

# GOD'S SILENCE OR MAN'S DEAFNESS?

By Fr. **FRANCESCO D. COLACELLI**

**C**onfusion. This is the feeling that countless Catholics experience today, confronted as they are by so many disturbing issues: Where are we heading? What future may we foresee for mankind that is destroying its environment and resources? Is the Middle East truly the "powder keg" of the world that is in danger of exploding from one moment to the next? Or are we on the brink of a new cold war between the United States and Russia, as Putin's words in Munich suggested, and that we must hope will never go beyond verbal controversy? Are we obliged to allow the destruction of embryos because profiteers tell us that scientists need these cells for their experiments? Are we to believe and take their word that in that "cluster of cells" there is no life, even when they, the scientists, have not been able to verify this? Are we to give into the idea that modernization and progress commends immorality so that it is now necessary, with divorce no longer being sufficient to retain the fears of matrimonial life, to legalize cohabitation with civil rights and duties? And what has

happened to love in these relations that can be annulled with a piece of paper as if it was some banal business contract?

We ask these questions and we continue to ask them because no one gives us the answers. The newspapers are only concerned with reporting the differing opinions. The politicians are only capable of smiling and telling us that all is well if they are in power or of criticising everything if they are in the opposition. And God? Why does God remain silent? Why does not He at least, in whom we believe, not listen to our distress and give us an answer? Fr. Enzo Bianchi, the prior of the monastic community of Bose invites us to surmount this misunderstanding by turning around the question: *"The question is not whether God is silent, but rather whether the believer, the person praying is listening and whether he is able to receive the Word of God that is perhaps pronounced in an unexpected way in events and circumstances unforeseen. Furthermore, why not recognise that God can speak also through silence?"* Hiding Himself from us, perhaps He wishes to make those, who believe they can do without Him, realise

what awaits them if they continue to follow this road.

However, His silence is only a perception of ours, because He speaks. He has spoken and continues to speak with His Word, so that perhaps it is time that we bring out our volume of Sacred Scripture, (if indeed we have one), from amongst our books and begin to read it.

*"When we blame God for silence", continues Enzo Bianchi, "when we attribute to Him the emptiness of our heart, it is because in reality we are incapable of listening to Him, and because we are searching from Him words that are in our own image and likeness".*

Padre Pio reminds us: *"If we had to count on ourselves we would be unable to remain standing on our feet; so humble yourself with the sweet thought that you are in the arms of Jesus".*

Together with Padre Pio I would like to wish you all *"a very happy Easter in Our Lord"* and *"assure you of my prayers to our most beloved Redeemer that He may always keep you safe in His sanctifying grace, asking Him also that He may open our ears in the same way as He did for the deaf and dumb man of Sidon"*. ■