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BENEDICT and SARAH: "Focus on Jesus" - *Editorial by Robert Moynihan*

Two profound analyses of the current crisis in the Church have recently appeared. Both call on believers to once again become "Christ-centred", "Christocentric" – to focus on Christ, not on anything else.

Emeritus Pope Benedict, in a new text he released on April 10, 2019 called on all believers to hold fast to the faith and find joy in it, even in the face of so many disappointments and betrayals in our time.

Here are two essential passages from the text:

- (1) The first is a defence of the eternal presence of the Church in the affairs of humanity. Despite all appearances, despite all the sins of Christians, the Church bears God's saving message, and we must realize this, and become aware of the many "witnesses" who make this truth visible.

Benedict writes: "It is very important to oppose the lies and half-truths of the devil with the whole truth: Yes, there is sin in the Church and evil. But even today there is the Holy Church, which is indestructible."

- (2) The second is the centrality of Christ. We must not focus on the sins of persons, Benedict stresses, but on the reality of Christ, who came among us, in the flesh, stayed among us, is among us, and will always be among us. So there is no need for despair, no need to abandon our faith, only a need to reach out to touch the hem of His robe, to remain in contact with Him, in His presence.

Benedict writes: "When thinking about what action is required first and foremost, it is rather obvious that we do not need another Church of our own design. Rather, what is required first and foremost is the renewal of the Faith in the Reality of Jesus Christ given to us in the Blessed Sacrament."

The sacramental life of the Church may seem to some an archaic, outmoded way of living the reality of this fallen world, where there is "so much to be done" to comfort the suffering and heal the wounded. But the sacramental life of the Church is a spiritual fountain which offers to men and women true life, true healing, since it offers communion with Christ himself. Emeritus Pope Benedict is reminding us to turn toward Christ where He may be found — in the Eucharist, in the sacramental life of His Church.

These are the two great messages of this astonishing, unexpected, profoundly important document.

Meanwhile, **Cardinal Robert Sarah**, who is from Guinea in West Africa and currently heads the Congregation for Divine Worship in Rome, in an interview published March 27 called for unity among Catholics in the face of Church scandals and the moral crisis in the Western World.

"Today everything is dark, difficult, but whatever the difficulties we are going through, there is only one Person who can come to our rescue," Sarah said in a lengthy interview with the secular French weekly *Valeurs Actuelles*. "It is the resurrection of the Son of God that gives hope in the darkness," he said.