

*Dedicated to our new calendar friends*

I AM A MAN UNDER AUTHORITY

Or

Don't Head for the Refrigerator!

Part Four

By Metropolitan Ephraim of Boston

In public speaking, there is a maxim which *should* be followed by all who have to make speeches. It is: "Be sincere. Be brief. Be seated!"

So, I'll try to follow this good advice here.

Recently, a former ROCOR priest, who is now with us, wrote a note to Father Isaac, the Abbott of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, in Brookline, Massachusetts. What he said, in essence, was that priests who spread falsehoods drive him crazy. This, he says, makes him very upset and bitter, and, if he were of another nationality, it would drive him to drink. "Instead," he says, "I head for the refrigerator." This makes him gain weight, and, since he is diabetic, the results are catastrophic for his physical health.

Father Isaac made a very nice reply, which I would like to share with you. This is what Father Isaac wrote:

"My take on people who tell falsehoods: if their falsehoods are in the personal realm, they they will have to work that out *personally* with our Saviour. When they tell falsehoods about the Faith and make compromises with the Faith, *then that affects the souls of many other [millions of] people*; then it wounds me and I consider them traitors."

So, what is the conclusion we must draw from this — especially those of us who are bishops and priests in the Church? We must *not* drive our faithful to drink, or make them head for the refrigerator!