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***In Defense of the Catholic Church -  
Confidence in God***



# In Defense of the Catholic Church - Confidence in God by Fr. Bill Casey

Humility is the very foundation of trust in God and it forces us to recognize our radical dependence on Him for all things. The expression of our confidence in God is our life of prayer. In St. Mark 4:35 – 40, Jesus said to His disciples, let us cross over to the farther shore. Leaving the crowd, He left in the boat in which He was sitting and other boats accompanied Him. It happened that a bad storm blew up. Waves were breaking over the boat and it began to fill with water. Jesus was in the stern through it all, sound asleep on a cushion.

Finally, the disciples woke him up and said to Him: "Master, doesn't it matter to you that we are going to drown?" Jesus awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea: "Quiet! Be still!" The wind fell off and everything grew calm. Then, He turned to the disciples and said: "Why are you so terrified? Why are you lacking in faith?" A great awe overcame them at this, and they remarked: "Who can this be that the wind and the sea obey Him?"

These are the questions that I ask the students when I am invited to visit classrooms and talk to them. I am always amazed at how many of our young people, even in the parochial schools, are essentially not catechized. They know so little about their Faith and the Church in particular. I asked these questions and most of them do not know the answers. In the world today, at the last count, there are 33,000 churches that profess to be Christian, yet only one Church can be traced historically back to Jesus Christ and the Apostles. What is the One Church founded immediately and directly by Jesus Christ in the days of His public Life? The Catholic Church! What is the only Church that has existed uninterruptedly for the last 2000 years? The Catholic Church! What is the only international Church, worldwide, united in Faith, worship and government? The Catholic Church!

The Mystical Body of Christ and the Catholic Church are one and the same. Why is the Catholic Church so hated and reviled; Her dogma, doctrine and devotion scorn and denied, attacked, distorted and misrepresented? Cardinal Newman said, it is for the same reason that the enemies of Christ called Our Lord, Beelzebub. The normal state of the Mystical Body of Christ will always follow Her Divine Spouse on the way of the Cross.

In a mystical way, the Church in the latter days is destined to suffer all the things that Our Lord suffered at the time of His Passion. The Church, like Her Divine Spouse, is destined to be abandoned, betrayed, demised, scourged, mocked and crucified! In a tragic way, it will be done by those who should love Her the most, even by consecrated souls. Christ formed the Church as the Universal Sacrament of Salvation. Seated at the right Hand of the Father. Christ works unceasingly to draw all

Today, almost 2000 years later, Our Lord's promise still stands unbroken. Jesus promised to be with His Church unto the end of time. Before ascending into Heaven, He said to the Apostles: "I am with you always even unto the end of the world." The church was personally founded by Christ and He gave His authority to St. Peter the Apostle. He promised that the gates of Hell would not prevail against Her! If Our Lord had to promise that the gates of Hell would never overcome His Church, then that is precisely what He meant. He knew the gates of Hell would try to overcome Her. Our Lord promised that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide His holy Church. The Church is more than a human organization. It is a Divine Institution, established by God Himself in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. No human power can never destroy the Mystical Body of Christ. The trust and confidence we have in Jesus Christ, not only applies to the life of the Church, but also in our own daily lives in just the same way. If ever it should seem like Our Lord is abandoning us, we know that it is not true and it never will be! He is the Light of the world. He is the Light that drives darkness out of the world. He is the Peace that will calm every storm!

It is discouraging to see so much ignorance and indifference toward the Church on the part of our people. In the Old Testament, God spoke to Isaiah and said: "My people are being destroyed due to lack of knowledge." St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth and said: "I find that many of you are without knowledge of God and I saith it to your shame." It cannot be that way with us; we must know our Faith in order to be able to defend it and we must be able to hand that Faith down to our children.

Parents have an especially grave moral obligation in this regard. You are always the first teaches of the Faith to your children. No one can take that God given responsibility away from you. You must know your Faith, for what you do not have, you cannot give. God never left this world in darkness. God gave us the Light to see. He sent a Savior into the world.

Our Lord and Savior founded a Church to be the means of our salvation, a Church which He endowed with the fullness of divinely revealed Truth and all the means of salvation, especially in the Seven Sacraments: a Church to be the vehicle to carry us to salvation; to carry us to Heaven; and that Church is: **THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH!**

Quote by Pope Pius XII:

"... Recall another fact one did not forget. We belong to the Church militant; and She is militant because on earth the powers of darkness are ever restless to encompass her destruction. Not only in the far off centuries of the early Church, but down through the ages and in this our day, the enemies of God and Christian civilization make bold to attack the Creator's supreme dominion and sacrosanct human rights."

We have to remember that, in the last 2000 years, the Church has been through every kind of evil and dissent, yet no matter how bad things might be in the Church, remember this: The gates of Hell will not prevail against the Church founded by Jesus Christ. God always raises up the greatest Saints in times of crisis and confusion in His Church. The present age is no exception. "Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more," St. Paul said. We should thank God for this opportunity to practice heroic virtue; thank God for the grace to stand among the remnant of those who still cling to the Faith of our Fathers. This is not an insignificant matter! It makes each one of us – one in a thousand!

In the storm at sea, Christ berates the Apostles for believing He would abandon them in their time of danger. How much like the apostles can we be at times! How ready we are to believe in some of the darkest hours of our lives that somehow Our Lord would abandon us and depart from us when it is precisely at those times, He is always closest to us and ready to help us with His saving Grace.

In everyone's life, there will be times of hardship, crisis, personal tragedy, loss; times of sickness, sorrow, failure, times when the Cross will touch our lives and put our Faith to the test. Those kinds of storms can arise all of a sudden and without warning, and there is always the danger that they will overwhelm us and sweep us away, unless we put all our faith, hope and trust in the One who knows us, loves us and cares for us more than we do ourselves. St. Peter said: "Cast all your cares upon the Lord because He cares for you."

Suffering is nothing new to the people of God. There have been many times in the history of the Church when Catholics have been called upon in great numbers to suffer and die for their Faith. More Catholics died in the persecutions of the bloody 20th Century, than at any time since Our Lord founded the Church. This is a historical fact. Eight million Catholics died in the Ukraine under Stalin in the 1930s. When is the last time you heard about the Holocaust? Millions of others died in Russia, China, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Mexico, Albania, Armenia, Korea, Sudan, and many other countries around the world.

The Church endures through all the persecutions and all the wars and disasters, in Revolutions, upheaval and every attempt to destroy Her. Through every Century, the Church has proven that She can stand the test of time! In the first 300 years after Our Lord founded His Church, the Roman Empire, the most powerful Empire the world has ever known, persecuted the Christians and drove them underground into the catacombs, and millions were put to death. The first 30 Popes were martyred or died in exile. Even the might of the Roman Legions could not step out the faith of those humble Christians believers and the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the faithful. Ten times under ten different Emperors, the Roman Empire tried to crush the Catholic Church and failed!

men into the Church and, through It, to join them more closely to Himself nourishing them with His own Body and Blood, and so making them share in His Life of Glory! St. Augustine said: "To love Christ, is to love the Church."

No one can claim to love Christ and despise His Mystical Body! St. Cyprian said: "No one can have God as his Father, who will not have the Church for his Mother." We must have confidence in Christ and love for the Church. We must place our trust in His Mystical Body. Where the secular media is concerned, any stick will do in order to bash the Catholic Church. The enemies of the Church have gotten as far as they have because we, Catholics, have been lukewarm and cowardly. We did not stand up to defend our Faith.

More and more Catholics, especially our young Catholics, do not seem to have any idea what it means to be Catholic. They have no idea why they are Catholics, no idea what the Catholic Church is or where She came from, no idea about what sets Her apart and makes Her unique and, in fact, superior to all other churches. How many of our young people are living with the delusion that one church is as good as another? And, even that one religion is as good as another? Because so many young Catholics do not know even the basics of their Faith, they have become easy targets and prey, sitting ducks for Protestants, sects, fundamentalists and religious cults that take them in with a simplistic, inaccurate and false interpretation of an incomplete Bible.

A recent survey showed that about 50% of some of the more well-known cults in the United States are comprised of fallen away Catholics; mostly young uncatechized Catholics, drawn in by the secularized paganist culture in which we now live. This once Christian Nation is making the transformation into paganism!

What is Paganism? According to Fr. John Hardon, the essence of Paganism is idolatry. The most insidious form of idolatry is the worship of SELF! The supremacy of SELF! THIS IS PRIDE! This is the idolatry that is predominant in Western Culture. Millions of others are still caught up in the mad and mindless pursuit of the AMERICAN DREAM!

When the Iraqi war began, someone asked the commanding General how they were going to win the war. He explained it in this way: "First, we will cut off the enemy and, then we will kill him." This is exactly the same strategy that Satan is going to use against us and against our young people. First, he will cut us off from the Sacraments and, then he will destroy us: Cut off from the Catholic Church, cut off from the source of grace, cut off from the Mass and the Holy Eucharist, cut off from the

Sacrament of Penance, cut off from the life of prayer; who will get us to live habitually in the state of mortal sin and, once he has done that, he knows he can destroy us. He can claim our souls.

### **READ THE BIBLE! STUDY THE BIBLE! KNOW THE BIBLE!**

The Bible is God's written Word. Written under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, every Word is Truth! When it is correctly and properly read, understood and interpreted, it communicates no errors! The Bible is divinely inspired and it is inerrant. NOT PART OF IT, BUT ALL OF IT! The inerrancy of Sacred Scripture is a defined article of our Catholic Faith. To deny that is heresy! The Bible comes from the Catholic Church. This is a historical fact. There are 2 sources of God's revelation to humanity: God's written Word – the Bible, and the Church – God's living Voice, a living teaching authority established by Christ Himself, to infallibly interpret for us God's written Word and to teach, govern and sanctify the people of God.

If you say the Bible is the sole rule of Faith, as so many of our Protestant brethren do, then you are left with a gigantic insurmountable problem, because you be left with as many interpretations as there are denominations. That is impossible. It is not what Our Lord established. We have the Church and the Bible. One does not stand without the other.

### **THE CHURCH IS THE PILLAR AND FOUNDATION OF TRUTH**

The church is not an invisible fellowship of like-minded believers. It is a real organism! She is a Body, a living Body with living members and we are those living members by virtue of our Baptism. The Church is a Body that has been given very real authority, apostolic authority; the focal point of that apostolic authority is the See of Peter. Christ sent St. Peter and St. Paul to establish the Church in Rome as the Center of the Church in the whole world. Rome was the political, social, economic and military center of the ancient world – All roads lead to Rome! If they were to evangelize the whole world, Rome would have to be the Center of the Church.

Pope Pius XII was shamefully maligned by the modernist. He was the 260th successor of the Vicar of Christ on earth. He was Pope during one of the stormiest times in the history of the Church. World War II took place during his pontificate. He was literally a prisoner in the Vatican.

Pope Pius XII suffered tremendously during all that time, carrying such an overwhelming burden. After this Christmas Message to the world in 1942, in which he clearly condemned the aggression of the Axis powers, thousands of priests were imprisoned and died in concentration camps.

Pope Pius XII was able to hide and protect from arrest and extermination over half a million Jews. All through this upheaval, Pius XII had a painting in his quarters at the Vatican, which he looked at every morning and meditated upon before prayers each

day. It was a painting of the Apostles in the boat in the storm on the lake, with Jesus asleep at the helm of the boat. This painting reminded him of what had been going on for 2000 years.

Whenever the Faith was in danger and it looked like Our Lord was asleep, and did not see the suffering of His people, Jesus Christ would always rise up to see His Church to safety. Whenever it seemed like the Church was about to go under, Our Lord was always there to save Her. And through it all, we know that God is still in command of His Church. The Holy Ghost is still the Soul who gives Life to the Mystical Body of Christ. If that were not true, the Church would never have survived for 2000 years!

Napoleon sent his troops into the Vatican where they had arrested Pope Pius VI and imprisoned him. He threatened to destroy the Church unless the Pope did exactly what he wanted him to do.

The Vatican Secretariat of State, Cardinal Consalvi, laughed in his face and said: "What makes you think you will succeed in doing what we priests have failed to do for 1800 years?"

Unless you have been living on another planet in recent years, you know the Church is going through very hard times today. These are some of the darkest days the Church has ever been through. It would be very easy for us to lose confidence in the Mystical Body of Christ. We are living at a time of a severe spiritual and moral decline. The moral foundations of our country and the whole world are crumbling in front of our eyes.

Today, Catholics are falling away from the Church in rapid numbers. Catholics in our country (USA) are under tremendous pressure to conform to the pagan morals of our contemporary culture and millions are given in. How well we know about the phenomenon of the "but" Catholics! I am a Catholic, but the Church is not going to tell me what to do; but I am not going to Mass on Sunday, I am going to worship God in my own way; but I am going to get a divorce, but I believe in abortion! May God save us from the "but" Catholics!

Sociologists tell us that there is now no difference in the rates of divorce, abortion, suicide and crime between Catholics and non-Catholics! Only 25% of American Catholics are still practicing their Faith and only 15% of those age 25 and under. Americans seem to have no trouble in voting for a pro-abortion candidate. May God have mercy on their souls! Scandals in the Church continue and there is horrific corruption among the clergy. The spiritual descendants of Judas are still alive and among us today.