

## **REFLECTION**

### **Staying on Task**

**by Guillermo de Carndonagh**

"Why did God make me?

To know love and serve God in this world and to be happy with Him in the next."

In the hustle bustle of our daily lives we can get distracted and lose our balance. At these times it is helpful to return to the verities of childhood.

Many of our Traditional Roman Rite communities are deprived of the support and structure of an organized parish. As a result good and energetic individuals often flounder around trying to find ways to support the community and grow in the Faith. Sadly, sometimes these people get caught up in peripheral things that benefit neither themselves or the community. This is not a problem unique to religious communities; in the engineering profession young talented engineers often get caught up in pursuing some interesting side effect instead of staying focused on the project goals. An example of the problem of getting side tracked, that is more congruent to the one we see in our religious communities, is manifested in political organizations, where conspiracy theories abound.

Conspiracy theories defiantly have great intellectual charm. They often contain great dollops of truth and a seductive logical structure. Occasionally they are true. But, true or false they generally concern themselves with things over which we as individuals have no control or methods of rectification. Spending time studying them and promulgating them is usually just a distraction from the more meaningful tasks at hand. It is rather as if I devoted my time to memorizing the daily temperatures at the South Pole. The information is true, but I cannot alter the temperature nor am I ever likely to experience it.

Every venue has it classic conspiracies; with predictable characters and villains. In the context of the Catholic Church the characters are generally highly placed ecclesiastics and the villains are generally Masons or financial interests. It may be a fact that the video tape you just spent twenty hard earned dollars on actually does show Cardinal Iconaclastie giving the Masonic handshake to the well know ambassador and Masonic Grand Master from Lower Slobovia. But even if the conspiracy story is true; so what! Can you remove Cardinal Iconaclastie from office; are you ever likely to even meet the man?

I would like to suggest that your time would be better spent doing something else. Say an extra rosary for suffering Holy Mother Church. Visit your aging mother and mow her lawn. Volunteer to be a Boy Scout leader and witness to your faith by the way you live. Shut off the TV and take a long walk and get in touch with Gods beautiful creation. Ask you church community leaders how you can help. Read a good book about building up your faith. Read the Bible. Stay on task; your primary job is to learn to know and love God; to get to Heaven and take someone with you. Do not let the vendors of conspiracy theories get you side tracked.