

WHY I AM CATHOLIC

In spite of the revelation of homosexual scandals in the church and the continuing promotion of the vice by priests and bishops, the church remains the bride of Christ.

In spite of prelates trying to unmoor the church from its foundations by altering its teachings with novelties based on emotion and modern ideas, the church remains holy.

In spite of priests' lukewarm following of leaders in these novelties and priestly sins against lust, greed, pride, ire, sloth, gluttony, and avarice and efforts to change the church to accommodate their lifestyles, the church remains one.

In spite of the laxity of laity who do not attend Mass regularly nor participate in the other sacraments, who vote for pro abortion and pro sodomy politicians, the church remains apostolic.

The church is catholic in the sense that it unites all men to God through Jesus Christ. The church has and offers the means of salvation in word and sacrament even when its members, especially its leaders go astray.

On the feast of the Epiphany, three non Jews, men who did not have any share in the promise of the covenant made through Moses, sought out among the Jewish people the promised anointed one, the Christ, the Messiah.

While they followed a star to find where he was on this earth, their hopes had to be stirred by some other longing in the human soul and by some other revelations of a promise of a great person who would be king, God, and who would die, thus their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. While they did not live to know the salvation that Jesus brought to the world, you and I have seen it through the new covenant in God's Holy Catholic Church.

Born into this world with original sin and the concupiscence, that is the iniquitous tendencies toward sin, I am the beneficiary of salvation from sin for goodness, from death to eternal life, and from isolation and selfishness, to belonging and magnanimity.

My salvation in Jesus is not a passive event, a taking of a pill and making it all better. It is grace and truth that He brought, a power placed in me and guided by Him to avoid the temptations and do what he says to our conscience is right.

The power is not a guarantee that I will cooperate with the grace of God, but it is the force necessary for me to do so.

Throughout my life I have been tempted, deceived, seduced, lied to, and accused of being other than who I am: a child of God and heir to eternal life in Jesus Christ.

I have not always cooperated with God's grace. I, however, have always been restored to that grace through the sacrament of Penance, so that I take two steps forward even when I have taken one step back. My Jesus is always there for me.

The Catholic Church is greater than those of us who live today: the current pope, bishops, priests, and faithful of 2018. She is the Church of Catholics who have gone before us as well, saving us from becoming children of this age.

It is incomprehensible to me that a few bishops in the church are debating, in a synod supposedly on the family, rather than promulgating the eternal truths that have been established by Christ Himself, in order to give the illusion of inclusion of people whose choices reject Jesus' new covenant.

Unlike America where churches exist entirely on the donations of their members, in Europe some governments give each church money from the taxes based on the declared religious affiliation of the citizen. Elsewhere Catholics are

renouncing their affiliation because they don't live a Catholic moral life, and thus their churches are losing money.

If people can do whatever with whomever whenever they wish under any circumstances and still receive Jesus in Holy Communion, then there is no need for salvation. Sin is no longer sin. Right and wrong don't exist.

This is not the faith of our fathers, nor is it the faith of Jesus Christ that saves us.

If Catholics are led by the social policies of government so that church officials are ignoring the salvation in hope of attracting or keeping membership, then that faith would have no power to save me.

I am a most imperfect man, tempted and deceived. For this reason I put my faith in Jesus Christ in His Holy Catholic Church from all the ages, and not in some novelty being proposed by men ordained to continue the truth, to free me from sin, not trap me in it.

I have to fight every day the temptations, the deceptions, the seductions the lies and accusations of the world, of satan, and now of some in the church as well. I prefer a peaceful, tranquil life without struggle, but apparently that is not in the cards at this particular time in my life and in our Church history.

I found a saying like this one years ago:

If a priest is a saint, his people will be holy
If a priest is holy, his people will be good.
If a priest is good, his people will be mediocre.
If a priest is mediocre, his people will be rotten.
If a priest is rotten, his people will be lost.

Jesus, I love you. I am imperfect, but I believe in you and in your Holy Catholic Church of all time. Save your church. Save your people. Have mercy on me, a sinner.

—*Fr. Richard Perozich*