Sedevacantist Watch…

Heresy: The Heart of Sedevacantism

Guest post by Tradical

Heresy is the heart which pumps life into all sedevacantist theories, since it serves as the foundation for their theory. Without a Pope that has lost his office of the Vicar of Christ due to heresy (or never validly acquired it for the same reason) the entire sedevacantist structure crumbles to dust.

Because of this, understanding what the Church means by the word *heresy* is key to evaluating the arguments and opinions proffered by sedevacantists apologists.

The Church has summarized its teaching concerning heresy in canon law, according to which heresy is:

> • … an error in judgement in consequence of which a baptized person obstinately denies or doubts a truth revealed by God and proposed by the Church for belief. (Canon 1325 1917)

> • … the obstinate denial or obstinate doubt after the reception of baptism of some truth which is to be believed by divine and Catholic faith;… (Canon 751 1982)

The critical elements that constitute heresy are summarized in the illustration below. If any of these elements are missing, then the accusation of heresy evaporates.
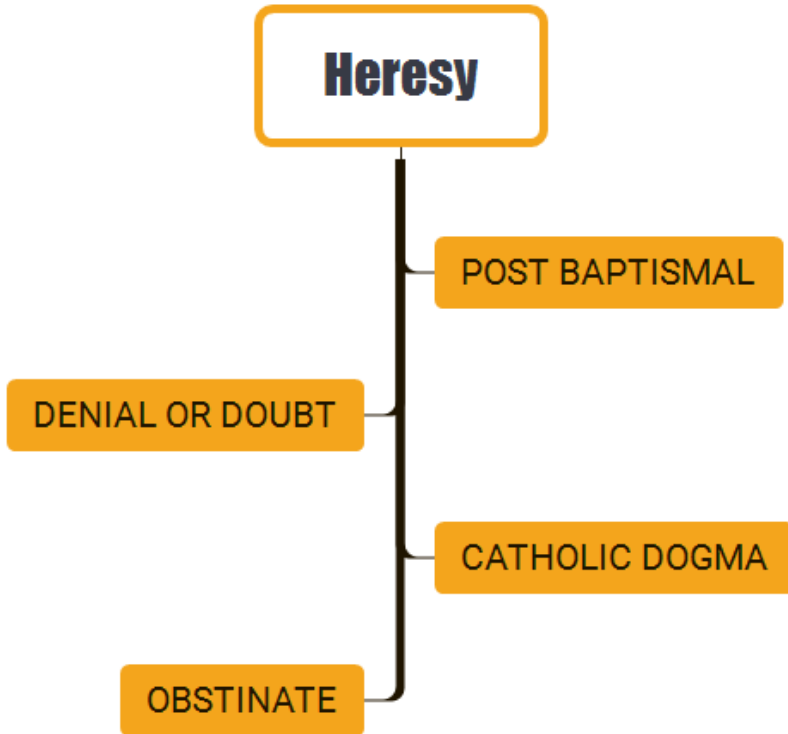
Illustration 1: Critical Elements of Heresy

Criteria #1: The person must be baptized. It is normally a foregone conclusion that Priests, Bishops, Cardinals and Popes have been baptized.

Criteria #2: The person must either doubt or deny a teaching of the Church. To be acted upon, this doubt or denial must have been done externally.

Criteria #3: The teaching of the Church must be a Dogma of the Catholic Church. Meaning that it is a teaching that Catholics must believe with Divine Faith as having been revealed by God. In short, no dogma, no heresy.

Criteria #4: The final criteria is that, in the face of correction by Church authorities, the person must be obstinate in their doubt / denial.

These criteria form the basis for examining most agruments put forward by Sedevacantists. In my next article, I'll discuss the Sedevacantism Kill Chain.