

Fr. Perozich comments —

The negative comments below may originate with Satan and be trumpeted by him to the demonically possessed and oppressed, but the message is also heralded by many others in our society.

It is important that we not be among those.

Jesus is the positive antidote to the negative messages which affect more easily the mentally ill, the spiritually oppressed, the abused and the downtrodden in our society.

We Christians are heralds of Jesus' love. While I might clearly condemn sin as a departure from God, it is helpful to see myself and others as injured by sin who need the divine doctor's healing in Word, Sacrament, Prayer and Charity.

When I read the 6 satanic messages below, the first scriptural passage that came to mind was John 8, the woman caught in adultery.

It is important to drive sin away from the community, but stoning a person to death only takes a life without eliminating the sin.

Rather than condemn the person as horrible, Jesus offers hope, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and do not commit this sin again."

Jesus relieves the accusers of Moses' command to stone a sinner, "Let the one among you without sin be the first to cast a stone."

Jesus shows God's patience and love in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believe in him shall not die but have eternal life."

In His own temptation, Jesus shows how to frustrate the devil by resisting temptation thus moving the devil to retreat.

In James 4, "So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

In 1Peter5, Jesus tell us, "So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you. Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings. The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ [Jesus] will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little."

Sometimes persons suffering oppression, depression and similar feelings cannot or do not bring themselves to God.

In these cases, the Christian can bring the sufferer to God through prayer, as well as offering kindness and encouragement to counter the false message of Satan with the truth of God.

I see faults in others all the time. In confession or spiritual direction it might be right to point them out.

The rest of the time, it is better to counter them with the 3 A's

ATTENTION: Greeting the person with a smile on my face and whatever warmth in my heart that I can muster.

AFFECTION: An expression of love proper to our relationship.

APPROVAL: Saying something edifying rather than critical.

Satan's Six Messages

MONSIGNOR STEPHEN ROSSETTI



When discerning whether someone has a demonic problem or not, I typically ask what “messages” they are hearing in their heads. Over the years, I have heard the demonically possessed and oppressed consistently relate six basic messages. Satan whispers (or yells!) these in people’s heads without respite:

1. *You are a terrible person.*
2. *There is no hope for you.*
3. *God doesn't care about you.*
4. *You're mine. I will never leave.*
5. *You are going to hell.*
6. *You should kill yourself.*

There is a little bit of this mental negativism in all of us, we who are tainted by Original Sin. But when Satan is doing it directly, the message is loud, consistent, and unrelenting. I personally believe that more than a few people take their own lives after being worn down with years of this mental battle.

What to do? I recommend people confront this on both the natural and supernatural planes....

On the natural level, Satan gets a foothold in people's psyches through their human weaknesses and sins. In this case, the more damaged our psyches, the stronger this negative self-talk in our heads. Satan will exploit this weakness.

So, we should engage normal human remedies for such mental negativity. For example, a variety of cognitive-behavioral interventions can be a help. There are a plethora of these on-line. Counseling by licensed professional, who is supportive of the faith, might bring some healing to the roots. For more serious cases, medications for obsessive-compulsive thinking may be indicated.

Ultimately the final antidote to Satan's message is the Good News of Jesus. This supernatural battle can only be finally resolved on the supernatural plane. Once we know deeply in our hearts that God loves us personally, and that we are saved by the blood of the Lamb, then our minds can fully be at peace.

There is no other final remedy to Satan's bad news than the Good News of Jesus.

*Image (modified) courtesy of Unsplash. This post was originally published on catholicexorcism.org and is reprinted here with permission. M o n s i g n o r Rossetti's book, *Diary of an American Exorcist*, can be purchased [here](#).*