



Proclaiming the Gospel

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." - [Romans 1:16](#)

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Editor - [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#)

*"It is better to
take refuge in
the Lord than to
trust in man."
([Psalm 118:8](#))*

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Confusing, Complex Contradictions of Catholicism

On the thirtieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John Paul II endorsed the new Catechism of the Catholic Church. It was given by his Apostolic authority, as a statement of the Catholic faith and doctrine, on October 11, 1992. In his forward, John Paul II said, "I beseech the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, to support with her powerful intercession the catechetical work of the entire Church." The Catechism's goal was to show "carefully the content and wondrous harmony of the Catholic faith."

Does the Catholic faith have such harmony? Or is it a complex religion with numerous contradictions that leave Catholics in a constant state of confusion or disinterest? As we look within the covers of the Catechism, we will see why many Catholics don't know *what* or *who* to believe. We will look at 12 key doctrines, with their *contradictions* and let God's authoritative word settle the issue. Paragraph numbers are in parenthesis.

Is God Still Speaking Through Men?

Statement - "God who spoke in the past, continues to converse with the spouse [the church] of His beloved Son" (79). By way of Tradition, God's word is transmitted "to the successors of the apostles so that, enlightened by the spirit of truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound and spread it by their preaching" (81). "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single deposit of the Word of God" (97).

Contradiction - "God has said everything in His word. In (Christ) He has said everything; there will be no other word than this one. Any person questioning God or desiring some vision or revelation would be guilty

not only of foolish behavior but also of offending Him, by not fixing his eyes entirely upon Christ and by living with the desire for some other novelty" (65). There will be "no new public revelation before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ" (66). "God has revealed Himself fully by sending His own Son. The Son is His Father's definitive word; so there will be no further revelation after Him" (73).

God's Word - "I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" ([Jude 3](#)).

Can Anyone Interpret Scripture?

Statement - "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God...has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone" (85).

Contradiction - "Christ, the eternal Word of the living God, must through the Holy Spirit, open our minds to understand scriptures" (108).

God's Word - "And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things" (1 John 2:27). "Now we have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God" (1 Cor. 2:12).

Are Men Infallible and Trustworthy?

Statement - "The Church Magisterium has infallibility [that] extends to all those elements of doctrine, including morals, without which the saving truths of the faith cannot be held" (see [Contradictions on page 2](#))

(Contradictions from page 1)

not be preserved, explained or observed" (2035). The Roman Pontiff exercises infallibility when he "proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals" (891).

Contradiction - "Man having been wounded in his nature by original sin, is subject to error and inclined to evil in exercising his freedom" (1714). "Man's freedom is limited and fallible...from its outset, human history attests the wretchedness and oppression born of the human heart in consequence of the abuse of freedom" (1739).

God's Word - "The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one." (Ps. 14:2-3).

Did Christ Finish the Work of Redemption?

Statement - In the Eucharist "the work of redemption is carried on" (1405).

Contradiction - "The redemption won by Christ consists in this, that He came "to give His life as a ransom for many" (622).

God's Word - "He entered the holy place once for all, *having obtained* eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12).

Who Can Forgive Sins?

Statement - "God alone forgive sins" (430).

Contradiction - "Only Priests can forgive sins in the name of Christ" (1495). "The power to 'bind and loose' connotes the authority to absolve sins" (553).

God's Word - "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Mark 2:7).

How Are Sins Purified?

Statement - "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified...undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (1030). "The Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire" (1031).

Contradiction - "When He (Jesus Christ) made purification for our sins, He brought us into the Father's presence" (2777).

God's Word - "The blood of Jesus His Son
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cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Who Can Make Satisfaction For Sin?

Statement - "The sinner must recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for his sin; he must "make satisfaction for" or "expiate" his sins" (1459).

Contradiction - "Jesus atoned for our faults and made satisfaction for our sins to the Father" (615).

God's Word - "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross...for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Can Sinners Merit Salvation?

Statement - "We can merit for ourselves and for others all the graces needed to attain eternal life" (2027).

Contradiction - Christ's "most holy Passion on the wood of the cross merited justification for us" (617). "Our justification comes from the grace of God" (1996).

God's Word - "all those who believe [are] justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3: 22-24). "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Eph 2:8-9).

Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

Statement - "The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude. Baptism is necessary for salvation" (1257).

Contradiction - For those "who die before their Baptism, their explicit desire to receive it, together with repentance for their sins, and charity, assures them the salvation that they were not able to receive through the sacrament" (1259).

God's Word - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, *who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*" (John 1:12-13).

Is Mary Another "Sinless" Mediator?

Statement - "Without a single sin to restrain her...she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race" (494). As "Mediatrice" she "did not lay aside [her]
(See Contradictions on page 8)

The Ministry of Proclaiming the Gospel

OUR PURPOSE

The ministry was established in 1991 and is incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation for the purposes of: 1) glorifying, honoring and serving the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His Gospel of man's redemption with clarity, conviction and consistency; 2) providing evangelistic training and resources with an emphasis on biblical integrity; 3) exposing any doctrines that oppose or nullify the Gospel of grace so that people can discern truth from error, avoid deception and come to a knowledge of truth; 4) contending earnestly for the faith against the agents of compromise who suppress doctrinal truth for the sake of ecumenical unity; 5) encouraging and supporting former Roman Catholics who may be feeling a sense of guilt, ostracism or persecution from their family or friends for leaving the Catholic religion and culture.

OUR METHOD

In a spirit of love and humility, we teach evangelistic seminars, conferences and workshops to train and encourage Christians to be effective witnesses to Roman Catholics and others who may be lost in their religion. We also offer resources designed to teach, equip and encourage others to labor in this huge mission field.

OUR NEWSLETTER

Proclaiming the Gospel's bi-monthly newsletter is designed to extend the purposes of the ministry throughout the world. The editor is [Evangelist Mike Gendron](#), a graduate of [Dallas Theological Seminary](#) and a former Roman Catholic of over 34 years.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, satisfied the righteous justice of God by paying the complete penalty for sin when He died as man's substitute on Calvary's cross. Any person who repents and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior by grace through faith in His life, death and resurrection, ceasing to trust in anything else for salvation, becomes a child of God and receives the gift of eternal life, which can never be revoked.

OUR PROVISION

Everything we do is made possible through the prayers and financial support of those who share our burden for the lost. We recognize the sacrifices God's people make to sustain our work and pledge to use these resources effectively and efficiently. Donations (except for products) are tax deductible.

Opposition from Protestant Pastors

One of our subscribers, who directs ministry called "MyFaith.com", asked permission to send my recent article on *Discernment* to his list of 50,000 subscribers which includes many pastors and church leaders. Within hours we were inundated with hundreds of hateful e-mails rebuking us for being divisive and for identifying Catholicism as a false religion. Following are a few quotes from some of the Protestant pastors

If you would listen to your own words, you might understand how ignorant you have become. You have no evidence!!! There is nothing which needs to be refuted, except maybe your attitude. Get a clue! Some day you will be judged for how you loved Jesus and how you loved your neighbor and that includes Catholics. Maybe you need to de-brief your bad experience with a licensed psycho-therapist. Do you believe in John 17? If so, how are you helping bring it about? Your attitude and your methods are pure contention, not of Christ, but of the author of confusion and discord.

Your message of divisiveness, suspicion and anti-Roman Catholicism represents the work of Satan in our midst. You should be ashamed of yourself for attempting to cause such division in God's church. Your arrogance is beyond belief. That you should put yourself in the position to judge whatever Christian denomination is "in" or "out" of the kingdom is the height of idolatry. How dare you!

Get a life! Christians attacking Christians makes God cry; and makes the devil laugh. Get over it. The Roman Catholic Church is Christian! Your version of Christianity is highly offensive and counter to the Gospel. May God have mercy on your miserable soul. With a world full of sinners, your focus is on discrediting the Catholic Church. I think you are blinded by doctrine. Are you a Nazi, a KKK member, opposed to free speech or ideas different from your own?

Because I am a pastor, listen up. This is bulls---. Yes, pastors can say it too. The Christian faith is wide and varied in its doctrine and theology. The Catholic Church has a long and faithful history of proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I find your theology at best offensive and at

worst violent and self-righteous. You say, "Remember the Reformation?" Martin Luther, and those before him, were not anti-Catholic. They were against the faithless corruption of the practice of the church leadership. There are many rooms in our Father's House and tolerance, rather than hate and intolerance, seems to be the way of God.

What a perverse use of Scripture and a Satanic misunderstanding of Roman Catholicism. Discernment is required of all of us, but you are usurping God's role as judge. Shame on you! I am always amazed when a self-proclaimed "Christian" organization attacks another part of the body of Christ. Your self-righteous judgment, violation of multiple commandments and contravention of Christ's teaching astounds me.

We knew the professing church was lukewarm and needed discernment, but never to such a great extent. Only about 5% of the responses we received were positive exhortations from people who understood this critical issue. We are never surprised when Roman Catholics are hostile toward us, but we have been amazed to see such fierce opposition from Protestants. It appears that many have forgotten the Reformation and the martyrs who shed their blood defending the Gospel. Needless to say, this experience has renewed our commitment to earnestly contend for the faith against the deadly deception within professing Christianity.

Mike's Travel Schedule

- Jan. 4 [Countryside Bible Church](#)
Southlake, TX (817) 488-5381
- Feb. 21 [Steeling the Mind Bible Confer.](#)
Anaheim, CA (800) 977-2177
- Mar. 3-7 [Shepherd's Conference](#)
Sun Valley, CA (818) 909-5530
- Mar. 27-28 [West Side Baptist Church](#)
Rochester, NY (585) 247-5490
- Apr. 16-18 [Bethel Baptist Church](#)
Green Bay, WI (920) 437-2040
- May 14-16 [Lakeside Bible Church](#)
Montgomery, TX (936) 582-1978
- June 27 [Bayside Community Church](#)
Tampa, FL (813) 286-1463

To schedule Mike Gendron to speak at your church or event, contact him at:
phone: (972) 495-0485
[e-mail: ptg@pro-gospel.org](mailto:ptg@pro-gospel.org)

New Resources

In our ongoing effort to provide resources that will help you be a faithful and effective ambassador for the Lord Jesus, we are introducing several new products. Our third DVD is now available and it contains two different PowerPoint messages from recent *Steeling the Mind Bible Conferences*. We have also redesigned our popular bookmark entitled: *Biblical References to Catholic Doctrines*. **Our thanks to a dear brother-in-Christ, Michael Thompson of www.sbgvisuals.com for creating the attractive artwork for both new products.** If you know of anyone who needs Christian graphics or artwork, please encourage them to visit his web site.

The bookmarks are not only handy references for evangelicals as they witness, but they are also excellent study guides for Catholics who desire to see how their doctrines compare with God's word. Order a pack and give one to each of your Catholic loved ones. May the truth set them free! See page seven for ordering information.

Quick Quote

"Catholicism is a false system. It is not the church of Christ, it is the church of anti-Christ. If you follow Catholic theology you'll go to hell. I am not saying that to be unkind but to be truthful. Being truthful is the only way to be kind. People need to come out of that system. It is a system that exalts Mary and it is a system of paganism mingled with pseudo-Christianity."

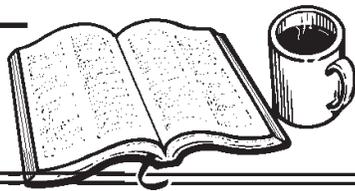
[John MacArthur](#) (KCBI Radio, 10/27/03)

Steeling the Mind In Anaheim Feb. 21

America's #1 Bible Conference is returning to Anaheim Saturday, Feb. 21. The *Steeling the Mind Bible Conference* will be held at the Heritage Forum and will once again feature ten speakers who will give a biblical perspective on the critical issues affecting the church in these last days. Speakers include: Ed Hindson, Kent Hovind, Mike Gendron, Jobe Martin, Chuck Missler, Mike Riddle and Frank Peretti. Come and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded believers! For information and reservations please call 1-800-977-2177.

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



I am a former Roman Catholic gloriously saved by the blood of Christ, 27 years ago. After reading your last newsletter, I am saddened by the evangelical compromise with Roman Catholicism. The Baptist pastor didn't even have the decency as a proclaimed man of God to answer your concerns. I was truly encouraged by your boldness not only through your letter, but through action! Those men cannot claim that they were never warned when (if they are truly Christians) they stand at the bema seat and see their works burned up because of their compromise. It seems that Christians are forgetting that rewards await "good and faithful servants," not those who accept the accolades of men. I also read the absolute desperate nature of the letters from Catholics. The hate and vitriol is like I have never seen before! It would seem that time is indeed short and Satan has increased the attacks on God's people. I pray and at the same time weep for you in these days of compromise and attacks. Be strong and of a good courage because we know that your fight is not in vain. Continue preaching and do not retreat one bit. In fact continue pressing onward and upward, and know the Lord will welcome you home some day and exclaim "well done thou good and faithful servant." T.D., Racine, WI

I am so offended by your newsletter that if I were not a Christian I would certainly find nothing in it to recommend becoming one. I'm sorry that your experience of Catholicism was so horrible that you feel compelled to denounce an entire denomination, thereby showing decidedly unChristian behavior to the world at large. I am not Roman Catholic, but of another sacramental denomination, and as a child I was made to feel so unacceptable by my Christian relatives because of attitudes like yours. I would suggest that you prayerfully consider the beam that impairs your own vision before commenting on the mote in other's eyes. I happen to worship a God much bigger and more compassionate, forgiving, and loving than the god you worship.

Anonymous

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I was a Catholic for 82 years. I am now 86 and know the truth. I grew from what I heard on 3 of your videos. Now I am using your newsletters to try to save my family and friends. I'm the only one in my family that has left the RCC. I pray that their eyes will be opened and they will see the light.

Mrs. Y.H., Leominster, MA

You were a devout Roman Catholic and a strong defender of the one true church?!?! How could you be if one attendance at a hucksterfest in 1981 turned your head. If you're just another Bible thumping money-grubber, then there's no hope for you, but if you're sincere, you might try finding out the truth about the Catholic faith. I just read your tract, *Are You Being Deceived?* It's obvious to me that you are the one being deceived and you are more concerned with Catholic-bashing than with the truth.

A real devout Catholic

In the natural world it may take more than one event to turn from a life of indoctrination, but when almighty God grants repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, the turning is immediate (2 Tim. 2:25). In an instant our sovereign Lord can give life to those dead in sin, sight to those spiritually blind and saving faith to those lost in religion. Have you considered that this is what God did to convert Paul? (Acts 9:17-20). I am amazed that a Catholic would call me a "money grubber" when you consider the Roman Catholic Church has become the richest institution in the world by selling indulgences. Conversely, it has been our policy for 13 years to trust our Sovereign Lord for His provisions and not to solicit donations. He sustains us through the prayers and gifts of Christians who share our compassion to reach people like you. If we wanted to bash Catholics, we would ignore them as they march proudly towards a Christ-less eternity. But as ambassadors for Christ, we beg them on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20).

First I would like to praise the Lord for guiding me to your web site. The information I have read has been a real eye opener. I had

no idea the level of misinterpretation the Roman Catholic cult had in proclaiming "God's word" to their parishioners. Thank you for the newsletters that have opened my eyes, but at the same time caused them to weep. It is encouraging to hear your biblical responses to non-biblical criticisms, and the way you defend your faith. Your approach to answering skeptics helps us to explain our faith and I thank you for that.

S.W., Elmer, NJ

Thanks for sharing your information with us here in Spokane. God was glorified through your presentation. We were blessed in Spokane by the Word you shared. My wife and I both said: This is a message the world has to hear! May God continue to bless your Ministry. You are in our prayers.

D. & M. K., Spokane, WA

How well and direct you answer and defend our Lord with His Word. We would imagine the abuse and scorn heaped upon you is great and that is indeed a good sign. You are obviously hitting near the mark or the enemy would not react so. May you be blessed to go forth even stronger in proclaiming the one true gospel against all opposition, so captives may be set free and Jesus the Christ may be glorified.

G. & J. S., Plano, TX

God will bless you abundantly for remaining faithful. Your particular ministry is so urgent. I have Catholic friends - most are not receptive at all to hearing the truth but occasionally there are those that listen to The Holy Spirit and the truth gets through.

D.R., Oceanside, CA

I have spent quite some time in reading almost every article and forum entry you have on your site, and I am totally unconvinced. You haven't shaken my Catholic faith at all. So I guess I'd let you know if that's your goal, you're not trying hard enough. Thanks for reaffirming me in all I believe.

Kate L., Internet

Our goal or purpose is to glorify and serve our Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His message of reconciliation and redemption. It is not our responsibility to convince anyone to believe the Gospel. Conversion is God's work alone. The Father draws (John 6:44), The Holy Spirit brings conviction (John 16:8-11) and the Son's finished sacrifice is proclaimed for the complete forgiveness of sins (Col. 2:13-14). If God is

not drawing you to the Incarnate Word, the serpent is leading you astray from a simple and pure devotion to Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).

What Jesus said would happen in the end times is unfolding right before us. Apostates like Scott Hahn are rounding up the goats and Jesus is calling His sheep. One brother at our church is going down to the Catholic Cathedral and preaching to folks as they come out of the Mass.

T. J., Watauga, TX

I'm impressed. How do you know what the Bible means? 1900 years of uninterrupted exegesis, and you know more than the Catholic Church? I've studied the Bible for 45 years and without the Church's guidance, there would be much confusion. The Bible is unclear. The Church isn't.

B.S., Internet

*The Bible is unclear to those who are perishing because they have been blinded by the prince of this world (2 Cor. 4:3-4). If you continue to seek guidance from blind guides, instead of the Bible, you will end up in the ditch (Mat. 15:14). You must turn from those deceitful men who corrupted your religion and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Otherwise the veil that covers your heart will remain (2 Cor. 3:18). You must do as the Psalmist did, "Let my cry come before Thee, O Lord; **give me understanding according to Thy word.** Let my supplication come before Thee; deliver me according to Thy word" (Ps. 119:169-170).*

I always cease from whatever I am doing to read your newsletter cover to cover. We were awfully saddened to hear about the Monsignor speaking at the Baptist church; unbelievable, yet not unbelievable. We will continue to pray faithfully for you for it sounds as though you are prey. Continue to stand steadfastly. We were humbled as well as encouraged to hear of the boldness the Holy Spirit gave you both. We thank God He placed such a love in our hearts for you. We always desire to help your ministry in some way, but our meager efforts always fall short of our desire. Anytime we are able we tell others of your ministry we do so, for we feel it is vital.

M.&T. M., Amarillo, TX

I recently read a 'critique' of yours on Brennan Manning (www.pro-gospel.org/2003-Main/Newsletters/2001-Volume10/Vol10No2.pdf). Your description of how you

ambushed Manning at a book signing, shoved an anti Catholic tract under his nose and afterwards his response, proves your tactless stupidity. Your anti-Catholic bias is as obvious as a wart on your nose. You accuse Manning of an over emphasis on grace, perhaps you may need to re-read the New Testament. Jesus had nothing but grace for sinners. Your bitterness in this critique and your supreme arrogance in labeling Manning a 'wolf in sheep's clothing' would lead me to suggest that you seriously examine your own heart.

Colin C., Internet

The tract that I offered Manning was pro-Catholic, in the sense that I quoted from the Catholic Bible (NAB) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. I did this to show objectively how these two authoritative books present opposing views on Jesus and the Gospel. Are you not aware that Jesus never mentioned grace in His pre-resurrection ministry. He commanded sinners to repent and believe the Gospel, to deny themselves, to take up their cross and follow Him (Mark 1:15; 8:34).

Few people understand the absolute critical need for your message in these perilous times. Thank you for the splendid work you are doing and for your prompt response to my call for help.

D.T., Lexington, KY

Your message really touched my heart as I have two Catholic brothers whom I love very much. I will be mailing them copies of your book *Preparing Catholics for Eternity* and pray they will repent when they see the errors of Catholicism.

K. L., Hayden ID

I love to read your rebukes of those who try to insult you. You only answer with what the word of God says and not your opinion. Salt indeed stings unbelievers. I'm so glad you are out there telling others that Catholics who do not trust the finished work of Christ alone are not Christians. It is so sad to see how Apostate and lacking in discernment many churches have become.

C.P., Lexington, SC

I just finished reading your contribution to the book "[Revelation Hoofbeats](#)". I enjoyed your chapter so much that I looked your ministry up on the Internet. I absolutely admire the way you use God's word to defend the true Gospel - you are gifted by the Lord to

make the truth so easy to understand. I grew up in a dead Protestant church and was saved in 1974. After reading some of the letters you receive from defenders of the "Mother Church," I find it amazing how honestly deceived they are. They get hit between the eyes with pure Gospel truth and still can't see how their "religion" opposes the Gospel of Christ. This has opened my eyes in a new way to how clever and deceiving Satan is. Thanks again for your solid stand for the Lord!

G. L., Mayville, WI

God has called you to this ministry for such a time as this. Keep up the great work because there are not many doing what you're doing and because the Lord is coming soon. Our prayers and support are with you.

Pastor D.P., Colfax, IL

I am glad that you print many of the negative responses to your ministry efforts. Although sad, it really shows the depths of deception and bondage that the false church has on its faithful. Hopefully, many who do not feel it necessary to evangelize lost Catholics will realize just how zealous they are for their error. My we be as zealous for the truth!

B. B., Santa Rosa Beach, FL

I know how much criticism you get and how much opposition you receive. I also know how many of us have looked at you and thought that you should "soften" the approach or "lighten up," or stop being so over critical. It is so easy for those of us getting fat "in the nest." We are great at Monday morning quarterbacking, but not very good at getting out on the field of battle. We also don't see the urgency of which the Bible and Jesus himself spoke. We do not understand that people are truly "dying." I praise God for you and encourage you in your fight. Please know that you will, some day, be able to say these words better than most: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

J.O., Plano, TX

Please submit questions or comments to:

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Priestly Abuse In Ireland

Roman Catholic bishops in Ireland released a damning report on their handling of child sex-abuse scandals. They apologized and promised to improve systems for protecting children. The 332-page report detailed the damage the scandals have done to victims, the church and wider society in this overwhelmingly Catholic nation. It tells of mistakes made in responding to those who came to the church seeking sensitivity and compassion. More than 100 Irish clergy have been convicted of sex offenses in the last decade. A compensation tribunal is expected to pay up to \$700 million to thousands of claimants who allegedly suffered abuse in church-run schools. (AP, 12/4/03)

Fatima Unites All Religions

The Vatican and United Nations interfaith congress *The Future of God*, held during October in Fatima, heard how the Shrine is to be developed into a centre where all the religions of the world will gather to pay homage to their various gods. The Shrine's rector, addressing Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox, Buddhist and African Pagan representatives stated: "The adoration of God and His mother at this holy Shrine, must pass through the creation of a shrine where different religions can mingle." The Hindu representative described how already in the Far East millions of Hindus are getting "positive vibrations" from visiting Marian shrines without endangering their faith. The rector pointed out that the fact that Fatima is the name of Mohammed's daughter, is indicative that the Shrine must be open to the co-existence of various faiths and beliefs. He said: "We must assume that it was the will of the Blessed Virgin Mary." For the first time in the 86-year history of Fatima all of the Pagan and Christian delegates were invited to participate in the Ecumenical celebrations.

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One Jesuit theologian was insistent that the religions of the world must unite. "The religion of the future will be a general converging of religions in a universal Christ that will satisfy all", he said. The Belgium born theologian argued: "The other religious traditions in the world are part of God's plan for humanity and the Holy Spirit is operating and present in Buddhist, Hindu and other sacred writings of Christian and non-Christian faiths as well." In an impassioned plea he said: "The universality of God's kingdom permits this, and this is nothing more than a diversified form of sharing in the same mystery of salvation. In the end it is hoped that the Christian will become a better Christian and each Hindu a better Hindu." An official statement put out by the Congress called for a non-proselytizing approach by all religions. What is needed is that each religion be true to its faith integrally and treat each religion on the same footing of equality with no inferior or superiority complexes." It emphasized that the secret to peace amongst all religions is admitting that contradictions exist between creeds but to concentrate on what unites them as opposed to what separates them. (Portugal News, 11/1/03)

Pope Prays For The Dead

On the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, Pope John Paul II reminded his audience of "the support we have every day" from the faithful in heaven. The example of the saints, "shows us the path that leads to that destination." The Pope also mentioned the pious tradition of visiting the graves of relatives on All Souls' Day. He said, "I am praying for the repose of the souls of those who have no one thinking about them." He reminded the audience that "it is an important duty to pray for the dead, because even those who died in a state of grace and friendship with God may need some purification before they can enter into the joy of heaven." He thanked

visitors from Poland for praying at the graves of his own parents and his deceased brother. The Pontiff then celebrated Mass in his private chapel for the popes who preceded him. (CWNews.com, 11/3/03)

Mary Not Just for Catholics

On the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, worshipers gathered to celebrate the brown-skinned mother of Jesus who, legend says, appeared before a poor Mexican peasant in 1531. Spanish missionaries spread the story of her apparition to convert Mexico's indigenous tribes from their devotion to the Aztec mother-goddess to the Virgin Mary. A Catholic spokesman said Our Lady of Guadalupe is available to everyone. He said, "It would be wrong to assume that we control this like a trademark. I hope as other Christian churches learn to understand the evocative power of Our Lady, they too will learn that you do not use her; she uses you." (L.A. Times, 12/12/03)

Pope Grants New Indulgence

At the 150th anniversary of the solemn proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception - Mary's preservation from the stain of original sin - the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception opened a Marian Year celebration. Pope John II imparted his apostolic blessing and granted a Marian Year indulgence to the faithful who will visit the Basilica on pilgrimage during the observance. The plenary indulgence is granted to the Christian faithful who visit the Basilica between Dec. 8, 2003 and Dec. 8, 2004 on pilgrimage or for a liturgy or other pious devotion, and who recite the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed. An indulgence may be obtained once each day, under the customary conditions, which are: to the extent of one's awareness, all attachment to sin be absent; sacramental confession within several days of seeking the indulgence; reception of Holy Communion; and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. ([Basilica News, 12/8/03](#))

Celibacy Blamed For Assault

A Catholic priest told police celibacy was to blame for his sexual abuse of minors. Father John Gwillim pleaded guilty to five counts of indecent assault and four counts of gross indecency. Gwillim told police after his arrest in July last year: "If we did away with celibacy this would all go away." A fellow priest described Gwillim's repeated abuse as "an occupational hazard." (News.com.au, 12/9/03)

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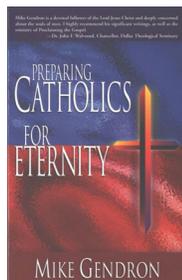
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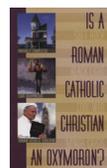
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*"All Scripture is
inspired by God
and profitable
for teaching,
for reproof,
for correction,
for training in
righteousness"
([2 Tim. 3:16](#))*

([Contradictions from page 2](#))

saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation" ([969](#)). Her "prayers will deliver our souls from death" ([966](#)).

Contradiction - "The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the one mediator between God and men. Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven" ([618](#)). "Any person would be guilty not only of foolish behavior but also of offending Him [God] by not fixing his eyes entirely upon Christ" ([65](#)).

God's Word - "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" ([1 Tim. 2:5](#)). "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" ([Rom. 3:23](#)).

Should We Pray to Mary and Dead Saints?

Statement - "We can pray with and to her. The prayer of the church is sustained by the prayer of Mary" ([2679](#)).

Contradiction - "There is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ...it has access to the Father only if we pray 'in the name' of

Jesus" ([2664](#)). "Prayer is raising of one's mind and heart to God" ([2590](#)).

God's Word - "There shall not be found among you anyone who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you" ([Deut. 18:11-12](#)).

Is Veneration of Mary & Statues Idolatry?

Statement - "The Church is awaited by the one she venerates as Mother of her Lord and as her own mother" ([972](#)). "The Son introduced a new 'economy' of images' ...including 'the veneration of icons' ([2131](#)).

Contradiction - "The first commandment condemns polytheism. It requires man neither to believe in, nor to venerate, other divinities than the one true God" ([2112](#)).

God's Word - "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" ([Exod. 20:4-5](#)).

In conclusion, we can see how the Roman Catholic religion has seduced many by combining the truth of God's word with the deceptive teachings and traditions of men. The seduction has been successful because their fatal deceptions have been covered with a veneer of truth. Rarely will anyone believe an outright lie but when the lie is mixed with truth, it becomes much easier to embrace. The mixture causes greater harm than the naked lie because only those with discernment can identify it and warn others about it.

Whenever Catholic Tradition clashes with God's word, the Vatican always upholds Tradition and explains away the word of God. Catholics who are seeking the truth about their eternal destiny are forced to make a choice. Should they trust Christ and His Word or the Pope and his Catechism? Evangelicals who desire to glorify and serve God are also forced to make a choice. Should they contend earnestly for the faith against counterfeit Christianity or do nothing as the name of Jesus Christ is put to shame?

May this article encourage everyone to look to God's inspired word as the most objective and trustworthy source for truth!