive Witness: Pius XII": "On August 24, 1939, the next day after Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, which partitioned Eastern Europe, Pope Pius XII addressed the international community, once more encouraging it not to launch warfare and solve peacefully all disagreements. On October 20, 1939 after the outbreak of war, the Holy Father in his encyclical *Summi Pontificatus* condemned Communism and Nazism as totalitarian ideologies and the destruction of Poland and other countries":. http://www.xxiamzius.lt/numeriai/2008/10/08/krpas_01.html

daunting image of what has happened and what is spiritually going on where blind infidelity and lordliness practically have deleted the Christ out of a modern public life, and rejecting the faith in the Christ have denied the faith in God as well¹⁰. The dictatorship of Nazism exterminated all those who dared to oppose it. Not all bishops and clergymen were brave enough to meet death, so they chose to remain silent, did not issue letters of public condemnation. On the whole, it should be admitted that the Church alone struggled against the dictatorship of superhuman nature, Catholic priests contributed a lot to the rescue of Jews from Holocaust. Hitler surpassed the Soviets by killing capacity: in massive destruction of Jewish people, commonly regarded as genocide, perished about 6 million innocent people!!!

There were no shrewd diplomats which could foresee that the Allies assisting the Soviet Union to defeat Nazism, the fiercest enemy, would themselves become irreconcilable enemies for half of a century. The nations will again suffocate in the hostile atmosphere of Marxist “secularisation” and cold war. The fighting nations felt harsh betrayal of the left wing liberals of the Western world¹¹

II. Overview of Godless Government Systems: Nazism and Soviet Communism. I called this chapter “Overview of Godless Government Systems” because the atheism and fight with religions was the official doctrine of these systems. We can say that Marxism – Leninism has been the “theology” of ruling circles with no possibility to criticize it; the same tendency prevailed in Germany: the critics of Nazi system were punished even more severely than in Stalinist Russia. Historians have proved that the Soviet Russia helped Hitler to remain in power partitioning Europe by Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. We have to listen to one more inconvenient argument: the government of the Soviet Russia financed the activity of communist parties and movements in the whole world at the same time impelling its citizens to live in poverty. The leaders of European and

¹⁰ Pio XII Enciclica Summi Pontifikatus// *I Documenti sociali della Chiesa a cura di R Spiazzi. Da Pio IX a Giovanni Paolo II.* 9 vol. I: (dal 1864 al 1965). P. 382. 14 a. :“Narra il Santo Vangelo che quando Gesù venne crocifisso, „si fece buio per tutta la terra , spaventoso simbolo di ciò che avvenne e continua ad avvenire spiritualmente dovunque l’incredulità cieca e orgogliosa di sé, ha di fatto escluso Cristo dalla vita moderna, specialmente dalla vita pubblica, e con la fede in Cristo ha scosso anche la fede in Dio“. (Translation).The Holy Evangel tells that Jesus was crucified, “it became dark on Earth. It is a scaring symbol of what happens and is still happening in spirit where a Godless spirit is blind and proud inside. In reality it separates the Christ from modern life, especially from a public one and diminishes the belief into Christ at the same time diminishing the belief into the God.

¹¹ When peace was established in Europe, Lithuanians were engaged in partisan warfare for 10 years. In 1956, the USA and NATO military forces viewed Hungarian events as outsiders, thus silently encouraging the Kremlin to defeat the anti-communist upsurge. The West took similar attitude during the “Prague Spring” in 1968.

American communist parties were free-thinkers or really godless people. These communist leaders lived a luxurious life, at the expense of Russian people received fees for their living, distributed anti-governmental leaflets, held riots and had a good time at conferences, sponsored by the Kremlin. They did not grieve for violations of human rights in the socialist camp, only launched revolutions in their societies. The workers from free countries fought for their rights and achieved what they wanted. Due to higher Western welfare some communist leaders started to see the daylight and became dissenters in the eyes of their political parties. To tell the truth, we should not generalize and blame all ordinary members of communist parties as a lot of honest people became communists: it was their protest against the minuses of capitalism.

Clear-minded people courageously collate both totalitarian forms (Nazism and Communism) as equally guilty against the mankind. Let's remember a witty folk saying: „one is brown like a dog, the other is red like a Satan“. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania A. Ažubalis said: “The decision to sign up the declaration which refuses to hold the crimes of Nazis and the Soviets equally cruel is deplorable. The legal qualification of their crimes is absolutely the same: these are war crimes, genocide and crime to humanity”¹². A lot of researchers, historians managed to prove this fact in their papers and publications. V. Zaslavsky presents a telling conclusion: “What are the main features of a governmental party we can find out from the experience of both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. In such systems, the highest posts and roles of the party and of the state are concentrated in the save hands”.¹³ “The terror of the masses has been the condition to establish a party-state system that was indispensable for its effective functioning”.¹⁴ In such political systems the state is in a higher position than an individual while in a democratic Christian system the state serves the individual, defends his freedoms and rights.

¹² The decision to sign up the declaration which refuses to hold the crimes of Nazis and the Soviets equally cruel is deplorable. www.15min.lt/.../uzsienio-reikalu-ministro-atstove-g. (Ref. 28/12/2013)

¹³ V. Zaslavsky. *Storia del sistema sovietico. L'ascesa, la stabilità, il crollo*. Roma. 1995. P. 113: „Quali sono le caratteristiche principali di un partito- Stato lo insegnano sia l'esperienza della Germania nazista che quella dell'Unione Sovietica. In tali sistemi i ruoli e gli incarichi piu' alti del partito e dello Stato convergono nelle stesse mani...“. (Translation) What were the main features of the Party-State, the experience of Nazi Germany is the same as in the Soviet Union. In these systems the role and the highest duties were in the hands of the state and the party.

¹⁴ Ibid. P. 119: „Il terrore di massa fu la condizione per creare sia il sistema del partito- Stato, che l'ambiente indispensabile a un suo efficace funzionamento“. (Translation) Massive terror was a condition to make the system of party-state.

The ways of establishing dictatorships and the degrees of their 'democracy' are quite different. Alas, nobody has succeeded in creating a Communism with 'a human face'. Regardless the ideology of a totalitarian state, it is dominated by one political party identifying itself with the state. It preserves the policy of the state, dictates its cultural context and always desires to control an individual, 'to have his soul', to make people blindly trust the leaders of their party. The laws protected a collective property more than the private one.¹⁵ Courts did not defend justice but aimed at intimidating people to prevent them opposing the system of the state. People were denied the freedom of elections. With only one party in power, the outcome of any elections was obvious – Communists used to win 97 or 98 per cent of votes. The parliament (the Supreme Council) could not pass decisions and laws according to their conscience but had to obey the orders and directions of the party and KGB (only in the elections to local municipalities non-party candidates were allowed to run for the election). The worst situation was in the sphere of public freedoms: totalitarian systems denied political, civic and cultural freedom of a human being. The Soviet Union forbade emigration or travelling abroad without the permission of secret security services, there was no possibility to establish independent Trade Unions, to publish independent newspapers... Both Nazi and Soviet regimes attempted to delete religiosity and to enslave the Church forcing it to serve the system. (One had to break all links with the Church joining Nazis' or the Communist Party of Soviet Union). It was their way to lead people to 'bright future of the Communism'.

There are some differences to be perceived. First of all, Germany promoted private property, while in the Soviet Union collective property prevailed. The Germans extolled their nation, calling themselves Aryans while the Soviets simply disturbed the life throughout the globe, glorifying the class struggle. Poverty and famine seized Russia while Germany under the rule of Hitler saw economic prosperity. Because of that the Germans were deluded.

Totalitarian system is the extreme opposite of a democratic one. In a totalitarian system the effective functioning of the authorities is impeded by 'mixing' of all three powers. The head of the executive power in Nazi Germany was Fuhrer while in the Soviet Union 'a man of genius' to regulate all spheres of life was Stalin, and later – the Communist party: 'the wisdom, honour and conscience of the epoch'.

¹⁵ Ibid. P. 58: „Il decreto sulla terra ne aboliva la proprietà privata senza alcun pagamento agli ex proprietari terrieri e affidava ai comitati dei contadini“. (Translation): “The decree on land abolished the private property without any compensation to landowners and gave the land to the committees of collective farmers.” Author’s remark: Then the Soviet government took the land from all citizens and declared that it is the property of the state.

The Kremlin monitored foreign policy of the countries of Socialist block and even their home affairs trying to insulate their economy from such capitalist elements as free market, private property, proper human rights and especially the freedom of religion. The degrees of totalitarianism, however, vary depending on time and place, e.g. the former Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia and the regime of North Korea. Poland did not restrict the religious freedom; Yugoslavia encouraged the establishment of private land tenure. Broz Tito was the only leader from socialist block who signed the concordat with the Holy See. In spite of these exceptions, the essence of the above mentioned dictatorships was to preserve political anti-human regimes. The Soviet Union unhesitatingly sought the global domination after reaching the peak of mature socialism in the ninth decade of the XX century. In Cold War period the generals of NATO could not have a peaceful rest at night as the atmosphere was really tense and at any time 4,000 Soviet tanks could set for Berlin or Paris. (Selling of “Mistral” military ships to Russia was regarded as French ‘slap in the face’ of Russian neighbours.)

Regrettably, it should be stated that the Christianity failed to become a powerful life force able to block the road to anti-human political systems. No sane Christian would agree with the attitude denying any other nation the right to life, declaring the exclusivity of his own nation. It should be admitted that the Christianity failed to transmit humanistic ideals of Christ to young people and to the politicians and did not exert a desirable influence on a modern secularized society. One of the reasons of that failure is that European states and the societies of totalitarian countries did not have proper charismatic leaders who could inspire others to oppose the rule of dictators (Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler) and to quench their enormous appetite for power. In fact, Christian way of life involves opposition to any totalitarian system which humiliates a person, stifling their spiritual power for freedom and creativity. If the society appreciates such values as human rights, democratic principles of management, equality of nations, and peace, it should be on the alert, otherwise the people with improper attitudes will promptly take the opportunity to get to power and to conquer the mass media.

History is the teacher of future; it reveals that “killing of God” and experiments with the human soul were too costly for nations and states. Totalitarian systems emerge as the outcome of a long secularization process. The totalitarianism stretches beyond national borders and seeks global domination. And democracy? Does it give in to secularization? **III. Secularisation Today.** Soviet times impoverished the Catholic Church in Lithuania: some of the churches were closed, religious institutions, such as *Caritas*, Catechetical and Family centres were destroyed, and Christian literature was forbidden. Soviet anti-religious ideology prevailing in Eastern Europe attempted to create a new type of society: the society without God

and without faith. Every third priest was exiled to Siberia or killed. The Church somehow managed to survive only in three Soviet Republics: Lithuania, and a little bit of half-functioning Christian Church in Latvia and in Ukraine churches were like islands of free thought. The Greek Catholic Church, however, had to function in the underground¹⁶. Rarefied forces of priests and Catholic intellectuals disturbed the capacity of Church to effectively overcome the challenges of the society. It was the consequence of occupation and not of secularisation. Bishops, theologians and ordinary faithful supported the attempts to achieve the freedom. Resistance occurred under different forms: from active armed confrontation to cultural opposition. The Chronicle of the Catholic , P. Church of Lithuania was issued from 1972 to 1990. This underground issue uninterruptedly released information to foreign countries about the complicated situation of the faithful in the Soviet Union. National movements won; the people who erected crosses and prayed broke the Berlin Wall. It is the example of most wonderful theology of suffering: the inherent spirit of human freedom always wins.

In Western world, however, the material wellbeing and political liberalism found other ways to undermine faith in the consciousness of many people. In wider sense, secularisation manifests itself by life without faith, without God, though some people secretly acknowledge the existence of deity or of some higher being. One should distinguish between a personal decision not to believe and a wider choice to ignore the idea of God, deleting the expressions of Christian culture from the society. Left wing intellectuals are afraid of the impact of Catholic Church in public life, despite the fact that its voice is heard only on a certain issues (social equality) when the public laws deny the Decalogue. France, Holland and partly UK can be taken as the examples of secularized societies; they do against nature in the field of family legislation.

Common goal of atheists, both left- and right wing, is the establishment of wild capitalism. Former communist government member and leaders that used to defend socialist ownership (“everything belongs to people”) seized the first opportunity to forfeit the best bite of everything leaving ordinary people without anything. Even Russia is full of capitalists-magnates. One of many manifestations of secularization is life only for

¹⁶ Libreria Editrice Religiosa F. Ferrari. *La Chiesa del silenzio guarda a Roma*. Roma, 1957. P 416: „Tutti gli ordini sono dati con la minaccia di morte... Tutti i monasteri dispersi. Confisca la proprietà delle case nelle città. Tutte le scuole, orfanotrofi, istituti, associazioni cattoliche soppressi, i beni confiscati..“ (Translation) „All the orders were given in scaring about death... All the monasteries were closed. Their homes in cities were taken. All schools, orphanages, institutes, Catholic communities were dismissed and their property was taken...“

money, characteristic to those nouveaux-riches who had gained their assets in illegal way. They do not acknowledge the concept of neighbourly love, the necessity to celebrate Sunday, or to pray, etc.

You can find a variety of forms and ways of secularisation starting with creation of a family without the Sacrament of marriage and ending with refusal to appreciate Christian heritage in EU Constitution.

The competence of a state to warranty the freedom of conscience and free confession of faith strengthens democracy in a society and promotes peaceful coexistence among the peoples. A legal state, its institutions and politicians do not intend to restrict religious practices of the faithful, do not prohibit to create Christian culture, but on the contrary take care of the welfare of the citizens, allow them to form their personal beliefs or lead a secular way of life. It should be noted that legal state forms a democratically sound society as far as it does not violate natural family laws, respects life and human rights. When a person decides not to believe and distances himself from God, it is his personal choice. When the same person acquires power, he may impose the concepts of godless ideology to others. On the other hand, you cannot find any law proving that an atheist will obligatorily establish a totalitarian regime under secularized anti-Christian form. It has been stated that the best warranty of the rights of the faithful is a legal, democratic state giving its citizens freedom to practice any religion or to reject it. Such system of government has enabled Europe to create a long-lasting Christian culture Today the secularization has reached its supreme degree, i.e. ‘running away from God’, due to different reasons. One of reasons lies inside the man. In the XXI c. the human rights and the concept of a legal state has been universally accepted. All countries attempt to secure human rights and basic freedoms. It has become genuinely important not to insult followers of any faith or non-believers, to observe the laws. The Christians should distinguish themselves by loyalty to their state and contribute to the creation of a harmonious and well-functioning society.

Right after his election as a Pope Karol Wojtila said: “Open wide all doors to Christ. Open to His saving power the state borders, economic and political systems, broad fields of culture and the development of civilization. Do not be shy to talk to people about Christ. He is the only One who has got the words of life.”¹⁷ John Paul II was anxious about the desire of politicians

¹⁷ *Insegnamenti di Giovanni Paolo II*, 1, 1978. P. 38: „Aprite, anzi spalancate le porte a Cristo. Alla sua salvatrice potestà aprite i confini degli Stati, i sistemi economici come quelli politini, i vasti campi della cultura, della civiltà, dello sviluppo. Non abiate paura di parlare all'uomo di Cristo. Lui solo ha le parole di vita“. (Translation) Open the doors to the Christ. Open the borders of the states, economical and political systems, wide spaces of culture, civilisation and development in order to save his power. Do not be afraid to speak about the Christ for people. It is only him who has the words of life.

to push Christian spirit beyond the limits of the society, allowing it to remain in a privately secret corner of human life. Both he, and his successor Benedict XVI condemned secularized Western society for promotion of abortions and euthanasia, “Europe will have to reflect on this loss.”¹⁸ Democratically elected politicians, both in EU and national parliaments, represent their electorate and depend on it. As the electorate is either under strong influence of secularization or simply indifferent to any political issues, it elects similarly apathetic politicians. In this context, pastoral anxiety of Catholic Church leaders about secularized consciousness of humanity is really timely, opportune and reasonable.

In 2003, the Bishops from the present and future EU member states repeatedly invited those who prepared the Agreement of EU Constitution to mention Christianity in the Preamble of the Agreement. The petition of Bishops included the following arguments: a) such reference could show the international connections relevant for the future of the whole Europe; b) by accepting the relevance of the tradition of Christianity, the significance of other religions and philosophical traditions is also emphasized; c) reference to Christianity does not denote the priority of one religion; d) it does not abolish the separation principle of the Church and the state; g) the neutrality of EU institutions shall not be alleviated, and e) European historic truth of two thousand years shall be maintained. The Bishops were pleased that “today’s Europe has become a continent where citizens of different beliefs share the living and collaborate feeling their ultimate responsibility against God and acknowledging their transient existence to achieve the common welfare”¹⁹. European Bishops addressed the leaders of EU in the Assembly: „Our conference expects that the Intergovernmental Conference will be successful and we do hope that the Constitutional meeting will not forget and will clearly state the imperative to mention Christian roots of Europe in the Preamble of EU Constitution“.²⁰ EU architects definitely did not want to mention other origins diminishing the role of Christianity. On the contrary, almost all Constitutions of all EU member states is distinguished by Christian spirit. (For example, read the article of Irish Constitution on a family²¹).

¹⁸ Giovanni Paolo II, *I dieci comandamenti a cura di Domenico del Rio*. Milano. 1992. P. 84: „L’Europa dovrà meditare su questa sconfitta.“ (Translation) Europe will have to think over this loss.

¹⁹ On the position of European Bishops, cf. LBC news 06/11/2003. LVKS information. European Bishops: Christianity – the force of European unity.//lvk.lcn.lt/naujienos/34. (Ref. 20/01/2012)

²⁰ CCEE Assembly. 2003. //www.eubusiness.com/afp/031006105046.c4t0ydr3. (Ref. 01/12/2011)

²¹ 1. „State considers a family as a natural, most important and basic unit of the society. It has the rights which cannot be taken away and cannot be regulated; they are higher than the positive right. 2. that is why the state takes over the responsibility to protect a family as an

Designing the logo of EU, a neutral, secular symbol was created: twelve yellow stars in a blue setting. The authors tried to avoid any religious symbols in order Constitution could assume a secular character. Without any doubt, EU Constitution has to be worldly but its present wording does not define the identity of EU nations. Usually, the Constitution establishes the basic values unifying people and nations. To tell the truth, Part 3 of Article 14 of EU Constitution defends the parents' right to educate children in established schools in accordance to their outlook: „The right to establish an educational institution taking into consideration the principles of democracy and the rights of parents to guarantee the education to their children according to their religious, philosophical and pedagogical convictions, national laws, regulating the use of such freedom and right“. However, it seemed to be unsatisfactory.

EU Constitution was signed in Rome on October 29, 2004 by the representatives of EU states. It had to become the main legislative document for the union of states in force throughout the whole territory of the EU, and determining EU political, legislative and economic basis. EU Constitution exists alongside with national Constitutions of the member states. Lithuanian Parliament was the first among all member states to ratify the Treaty on the Approval of the EU Constitution (November 11, 2004). The ratification process got stuck in France and the Netherlands when referendum voted against the Constitution. Without unanimous ratification, this main EU document had to be rejected; instead of it, the Lisbon Treaty came into force in 2009.

It should be admitted that social injustice and inequality force young people to protest and deviate from a traditional faith. Even theologians failed to avoid divergences from genuine Catholic teaching. Luckily, any digressions from the Road, Truth and Life led those theological movements into disappearance or insignificance, e.g. “theology of liberation”; it proves that it is impossible to solve the issues of social injustice in the countries of Latin America by outdated means of Marxism. All theological perversions in which you can find more false pride than traditional theological wisdom (pretending to be very clever people do stupid things) either become a relic or cause painful disunity within the Church, failing to reach their goals. Theology should always and everywhere remain as a special study of God, the truths revealed by Him, the Church established by Christ. A theologian plumbs into

interchangeable base of social order and necessary prerequisite of state and nation wealth in the Constitution. 2.1 The state agrees that by choosing the role of a housekeeper a woman provides support to state. No common wealth can be reached without it.

2. That is why the state tries to guarantee that mothers could not be forced to go to work due to economical necessity, if they had to leave their duties at home.

3.1 The state undertakes to save and protect the marriage as the base of a family.“

the treasury of revealed divine truths. The deeper he perceives them, the stronger his personal faith becomes, the more sincerely he loves Christ, the more easily he can witness the essence and beauty of these truths and transmit them to others. The theological studies and the truths of Christian teaching presented in a clearly comprehensive language will stimulate consciousness of Christians; renew the face of the Church. Actually, the Church itself should take steps in the direction of its renewal, avoid mistakes made in the past (John Paul II apologized for them) and pursue its mission: to teach, to consecrate and to guide individuals and nations, leading them to the blessed eternity which already starts in this life. The ability of theologians to diminish the impact of secularization for the modern man will depend on their capacity to find proper direction through the complicated issues of modern society and on their ability to respond to the demands of the present day. Regardless of his wealth of nationality, the problems he has to solve in the face of pain, suffering, death, loss or a disaster remain the same in all times. The Church is proud of theoretical and practical contributions of Christian humanists to the possible solutions and revision of different human problems, state issues and the future of nations from the angle of eternity. Christian faith does not admit the possibility of lukewarm existence: either you set off on the road to holiness or deny God, completely forget Him and run away. Secularisation has no limits. Rejection of faith leads the society to the denial of God. Under certain circumstances, secularisation might become very dangerous. What does the universal rejection of God (in conscience, in private life, and in the society) imply? - Just remember the World War Two.

Conclusion

From the ample collection of facts, treaties, and legal context we can already summarise the issue. The EU is created by self-determination of free nations and free people. Different Christian denominations and communities have made their contribution to the establishment of the EU as well. It may become a reliable union of nations, if the grand states do not trample the principles of solidarity. EU will be as much stronger and needed for small nations. The commitment of EU leaders to respect national diversity and identity, the structure of religious communities is determined by laws. Establishment of the EU has been the biggest process of globalization in the world. This process is inevitable and it is not evil in itself unless the principle of solidarity is violated by unfair trade dealings or by other instruments of exploitation. The very globalisation is not the cause of secularisation process. New challenges of secularization and globalization involve Christian response, a step towards unity.

EU needs constant improvement not only in the economic but also in cultural direction. Its citizens should feel that they share common cultural

heritage, i.e. Christianity. Being a confederation of legal states it does not interdict individuals to practice publicly and communally their chosen religion. The risk arises when public institutions start misrepresenting the traditional concept of a family; similar attempts create favourable conditions for different forms of secularization, e.g. promotion of anti-Christian and anti-ecclesiastical values, imposition to the majority of the opinion of minority, violation of democratic principles, etc. Such artificial secularization induces turmoil and disunity in the society. Europe shall degrade if the EU adopts the laws, promoting ‘culture of death’.

Secularisation is felt all over the world. It is an attempt “to run away from God”, avoidance to manifest one’s religious identity. The religiosity of an individual or a nation, however, can never be overpowered. We only need to watch wakefully and work slowing down the secularisation process. Europe misses politicians with Christian mind – personalities²². Theologians should analyse the reasons of secularisation in order to provide the Church leaders with conclusions and proposals. In Europe secularisation had reached the highest level, after Marxism-Leninism took power in Russia and Nazism got rooted in Germany.

There are lots of libraries in Western Europe, and millions of copies of books are written but the thing the world needs most of all is the witnessing of theologians that God dwells inside us. Holiness is the fullness of humanism able to ‘melt’ any form of secularization. All lay Christians and clergymen renewed in the Holy Spirit and being in the unity with ecclesiastical hierarchy can do a lot of good in a modern society. The Pope and Bishops should be the models of fatherly generosity and inspire all priests to pay more attention to pastoral care, prayer, and studies, to encourage them to be more compassionate and helpful to the poor. It has been strongly emphasized by Pope Francis. Only the living Church can make the mankind turn to Christ. The course on Ascetics should be read in the seminaries of Lithuania and EU. ‘Training’ of soul for spiritual fights is the duty of every Christian, especially of a seminarian or a clergyman. God does not require from us to do impossible things or heroic deeds but obliges everyone to accomplish their ministry in the spirit of Christ. When all Christian denominations rally into the one, universal Church, when European nations renew their identity in the spirit of faith, a united Europe will stretch from Dublin to the Ural. No more wars, no more state borders, no such perversions of social life as racism, anti-Semitism, Communism or Nazism!

²² Kirschbaum St. J. The Christian in Politics// Pontifical Lateran University. An International Colloquium in the Vatican 1982. Monnier- Lorence. P. 1143: “The art of politics is as complex today as the society we live in. It requires knowledge, reflexion and wisdom. The same awaits the Christian in politics, all the more so because of the historical ideal he represents”.

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