March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Dear Friends of Catholic Tradition,

Lent is upon us. Let us consider for a few moments an important aspect of this season. There is a greater potency and additional graces available to acts done publicly and as the whole Church. For unlike Liberals, we know that Man is both an individual (a whole being) and also a part of a whole. Man can act in an individual or private capacity as well as part of a whole. This latter occurs when Man participates in public acts. We know this principle from a proper understanding of prayer. There is certainly a great importance in developing a private prayer life. We need time spent alone with Our Lord to know Him so we can love Him. Yet, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the summit of prayer because it is a public act to which we unite ourselves. Unlike Protestants, we know that there is a unique value to each of us playing our appropriate part in the public prayer of the Church.

This same principle applies to acts of penance such as fasting and abstinence. We must cultivate a spirit of penance and devote ourselves to appropriate methods to mortify our flesh and to make reparation for our sins. Yet, there are particular graces and merits attached to public acts of penance, when we do not act merely as private individuals, but as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ. Once a year, Lent provides this unique opportunity to participate actively in the public penance of the Church. This is one reason that virtual abandonment of most legislated Lenten obligations is such a loss to the Church in our time. Certainly, individuals can choose and execute their own personal acts of penance in Lent. Yet, it was different when all Catholics acted as one in observing more demanding rules of fasting and abstinence. Certainly, as individuals, we can freely choose to observe former practices, but those practices are no longer vested in the public life of the Church. This is a great loss. The minimal remaining Lenten requirements should be approached with great reverence as a result. They are an opportunity for us to act as part of a whole and not merely a private whole.

We at *Catholic Family News* pray that you our readers and supporters are showered with many graces this holy season. We pray that your heart is open to the penances and suffering God will see fit to send you this Lent. Often the sacrifices God sends are more suited than those we choose ourselves. This is not surprising as He knows us better than we know ourselves. Thank you for your continued support of our apostolate and please consider our work in your extra almsgiving this Lent. You could register as a supporter on our Locals channel to help sponsor Catholic media and receive access to exclusive content. You could also consider a gift subscription to our monthly paper for someone who could

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In Christ the King,

Brian M. McCall



Dr. Rao's Conference now on Locals!

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"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you" (1 Corinthians 11:23)

Bishop Richard Williamson and Dr. David Allen White: Requiescant in Pace

By Murray Rundus

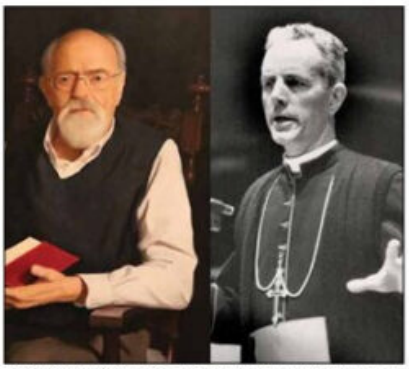
The beginning of 2025 has been a tragic month for traditionalists, losing two heroes of the traditionalist movement. The first was Bishop Richard Williamson, formerly of the SSPX who after suffering a brain hemorrhage passed away on Wednesday Jan. 29, 2025. Just less than two weeks later, his friend and fellow traditionalist pioneer Dr. David Allen White passed away in his home on Feb. 11. Both men were monumental in their influence on the traditional Catholic movement. Many people owe their vocations, ordinations, conversions, and more to these men. We ought to remember their legacies, pray for their souls, and continue to pass on what we received from them.

Bishop Williamson

His Lordship was born in England during the year of 1940 to English and American parents. A gifted student, young Richard Williamson excelled at school and even went on to study at the University of Cambridge. This intellectual life would translate to his later time with the Society of St. Pius X where he emphasized the need for the seminarians to be cultured, and we can see his academic excitement in his now well-regarded lectures that so many are familiar with. Dr. White, in his introduction to a set of the Bishop's letters, said of him: "One of the great insights granted to Bishop Williamson that reappears throughout his writing is the need for such cultural grounding to keep a soul centered and a mind ordered, especially in the noise and devastation of the contemporary scene. Inclining to analyze things intellectually (which of course makes him a true devotee of St. Thomas Aquinas and the *Summa Theologica*, the bedrock of all seminary training), he also nevertheless understands the special need in our time for artistic beauty to fill the heart and artistic truth to move the soul, helpful complements to the ultimate truths of the Catholic faith."[1]

Williamson was born into Anglicanism, but like many Protestants of the modern age became discontented with it and became an atheist. Williamson in reflecting on these times often said that rather than being a Protestant or an atheist, he was a liberal. I relate to this, as the boundaries of "Protestant" or "intellectual atheist" culture are so blurred in the modern period, and I believe anyone who has spent time as an adopter of either of these positions will know that the same spirit animates them, the one of narcissistic, hedonistic Liberalism. He would later break out of this liberal shell in 1971, being received into the Catholic Church and soon advised to pursue the seminary. Williamson did not fit the mold of what the seminaries

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Dr. David Allen White, left, and Bishop Richard Williamson, right

Reviewing Trump's First Days

By Stephen Kokx

It is obvious Donald Trump has learned a thing or two since first winning the presidency in 2016. The flurry of executive orders he has signed, coupled with a much-improved cabinet and messaging team, is a massive upgrade since the last time he lived at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

So far, Trump 2.0 seems to be relying on a "flood the zone" approach that makes it nearly impossible for Democrats and their media allies to keep up with him.

I laughed out loud when 86-year-old Congressman Maxine Waters and a group of her fellow aged Democrats were scolding an innocent security guard outside the Department of Education's headquarters in Washington DC last month for not allowing them to enter. What they would have done after entering is anyone's guess. Maybe use the bathrooms?

By all indications, Trump's second term is shaping up to be one of the most consequential four years of any president since Franklin Roosevelt. In some ways, it could be as impactful, if not more so, than Abraham Lincoln's time in office. But that depends on many factors and it is important to look at current events through a Catholic and not a "conservative" lens so our judgment is not clouded.

The Pro-Life Movement and Trump

The biggest surprise over the past month and a half has been President Trump's pro-life policies. While he hasn't walked back his support for in-vitro fertilization yet, Trump did get rid of a Biden-era rule that directed the military to pay for travel expenses for service members who were crossing state lines to obtain abortions.[1] He also signed an executive order recommitting the federal government to abide by the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used for abortions.[2]

Trump surprisingly delivered remarks to this year's March for Life by way of recorded message. His Catholic Vice-president J.D. Vance spoke at the event in person, telling the exuberant crowd that "no longer will the federal government direct FBI raids on the homes of people like Mark Houck and

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