

Book of the Month

- May 2012 -

THE PRIEST, THE WOMAN AND THE CONFESSIONAL

By CHINIQUY

DECLARATION 1851

To His Lordship Bourget, Bishop of Montreal

"Sir, -

"Since God has, in His infinite mercy, been pleased to show us the errors of Rome, and has given us strength to abandon them to follow Christ, we deem it our duty to say a word on the abominations of the confessional. You well know that these abominations are of such a nature that it is impossible for a woman to speak of them without a blush. How is it that among civilized Christian men, one has so far forgotten the rule of common decency, as to force women to reveal to unmarried men, under the pains of eternal damnation, their most secret thoughts, their most sinful desires, and their most private actions ?

Here, the laws of common decency strictly forbid us to enter into details. Suffice it to say, were husbands cognizant of one-tenth of what is going on between the confessor and their wives, they would rather see them dead than degraded to such a degree.

As for us, daughters and wives of Montreal, who have known by experience the filth of the confessional, we cannot sufficiently bless God for having shown us the error of our ways in teaching us that it is not at the feet of a man as weak and sinful as ourselves, but at the feet of Christ alone, that we must seek salvation."

Signed by Julien Herbert and forty-three others.

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