



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](#)

*"With one accord, you may with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."
(Rom. 15:6)*

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All Christians Are Called To Proclaim the Gospel

How many of you would respond to this recruiting ad? Men and women wanted for the difficult task of building Christ's Church. You will face constant attacks from an invisible enemy who will try to distract you from your objective and destroy your effectiveness. You will be persecuted, mocked and ridiculed by his ministers of unrighteousness. You will often be discouraged and misunderstood by apathetic and lazy people working with you. Whenever you are persecuted for the sake of your king, you will be asked to leap for joy. The results of your labor and your full reward will not come until after all your work is completed. You will not be able to boast or take pride in what you do and it may cost you your life. However, you will enjoy compelling advantages over all competition by tapping unlimited resources from your headquarters' support team. The fruit of your labor will last for all eternity. And most importantly, the incomparable retirement program is out of this world.

This recruiting ad is an accurate description of what every Christian experiences when they devote their lives to the Savior and His great commission. Tragically, many who are called by Him have not reported for active duty but have gone AWOL. Oh, they will gather in holy huddles on Sunday morning, but when the play is called, they go sit on the bench to watch others run the offense. They say they are too busy or not equipped or fearful. What they really need is some divinely inspired motivation to get them actively involved in building Christ's church. Following are seven motivational truths that should inspire every Christian to become a more faithful witness for the Lord Jesus:

Witnessing Glorifies Our Great God
Each time we proclaim the Gospel we proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light ([1 Pet. 2:9](#)). Even if we do not see many conversions while laboring in the fields white for harvest, we are still glorifying our great God and Savior everytime we proclaim His Gospel.

Of course we must also live our lives in a way that reflects the matchless love and heartfelt gratitude we have for our Savior. Our actions provide another notable testimony to unbelievers. When they see our good works, our heavenly Father is glorified ([Mat. 5:16](#)). For this reason, Paul exhorts us: "you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body" ([1 Cor. 6:20](#)). Jesus said the mark of a true disciple is one who glorifies God by proclaiming the fruit-bearing Gospel. "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" ([Mat. 4:19](#)).

Witnessing is a Divine Command
The Lord Jesus gives a command for every Christian to obey. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The Greek word for "go" is "poreuomai" which means "on your way" Christians are to make disciples (not decisions) as they go from place to place. Jesus has given us this great responsibility of making His *last* command our *first* concern. When you break up the word "responsibility", we see it is our "response" to His "ability."
[\(see Proclaim on page 2\)](#)

[\(Proclaim from page 1\)](#)

Witnessing is a Royal Privilege

All Christians are given the awesome privilege of being ambassadors for the King of Kings. One of the highest honors for an American is to represent our country as an ambassador. In the same way, the highest honor for a Christian is to represent King Jesus and to take His message of reconciliation to a lost and dying world. Every man in Christ is a new creature who has been given the ministry of reconciliation. God has recreated them for the privilege of reconciling the world to Him through Christ ([2 Cor. 5:17-20](#)).

Witnessing is a Great Act of Love

I believe the primary reason many Christians do not faithfully proclaim the Gospel is because they do not grasp the sheer horror of hell. If we fully understood the reality of the everlasting torment and suffering that awaits those who die without Christ, we would do everything in our power to reach our loved ones before it is too late. Jesus lamented over Jerusalem because He knew the dreadful terror the Jews would endure for rejecting their Messiah. Jesus said those who reject Him will be eternally punished in an everlasting fire ([Mat. 25:41, 46](#)). Paul, the compassionate evangelist of the first century warned unbelievers when he wrote: "Those who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus...will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord" ([2 Thes. 1:8-9](#)). It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God ([Hebrews 10:31](#)).

Giving the good news of Christ's substitutionary atonement is indeed the greatest act of love we could ever do for those who are perishing. We have all heard of other great acts of love, such as when people donate one of their organs to another. As great as this sacrifice is, it only takes care of their *temporal* problem. When we share the Gospel with them we are giving them a cure their *eternal* sin disease.

Our love for the lost is often coupled with our deep compassion for them. The word "compassion" is not a passive word but a word of action. It means "sorrow for the [pending] sufferings of another *accompanied by an urge to help.*"

Witnessing is also a compelling demonstration of our love for Jesus. Our love for God should reflect His merciful love for us. God demonstrated His love for His children by

sending His only Son to die in their place ([Rom. 5:8](#)). "He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" ([2 Cor. 5:15](#)). One of the most consistent ways we can show our love for God is live for Him in obedience to His word by proclaiming His Gospel ([1 John 2:5](#)).

We Have the Only Message of Hope

Peter proclaimed, "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" ([Acts 4:12](#)). There is no other Savior, no other mediator and no other Gospel ([John 14:6; Gal. 1:6; 1 Tim. 2:5](#)). If there were many ways to paradise then the Gospel message would not be that important. However the Gospel of Jesus Christ becomes the most important message anyone could ever hear because it communicates how sinners can receive the greatest gift ever offered - everlasting life in the presence of our gracious Creator and merciful Savior. Those who do not share the Gospel are only helping the devil's cause. Satan uses everything in his power to thwart access to Scripture because he knows that the living and abiding word of God is the imperishable seed that brings forth eternal life to those he is holding captive with his lies ([1 Pet. 1:23](#)).

Witnessing is Evidence of a New Life

Christians are born again to reproduce! Whenever I see repented sinners respond to the Gospel in genuine saving faith, the very first thing they want to do is share the good news with all their loved ones. One dear lady in particular, who exchanged her Catholic religion for a relationship with Jesus, put together 17 three-ring binders with all the Scriptures that we shared to set her free. She immediately sent them to all her family members in the hopes they too would follow Jesus in the newness of eternal life.

Another friend, who left the Catholic Church after trusting Christ as her all-sufficient Savior, asked if we would start teaching her son and his fiancée all the Scriptures we shared with her. This new life, that is given by God as a gift, will indeed be evidenced by a desire to see others come alive in Christ. Paul wrote, "Every Christian has been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" ([Eph. 2:10](#)). A most important work God has prepared for us to do is to build His church by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

[\(See Proclaim on page 8\)](#)

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.

St. Francis Xavier's Relics to be Venerated

The exposition and veneration of St. Francis Xavier's relics is expected to attract more than 3 million people at the Basilica in Eastern India where the saint's tomb is located. St. Francis Xavier is regarded as the great apostle of the East and the greatest figure of Christianity in Asia (1506-1552). For a time, his body was exposed for veneration every year but since 1864, security reasons have limited the schedule to every 10 years. A *Pastoral Letter* has been sent exhorting the faithful "to participate actively so that the entire ecclesial community can receive the bountiful gifts of God." (Zenit.org, 7/22/04)

Roman Catholicism's fascination with the dead is magnified in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. "The Church, from the earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead because it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins" ([para. 958](#)). The dead "constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world" ([para. 2683](#)).

Catholics and Buddhists

Glaring theological contradictions don't impede Ruben Habito, a Jesuit priest and Zen Buddhist teacher to find common ground between Catholicism and Buddhism. "There is a way one can, in a single life, be faithful to two faiths," said Habito, a professor of world religions at SMU's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. He recently led a week-long meditation retreat with 35 people, and offered the Catholic Eucharist after the evening meditation. Buddhists believe the universe has no beginning and that individuals will be reborn until they achieve spiritual liberation. Jesus offers eternal life while Buddha offers a contemplative path to liberation. ([Miami Herald](#), 7/3/04)

Steeling the Mind Conf. Oct. 30 in Coeur d'Alene

Join Mike and Jane Gendron at this great Bible conference. Call Compass to register or for more information at (800) 977-2177.

Answered Prayer

Our Lord has been so gracious in His response to our prayers regarding the attacks against our web site and server! Our webmaster, Cheryl Schupbach, spoke with a colleague not long after requesting prayer and was told about a new SPAM program that basically thinks ahead to prepare for new SPAM creations. It discerns patterns in mail structure and continually updates databases maintained by anti-SPAM organizations.

The same day she heard of this program, she also received an unexpected and unsolicited donation in the mail. Our Lord literally placed it on someone's heart to give the necessary funds before she was even aware of the need. The donation made it possible to purchase the anti-SPAM program for the server, and it has now solved the problems that everyone was experiencing. All bombardments - SPAM and viruses stopped immediately.

Lastly, her glucose levels have been stable. This is positively miraculous considering high stress can be as detrimental as sugar. Cheryl couldn't have continued doing this ministry because her body couldn't have handled the stress - but once people began to pray there was a peace that surpasses all understanding. We all praise God for all that He has done.

Priest Sees Apostasy

The Roman Catholic Church is deep into apostasy according to Catholic priest, Nicholas Gruner, who heads the Fatima Center in Fort Erie, Ontario. It is being undermined by the forces of modernism like Vatican Council II, the new world order, false religions, wayward priests, liberals, secular humanists, Communists, the Masonic Order and interfaith compromise. The priest, who is on a mission to end the great apostasy at the highest levels of the church said, "the church has refrained from talking about hell or the consequences of sin and it is failing to meet the devil's challenges"

Such apostasy, he said, is epitomized by the Vatican's refusal to publicly reveal the truth about the third "Secret of Fatima" given to three children in 1917. The last survivor, Sister Lucia, now 96, wrote down Mary's message in 1944. Mary told the children that God wanted to establish devotion to her Immaculate Heart. The third secret is said to reveal a great punishment or "chastisement" for the world, apostasy in the Vatican and a crisis of faith in the Catholic Church.

Gruner's passion is "keeping alive the message of Fatima" through such means as *The Fatima Crusader* magazine, TV and radio, conferences and a web site: www.fatima.org. ([EastValleyTribune.com](#), 7/24/04)

Where Mike is Speaking

- Sep. 1 & 8 [Believers Chapel](#)
Dallas, TX (972) 239-5371
- Sep. 25-26 [Tulsa Bible Church](#)
Tulsa, OK (918) 499-1513
- Oct. 24 [Taylor Creek Church](#)
Maple Valley, WA (425) 432-0634
- Oct. 27 [Calvary Chapel South](#)
Kent, WA (253) 852-7030
- Oct. 30 [Steeling the Mind Bible Conf.](#)
Coeur d'Alene, ID (800) 977-2177
- Nov. 3 & 10 [McKinney Fellowship Bible](#)
McKinney, TX (972) 547-7029
- Nov. 13-14 Providence Church
Duluth, GA (770) 497-1309
- Nov. 20 The Hearthstone Manor - Depew
Equipping the Saints Seminar
Buffalo, NY (716) 674-8458

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

Passion Aftermath

Four months after its release, *The Passion of the Christ* has not ignited a Christian revival as many had predicted. Churches have not reported any flood of new adherents. A survey by the Barna Group, a polling company that specializes in issues of interest to evangelical Christians, indicated that less than one-tenth of 1 percent of those who saw the movie were moved to become Christians. And fewer than five Christians in 1,000 who saw the movie were moved to increase their proselytizing. (DMN 7/17/04)

Quick Quote

"My entire person is affected by my belief structure, but I don't make decisions in public life based on religious belief, nor do I think we should."

Senator John Kerry, a former altar boy who carries a rosary and St. Christopher medal on the road.

Seeking His Truth

Letters to the Editor



I'm grateful to God that you guys are out there. You are much needed. Catholicism seems to be encroaching into so many churches. I suspect that it has accelerated since *The Passion* came out. I've heard from two frantic mothers whose college-aged children are converting to Catholicism as a result of attending Catholic "Bible studies" when the movie came out.
Mary Ann, Internet

I find myself stunned at your lack of knowledge regarding the Catholic faith. It seems to me Mike, that you have a vendetta against the Church. This is regrettable as I recall reading somewhere that vengeance is the jurisdiction of God. You misrepresent the Mass to your audiences. I suggest you take to heart the admonition that few are called to be ministers of the Word. You seem bent on degrading the beliefs of others with smoke and mirrors theology. It is so unconvincing I ponder why anyone but the most serious anti-Catholic would want to listen. Anyone taking the time to understand the history of the Christian faith will find it uniquely Catholic. You denounce the faith of our fathers and billions of human lives throughout the millennia. Sola Scriptura is a valueless theology. As for preaching a Gospel other than that of the Apostles, I prefer to let the fathers of our faith speak for me. They constitute real authority as opposed to your misinterpretations.
Jim C., Internet

If I have a vendetta against the Catholic religion it is because it withholds the most important lifesaving truth from its people. I became very angry when I watched my Dad pass away clinging to the false hope of his Catholic indoctrination. He refused to turn to Christ and His word because he had so much confidence in his religion. When his brother, a Roman Catholic priest of 50+ years, officiated his funeral mass, he told everyone that Tom Gendron was now in heaven because Tom was baptized a Catholic and lived a good life. I will continue to rebuke and expose these fatal lies of Catholicism in the hopes that some will

come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil (2 Tim. 2:25). The everlasting torment of hell's eternal fire never becomes so real until you see a loved one enter eternity without the Lord Jesus. May God help you to turn to Him before it is too late. If you continue to follow the fathers of your faith instead of Christ and His word, you will become like everyone else who puts their trust in man, a withered bush in the desert wastelands (Jer. 17:5-6).

I don't attack your religion and belief system and you should not tell me that my religion is all wrong. I am happy to be a Roman Catholic, and yes, I use all my cognitive abilities. I love the Lord, I know that I have been saved, and I know that I must work out my salvation with fear and trembling! Your argument is hardly convincing.
Laura N., Internet

The reason you cannot attack my religion is because I do not have one to attack. Twenty years ago I exchanged my Catholic religion for a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He put an end to the only God-ordained religion (Judaism) when he died at Calvary's cross. The veil separating sinful man from our Holy God was torn open showing that repenting sinners can now go directly to God through faith in the shed blood of the Savior. There is no longer a need for priests to offer sacrifices for sin because our High Priest, the Lord Jesus offered Himself once, as the perfect sacrifice for sin for all time (Heb. 10:10-18). His offering to His Father satisfied divine justice. The Roman Catholic priesthood is unnecessary, fraudulent and deceptive. Catholic priests are imposters who dishonor and discredit Christ's work of redemption by pretending to continue what Jesus said was finished (John 19:30). If you think that by exposing the fatal errors of the Catholic religion is an "attack" please understand it is because we have a deep compassion for Catholics, especially those who have a zeal for God but not according to biblical knowledge. We love Catholics but hate the religion that robs Christ of His glory and shuts the gates to His Kingdom to those

who want to enter. We will continue to speak out with vigor and denounce every Roman Catholic teaching that perverts the perfect work of God. We will continue the work of Paul by "destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God" (2 Cor. 10:5). With fear and trembling, I urge you to examine all Roman teachings in light of Scripture and forsake anything that does not conform.

If you can prove through proper documentation that the Church founded by J.C. fell into apostasy then please show us. When were the early Christians orphaned and abandoned by Christ? When in history has the Church ever been without a visible head, starting with St. Peter. What right do you have to take the gospel out of the hands of the sacred Church and condemn the Church with it? You are deluding yourself if you think you can just invent your own Church when ever you feel like it. That is heresy. Good luck if your going to prove the Catholic Church to be false.
Dee, Internet

The Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ has not, can not and will not fall into apostasy. However there has been an apostate stream of Christianity in existence since the first century church. John reported how professing Christians fell into apostasy by departing from the faith of the apostles (1 John 2:19). The early Christians, who were sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, were never abandoned by Christ. Jesus promises He will never leave or forsake those to whom He chooses to give life (Heb. 13:5; John 5:21). The church has never had a visible head on earth since it began at Pentecost - only an invisible head in heaven - the Lord Jesus (Col. 1:18). Regarding the Gospel, it is your church that has perverted it and now stands condemned by the word of God (Gal. 1:6-9). We proclaim the same Gospel the apostles proclaimed. Sinners are saved from the power and punishment of sin by grace through faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ alone (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9). You asked for documentation that your church fell into apostasy. Have you considered the 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church? It clearly shows how the Catholic Church has departed from the faith of the apostles by rejecting God's authority and establishing its own (85) and by perverting the Gospel with additional requirements for salvation

(1129). *May God enable you to understand Scriptural truth so that you can discern the false teachings of your church.*

I was pleased to see that you recognize and address the issue of the apostate church. Most Christian leaders either ignore this threat or else are jumping on the unity bandwagon. First it was Promise Keepers calling men of *all* faiths "brothers." Now it's Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Church* that welcomes and entertains nonbelievers (tares). The thinking Christian (discerning Berean) is looked upon as unloving and forced to leave the church he has attended and supported for years. Even the Christian radio station I listen to has daily "spots" reinforcing this unity movement, helping to brainwash its listeners into thinking it's a good thing. The warnings of apostasy and the doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1-2) are being ignored. Thank you for standing true to God's Word. I am more committed than ever to continue supporting *Proclaiming the Gospel*. I want to give to God's work, not further the work of Satan.

B.L., Salisbury Mills, NY

You are so misled, egoistic and confused. Did you ever think that you may be interpreting things the wrong way? You think that your way is the only way. You are so lost! Jesus had an open mind and heart. Why don't you use this energy in a more positive way of helping others?

Manny S., Internet

I am always grieved when Catholics, who are lovingly confronted with God's Holy Word, choose to insult the messenger without even considering the truthfulness of the message. Is there any better way to use our God-given energy than by glorifying Him through the proclamation of His redeeming work?

What a tremendous challenge *Proclaiming the Gospel* has in these end times. Thank you for fulfilling God's call on your life. We've benefited greatly from all that you've taught us through our transition from legalism to freedom in Christ.

J. & S. D., Flower Mound, TX

We have been able to witness to people with all your tracts, videos, & pocket evangelism kits. They are surprised to find out what the Catholic church truly teaches. We are so thankful for your ministry. We are also teaching other Christians in Mexico how to

witness more effectively using your resources. We have been so blessed through your willingness to "take up your cross" and follow Christ in spite of the opposition and hate mail you receive daily. We continue to pray for you and the "Christians" who oppose the truth. Thanks again!

R. & H. B., Mexico

I have a great respect for you my brother. As a former Roman Catholic, it's websites like yours that encouraged me that I needed to leave the false church of Rome. I admire you for contending for the faith. I will continue to be a prayerful student of the Word in all things.

S. T., Niagara Falls, NY

I picked up your newsletter off the street and was appalled. I thought I was reading a KKK flyer. I was raised as a Baptist but I joined the Catholic Church because of what my Protestant faith lacked. It did not have the Eucharist. That is the *only* significant difference I found. According to Catholic theology and practice, the Sacrifice of the Mass, it is impossible to separate our Lord from His Mother. The devotion to our Lady is an integral and essential part of Catholicism. To discard or discourage it is what all Catholic-haters share in common. There is no Christianity without the Virgin Mother. She is the neck of the one true church connecting the Head with the members. Jesus would not be incarnate without the Virgin's consent according to Father Frederick Faber. After I read the Fatima story, I walked out of one world and into another. Now I too am Mary's child; yes, just as Jesus was, the spotless Mother's Child. Jesus came to us by Mary and we can go to Jesus by Mary. I wish I would have found the Catholic Church long ago. I feel sorry for anyone whose guilt laden conscience causes them to bash the church as you do in your newsletter. Your efforts grieve our Mother Mary, not to mention the twisting of the spear you are causing in Our Lord's Side. When you bash Catholicism you are bashing God. Shame on you!

Ron from Iowa

Your letter is a clear example of what happens when people do not obey and submit to the supreme authority of God's holy word. Just "as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness," when she believed Satan instead of God's word, your mind has been "led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3). The master

deceiver has used a counterfeit Mary, created by Catholic apparitions and infallible papal pronouncements, to divert worship and trust away from the Lord Jesus Christ. When will Catholics realize the physical resurrected body of Jesus Christ cannot be in the Eucharist? Why would Jesus ask His church to remember Him until He comes again if he shows up everyday in the Eucharist? (Luke 22:19). When you worship the Eucharist, you are worshipping a false Christ (Mat. 24:23-24). Jesus will not return to the earth again physically until after the tribulation (Mat. 24:29-30). I am surprised that you, being a former Baptist, see the Eucharist as the only significant difference. Catholics and evangelicals are divided on many significant differences: the authority for faith; the essentials of the Gospel; how one is born again; how one is justified; how one is preserved in grace; how one is purified of sin; who mediates between God and man; what Christ's atonement accomplished; whether divine righteousness is imputed or infused; who is included in God's plan of salvation and the sufficiency of Christ's finished work of redemption. May God help you to look to Christ as the personification of truth!

I am a Catholic, born-again, Jesus-loving, Protestant-loving, Bible-reading, saved Christian. You don't have to become a Catholic and I don't have to become a Protestant. We are both Christians.

S.C.S.C., Internet

Most Catholics believe they were born-again at water baptism (without faith) by the will of their parents. If this is true for you, I must tell you by the authority of Scripture that you may still be dead in your sins. Jesus gives the right to become children of God, 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). Human parents cannot conceive children of God, nor can they cause them to be born of God by their own will or by religious rituals.

Please submit questions or comments to:

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[Preying Priests Hiding](#)

Catholic priests accused of sexually abusing children are hiding abroad and working in church ministries. From Africa to Latin America to Europe to Asia, these priests have started new lives in unsuspecting communities, often with the help of church officials. They are leading parishes, teaching and continuing to work in settings that bring them into contact with children, despite church claims to the contrary. Many of the 200 cases we identified involve clergy who tried to elude law enforcement. About 30 remain free in one country while facing ongoing criminal inquiries, arrest warrants or convictions in another. Most runaway priests remain in the church, the world's largest organization, so they should be easier to locate than other fugitives. Instead, Catholic leaders have used international transfers to thwart justice, a practice that poses far greater challenges to law enforcement than the domestic moves exposed in the 2002 scandal. Dozens of priests who are no longer eligible to work in this country have found sanctuary abroad. Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez, a prominent candidate to succeed Pope John Paul II recently sheltered a priest who is an admitted child molester and now an international fugitive. The priest had fled criminal accusations in his native Costa Rica in 1998, then served in at least two U.S. dioceses before running again. Cardinal Rodríguez, who is 61 and a fast-rising star in the Roman Catholic hierarchy, has condemned journalists covering the scandal, likening them to Hitler and describing them as obsessed. Many Vatican watchers believe the next pope could come from the Third World, where the Catholic Church has huge numbers but often faces challenges from evangelical Protestantism or Islam. Cardinal Rodríguez is widely considered to be among the top Latin American contenders. The mother of a victim said, "The pope is asking forgiveness for the Holy In-

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quisition, but the same thing is happening in the 21st century. The church is destroying the lives of so many children, and the pope won't say or do anything." "I don't want another mother to suffer what I've suffered," she said. "And I don't want any other kid to suffer what my son has suffered." ([Dallas Morning News](#), 6/21/04)

[Eucharist Adored On the Web](#)

Catholics consider prayer before a consecrated host to be a powerful spiritual tool. A web site, [www.savior.org](#), now makes the devotional practice available via cyberspace. It features a "real time" image of a consecrated host in a special vessel known as a monstrance. The site says it hopes to make devotion of the live image of His living Presence available "to the homebound, the workplace and to remote areas around the world." ([DMN](#), 6/26/04)

[Vatican Aware of Abuse for Centuries](#)

Vatican records show that the church has recognized the problem of abuse by priests for at least 1,700 years and has failed to address it successfully. The Catholic Church has no excuse for failing to take the danger to children seriously until scandal engulfed the church in 2002. *Canonical History* lists 58 high-level documents dealing with sexual misconduct of the clergy - from books by saints to papal decrees to declarations by church councils - as evidence. One landmark document, published by Pope Benedict XIV in 1741, addressed punishment for priests, who solicited sex during confession, in exchange for absolution. And to ensure the church legislation was widely read, the pope ordered it posted on the doors of churches in Rome. Those rules became part of the canon law and stayed in force until 1962, when Vatican officials opted for a more secretive process. In that year, Pope John XXIII

instructed bishops to require those involved in investigations, including the accuser to take vows of secrecy. The report could have an effect on massive litigation the church is facing in California with over 800 sexual abuse cases by priests. ([LA Times](#), 6/22/04)

[Archdiocese Seeks Bankruptcy Protection](#)

The Portland Archdiocese said it would file for bankruptcy because of the costs stemming from clergy sex abuse lawsuits, an unprecedented step among U.S. Catholic dioceses. The move delays the start of the trial of two lawsuits seeking a total of \$155 million. The Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing would allow the Church to pay claims without selling off parish assets. The archdiocese has paid \$21 million to settle claims in the last four years, but insurance companies have refused to cover some 60 current claims. ([Zenit.org](#), 7/6/04)

[The Danger of Idolatry](#)

James Caviezel, who played Jesus in Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, has been swamped with requests to perform miracles by Mexican fans who believe he really is Jesus Christ. According to Mexican newspaper *Reforma*, dozens of residents from villages throughout Veracruz, one of the poorest states in the country, asked Caviezel to heal the sick and perform other miracles as he passed through. The actor, who is himself a strict Catholic, said: "The belief of these people really moved me. It was a shock for me to see how they came up to me to ask for my help. I had to explain to them that I was only an actor, and wasn't really the son of God." Mexico has the second biggest population of Catholics in the world, after Brazil, and has been visited by the Pope five times. ([Ananova](#), 7/8/04)

[Porn Scandal Rocks Church](#)

A huge pornography scandal has hit the Catholic church in Austria with the discovery of 40,000 photos and a number of films at a priests' seminary near Vienna. The seminary chief was forced to resign earlier this month with reports of the scandal that included child pornography. Some of the seminary leaders had joined in sex games and drunken orgies. A computer confiscated had been overloaded with sex pages mostly originating in Poland. Bishop Krenn confirmed that he had seen pictures of the seminary leaders in compromising positions with students. ([SAPA](#), 7/11/04)

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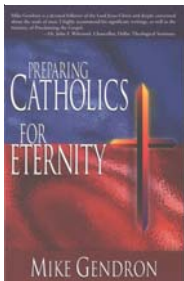
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"Go into all the
world and preach
the gospel to all
creation."

([Mark 16:15](#))

[\(Proclaim from page 2\)](#)

Followers of Jesus Will Fish for Men

Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" ([Mat. 4:19](#)). Jesus gave this command to those who were professional fishermen. They had been successful in catching fish that were alive, now they were being asked to catch men who were dead. The only way to catch men who are dead in their sin is with the life-giving power of the Gospel ([Rom. 1:16](#)). A disciple of Jesus will follow Him and to follow Jesus is to be a fisher of men.

There is no greater cause for rejoicing than to see those who had been enslaved to Satan, sin and death, be set free by the power of God! The redeemed rejoice and all the angels in heaven rejoice when sinners repent!

May Christians everywhere develop a greater desire to glorify God through the proclamation of His Gospel. As our love for our Savior grows, might His wondrous mercy, sovereign grace and unfailing love flow from our hearts to our lips. And may we never refrain from proclaiming our Lord's sin-repelling holiness, His inescapable justice and His

perfect righteousness that is required for entrance into paradise. In the power of the Holy Spirit, motivated by our matchless love for Jesus and to honor and glorify His holy name, let us all emulate the early church: "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ" ([Acts 5:42](#)).

As we go from place to place through each day we can ask people two simple, yet profound questions: "Do you believe in heaven?" and "How do you hope to get there?" You will be pleasantly surprised how easily people will share their opinion about spiritual things. When their response is *not* "by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," you can ask them if they would like to know what The Bible says about God's one and only provision. If they say "yes" you can leave them our Gospel tract, [The Greatest News Ever Told About the Greatest Man Who Ever Lived Who Offers the Greatest Gift Ever Given](#). It is a 6-page fold out that contains only the Word of God which has the power to convert the soul! Look at page seven for this tract and other helpful resources to share the Gospel.

[Scandal Shuts Down Catholic Seminary](#)

A Vatican investigator has ordered the immediate shutdown of an Austrian seminary embroiled in a child pornography scandal, saying he found evidence of homosexual relations there. Active homophile relations had developed at St. Poelten seminary, where about 40,000 pornographic photos and numerous videos had been discovered. Photos also surfaced of seminary students kissing and fondling each other. Some photos were published in Austrian newspapers, and the controversy prompted Pope John Paul II to send an "apostolic visitor" to investigate. One seminary student is to go before the St. Poelten State Court on Friday to face charges of downloading child pornography.

The scandal is only the latest to hit the Catholic Church, which has been sued for millions of dollars in Europe and America in recent years over priests sexually abusing minors. ([CNN.com, 8/12/04](#))