



Boston Catholic Journal



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Carefully Crafted Bad Language

... but from the Vicar of Jesus Christ on Earth?



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The “Copro” Hits the Fan

In all candor, *we had never so much as heard of the word* — and believe that, outside of psychiatrist’s offices — no one else had either. Perhaps we are deficient in our education or wanting in our vocabulary.

Nevertheless, in an interview with Belgian Catholic weekly *Tertio*, Francis said of those whom he considers his detractors — because they publish the growing tension between the pontiff and orthodox Catholic media concerning the “*Dubia*” or five simple questions that can answered in one word: “yes” or “no” relative to his post-synodal exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* — the following (quoting *Reuters News*):

“Using precise psychological terms, he said scandal-mongering media risked falling prey to *coprophilia, or arousal from excrement, and consumers of these media risked coprophagia, or eating excrement.*”

Francis then added, “And since *people have a tendency towards the sickness of coprophagia, a lot of damage can be done.*”¹

From a Pope?

A *pope* using *this* language concerning those with whom he disagrees?

Everyone knows the four-letter word he is using and instantly sees beyond the sanitized psychological nomenclature. We know what he was “really” saying ... and thinking ... and are ... *ashamed* of it.

Any parent who changes an infant’s diapers and says, “*Oh, my ... there is so much copro in this diaper, but since I am not hungry I will throw it away!*” has serious verbal, linguistic, and communication problems with the rest of the world — to say nothing of an apparently widespread psychological disorder.

Let us, then, render this arcana into terms comprehensible to the rest of the world:

“Using *ordinary* terms, he said scandal-mongering media risked falling prey to *being aroused by sh--*, and consumers of these media risked *eating sh--*.”

Francis then added, “And *since people have a tendency towards the sickness of eating sh--*, a lot of damage can be done.”¹

How is *that* for cutting through the “bull-copro”?

Can you imagine a head of state (which Francis is) using this language to denigrate his perceived detractors? Good grief, even the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) defines “*indecent speech*” as “language or material that, in context, depicts or describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, sexual or *excretory* organs or activities.”³ That is to say, were the interview *broadcast*, the FCC would have banned Francis’s depiction of those in disagreement with him as “indecent”! No, wait! He sanitized them, so it’s okay. Or is it ...?

Catholics, non-Catholics, atheists, and anyone else living on this planet will likely respond in utter incredulity with words we can only hint at: “H- -y Copro! Did *the pope* himself *really* say that?!”

Sadly, yes ...

To quote *Lifesite News*:

“So now, if the translation [Reuter’s] is correct, as most of these usually are, *if we dare to see and report what are obviously newsworthy developments that do not reflect well on the pope or his close collaborators, we are “scandal-mongering,” “eating excrement” and being sexually aroused by*

*this excrement of reporting uncomfortable truth. How can a pope, the Vicar of Christ, make such vile accusations? Whatever happened to, “Who am I to judge?”*²

Perhaps we live in parallel universes, but Francis’s apparent conviction that “**people have a tendency towards the sickness of coprophagia**” is startling. We had never so much as *heard* of the word, let alone encountered the *tendency* within ourselves or anyone else on the planet that we have met.

There is, however, *another* affliction much more common, and we fear that the more our present pontiff speaks, the more we are led to the frightening conclusion that Francis is *non compos mentis* (not of a sound mind). Like coprophilia and coprophagia — that he appears to see in others as a broad tendency — it is a sickness of the mind. This is not said disdainfully or sarcastically. It is said with great pity — and great alarm.

Let us pray for his speedy recovery.

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1. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-pope-media-idUSKBN13W1TU>
 2. <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/climate-of-fear-in-the-vatican-is-very-real>
 3. <http://www.newseuminstitute.org/about/faq/how-does-the-fcc-define-indecent-speech/>

