

A brief overview of Independent Catholicism

The See of Utrecht in Holland
1700-1720

The Issue of Papal Infallibility

- First Vatican Council convened by Pope Pius IX in 1870
- Pius IX declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854
- “We declare it to be an article of faith that the Roman Pope possesses infallibility in any doctrine relating to faith and morals. If anyone shall oppose this our decision, which God forbid, let him be accursed.”
- Great opposition to the proclamation
- Roma locuta est. Causa finita.

An independent “Old Catholic” church in Great Britain

- Arnold Harris Mathew (1852-1919)
- First Old catholic bishop of Great Britain
- Consecrated by Arch-Bishop of Utrecht in 1908
- Gained sacramental recognition and canonical intercommunion with the Orthodox patriarch of Antioch



Evolution of the “Liberal Catholic Church”

- The influence of the Theosophical Society
- Metaphysical & Esoteric
- The Liberal Catholic Church International – (San Diego, CA.)



Bishop Charles Leadbeater
Liberal Catholic Church
(1854-1934)

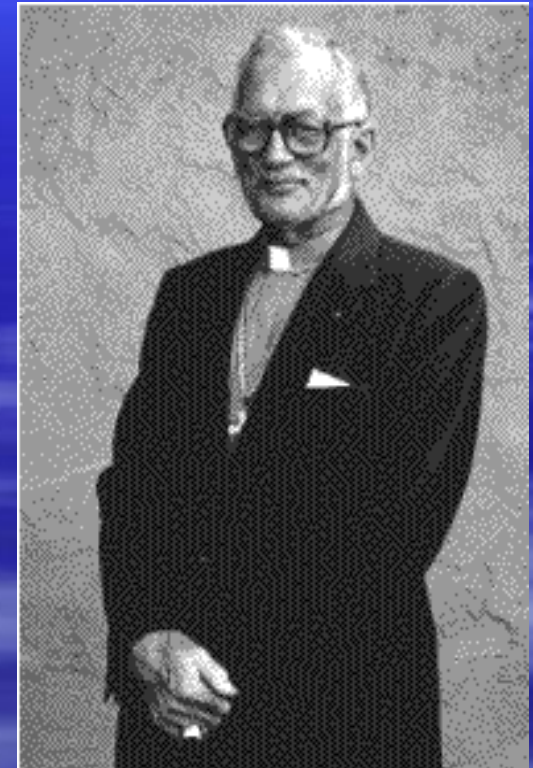
First Independent Catholic prelate in North America

- Joseph René Vilatte (1854-1929)
- Raised to the episcopate in May 1892 by Independent Archbishop Alvarez of Ceylon
- Involved in independent Catholic ministries from 1900-20
- Died reconciled with Roman Catholicism



Blending Eastern, Western, Ancient & Modern

- The Church of Antioch
- Established by Herman Spruit in 1955
- Traces its lineage to Vilatte
- Non-creedal/freedom of conscience
- Ordination open to all qualified candidates regardless of marital status, gender, or sexual orientation



Scholarly research

