

## Discriminating Between Genuine And Demonic Clergy And Scholars

### Genuine Clergy And Scholars

**Earning a Living:** On their own, at ordinary employment: as “blue collar” (Sts. Paul, Benedict, Gandhi); as Military Chaplains or helpful academicians or researchers (Tillich, Pasteur); from family inheritance (Sts. Jerome and Paula); from begging, building and inspiring (Sts. Francis and Clare, who sewed and knit ecclesial garments).

**Core Interest:** That which is truly ultimate and that which helps persons aspire to, focus on and experience that which is truly ultimate.

**Core Activities:** Study, reflection, public expression of learning (promulgation).

**Presence in Community:** Unobtrusive, encouraging, monitory, graceful, self-effacing, of good character, hard-minded and soft-hearted; expansive, encompassing.

**Effects in Community:** Stabilizing but also awakening, prophetic, creative (including revolutionary) but also educative.

**Scripture Reading and Teaching Method:** Correlation, taking the language of scripture symbolically and showing how those realities to which the symbols point, and in which they participate, answer questions arising from the human condition and an individual life. Basic attitude and activity: dialectical (conversational) and participatory.

**Deservedness:** Respect, attention and rumination on the meaning of their words and actions.

### Demonic Clergy And Scholars

**Earning a Living:** Do not earn a living: live off “religious” or “charitable” donations of time, money and energy from followers, parishioners, pilgrims, foundations, political action committees, corporations, appearances, endorsements, etc.

**Core Interest:** Demanding, achieving, maintaining and expanding financial, social and/or political “position in the community.” Silencing those who do or could threaten that “position.” Mockery, hooliganism.

**Core Activities:** Self-promotion, calculation, disruption of public. Demonic clergy and scholars act as hooligans and foster hooliganism.

**Presence in Community:** Armed with armed bodyguards, either actually or as an aura of threat or menace; paranoid, gathering fearful, poor, uneducated, dependent followers; contractive, puritanical.

**Effects in Community:** Inciting displays of disquiet, dissatisfaction and destruction.

**Scripture Reading And Teaching Method:** Literalism, taking the language of scripture literally, extracting phrases out of context and compelling literalistic obedience to those phrases by groups and individuals. No interest in that which concerns man ultimately. Basic attitude and activity: confrontational and hegemonistic.

**Deservedness:** Investigation for fraud, rape, theft, murder, extortion, etc.; if having armed bodyguards or commanding combat forces, treatment as combatants.

That is genuine which insists upon nothing. That is demonic which insists upon ultimacy.