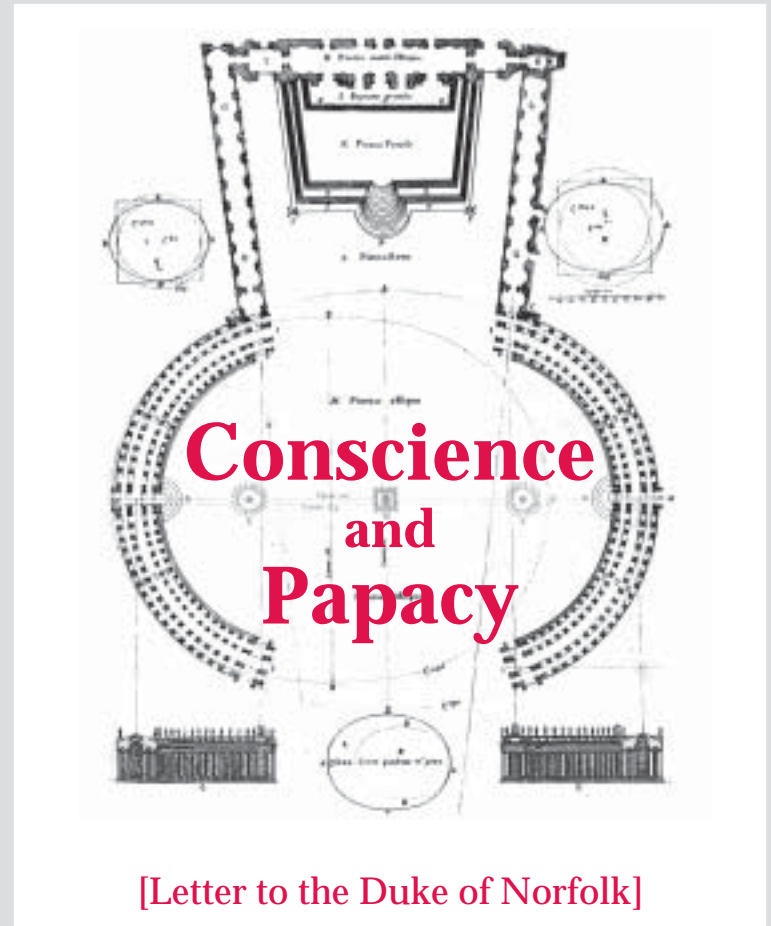


John Henry Newman



edited with an Introduction and Notes by

Stanley L. Jaki



Real View Books

Newman

Conscience and Papacy
[Letter to the Duke of Norfolk]

Newman's *Letter to the Duke of Norfolk* was hailed by many as one of his masterpieces. It is indeed a masterpiece and very Newmanian, because steeped in the supernatural throughout. Unfortunately, this aspect of it has largely vanished as time went on. The *Letter* has been remembered as a subtle endorsement of private conscience *against* papal authority as defined in terms of papal infallibility at the Vatican Council of 1870.

The *Letter* is far more than a vindication of the patriotic loyalty of Catholic laity against the insinuations of Gladstone, who served four times as Prime Minister and loved to dabble in theology.

The *Letter* is rather the vindication of the supreme authority of supernatural revelation. This is why the *Letter* begins with a chapter on the authoritative character of the Ancient Church as setting the rules of conscience against the encroachment of the State. One may indeed take the *Letter* for a treatise on *Conscience and Papacy*.

A sedulous attention to the *Letter* might have prevented the trivialization of Catholic conscience by much of the “new” theology unjustly laying a claim to Newman. May the *Letter* prove a major remedy to the moral malaise engulfing a clergy and a laity caught in a misconception of the *aggiornamento*.

Among the editor's works on Newman is his *Newman to Converts*, a massive presentation of Newman's relevant instructions stretching over forty years.

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