

I have read Francis' Exhortation in its entirety: 240+ pages – 58,000 words.

Amidst great drifts of verbose verbiage, some not bad, some remarkably tedious, Francis effectively canonizes situation ethics.

The key section of revolution appears at the end – Chapter 8.

He cautiously opens the door for Communion to the remarried on a 'case-by-case' basis. Progressives already celebrate it as a 'radical shift'.

This effectively destroys key elements Catholic Moral Theology.

The tumultuous Synods have brought forth a tumultuous Exhortation.

Will post a fuller report soon. Stay tuned.

[April 9 update: first short video now posted](#)

John Vennari

PS: Even Associated Press recognizes the Francis' revolution in moral teaching. In today's article titled "Pope insists conscience, not rules, must lead faithful," we read:

Pope Francis said Friday that Catholics should look to their own consciences more than Vatican rules to negotiate the complexities of sex, marriage and family life, demanding the church shift its emphasis from doctrine to mercy in confronting some of the thorniest issues facing the faithful.

In a major church document entitled "The Joy of Love," Francis made no explicit change in church doctrine and upheld church teaching on the lifelong bond of marriage between a man and a woman.

But in selectively citing his predecessors and emphasizing his own teachings in strategically placed footnotes, Francis made innovative openings in pastoral practice for Catholics who civilly remarry and signaled that he wants nothing short of a revolution in the way priests accompany Catholics. He said the church must no longer sit in judgment and "throw stones" at those who fail to live up to the Gospel's ideals of marriage and family life.

"I understand those who prefer a more rigorous pastoral care which leaves no

room for confusion,” he wrote. “But I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness.”

On thorny issues such as contraception, Francis stressed that a couple’s individual conscience — not dogmatic rules imposed on them across the board — must guide their decisions and the church’s pastoral practice.

“We have been called to form consciences, not replace to them,” he said.

He insisted the church’s aim is to reintegrate and welcome all its members. He called for a new language to help Catholic families cope with today’s problems. And he said pastors must take into account mitigating factors — fear, ignorance, habits and duress — in counseling Catholics who simply aren’t perfect.

“It can no longer simply be said that all those in any irregular situations are living in a state of mortal sin and are deprived of sanctifying grace,” he wrote. Even those in an “objective situation of sin” can be in a state of grace, and can even be more pleasing to God by trying to improve, he said.

From: [“Pope insists conscience, not rules, must lead faithful,”](#) Associated Press