



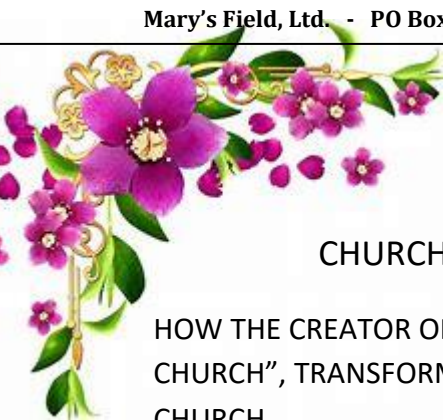
Of Seeds and Flowers

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I THINK, I THUNK, I THOT!

CHURCHES DIVORCING CHURCHES, WHEN IS ENOUGH, ENOUGH?

HOW THE CREATOR OF THE NUMBER ONE SELLING CATHOLIC BIBLE WAS “LOVED OUT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH”, TRANSFORMED AS A PROTESTANT PASTOR, AND STUDIED HIMSELF BACK INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The creator of the No. one selling Catholic Bible, Jeff Cavins, (The Great Adventure Catholic Bible, Ascension Press) says, *“at age 20, more focused on love and acceptance, which I didn’t find in the Catholic Church I went to a Bible college. In Bible college everybody had a Bible and was excited about the word of God. We were praying and worshipping God with great fellowship and love among the students. I wanted to be a part of that. My decision, at the time, was more a social decision; it had nothing to do with theology. I, then spent 12 years as an evangelical pastor”.*



At age 25, Cavins realized he didn’t understand the Bible enough to explain the whole story. A cassette tape on the history of archeology inspired him to develop his ‘Great Adventure Bible Timeline’, the basis for today’s Adventure Bible and the “Bible in a Year Podcast”. Check Ascension Press to find it all!!

When he left the Catholic Church four decades ago, Cavins said, *“Catholicism felt more like a bunch of people who were at an eternal funeral and I didn’t want to be part of that anymore.”* Then Cavins started studying the early church fathers and began to see the weakness of independent, non-denominational churches. The church fathers and early church history taught him that Catholicism was then, and is now, the one true church. *“So, I basically studied my way back into the Catholic Church”*, said Cavins.

There are at present, according to the Center for Study of Global Christianity, **45,000** different Christian denominations around the world. - **45,000 Christian denominations!!!** Did Jesus really intend this? How about 40,000, 20,000, 5,000, 1000, 500, 25, 10? Paul already warned the Corinthians against this, asking a question that should still be asked, a question that should stop us in our tracks. ***“Can Christ be parceled out?”*** (1 Cor 11-13). After a much- needed reformation, in 1517, Protestant churches kept dividing into smaller and smaller competing fractals, and churches have been divorcing each other for the last 500 years. Jesus, at the Last Supper... ***“That they all may be one, as you, Father are in me, and I am in you... that the world may believe that you sent me.”*** (Jn.17:21) His words the night before He died. -His last will and testament. Serious words!

The article on Jeff Cavins included the following study by CARA; **“WHY OUR KIDS LEAVE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH”**. A 2018, 2- year study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown university (CARA), found three common reasons, all related to a lack of understanding of Catholicism, why kids leave the church. The median age of those who drifted away from their faith was 13 years old with 74% saying they became disenchanted between ages 10 and 20. Most people **who choose to follow Jesus** do it before the age of 20.

The disenchanters fell into three categories: Know any young people like this?

1. INJURED. Feeling “injured” because their prayers didn’t seem to stop a hardship or tragedy such as a death or divorce. Just 2% cited the clergy sex scandal as a reason. Sounds like **PERFORMANCE SPIRITUALITY**.

2. DRIFTERS. These people could not connect what they understood about Catholicism with what they knew about their everyday lives. When unable to explain why Catholicism mattered, they drifted away. They ended up going away to a New Age movement of non-denominational church- or something where people smile more.”



3. DISSENTERS. This group couldn’t understand some, or multiple church teachings on issues like birth control, sexuality or marriage. Just 17 % of the people leaving the Church celebrated Eucharist weekly. 75% never attended a Catholic school; 14% now considered themselves atheists or agnostics. 35% said they had no religious affiliation or firm belief. In short, the people leaving are the people who know and understand the least about the Church.

87% Of the quitters said their decision was not final and that they could come back if given a reason to do so. “You can only stay Catholic so long, if you don’t understand it,” Cavins said.

I, Bill Pfeiffer, am sure CARA’S finding are true. Namely, that the young people who have rejected the Catholic Church have little knowledge of their religion. However, I am also **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN**, with much experience, that **it is equally true**, that the road back is not through the intellect of young people but through their EMOTIONS/ EXPERIENCE. *Until you capture their hearts their intellects will remain closed.* Once you capture their hearts and emotions their heads will follow.

All human beings get excited about something **ONLY** if it includes them in some way. -ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE!! As a high school principal, I took 30 students and 6 faculty members on many, many “Cursillo -like” weekend retreats and the students **ALWAYS, ALWAYS**, came back on fire for God, prayer, their religious life. **It WORKED, AND WORKS ALWAYS!** Every Thursday night we had 150 students praying and praising Jesus in our Gym. Shouldn’t Catholic colleges and High School be doing this as a **REGULAR PART** of their ministry to their students??

VISION AND REALITY

There was no issue of “Of Seeds and Flowers” during Lent. WE PRAYED! “Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.” Practice what you preach! *“To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”* Karl Barth

The famous and holy monk Thomas Merton once wrote that you should never write a letter unless you put something in the letter that really matters. He wrote 3500 letters. And in his book, “Seeds of Contemplation”, he writes, “If a writer is so cautious that he or she never writes anything that cannot be criticized, he will never write anything that should be read. If you want to help other people you have to make up your mind to write things that some people will condemn. In “VISION AND REALITY” I always try to include some sensitive topics but always with studied and tested and documented truth.



Under the guise of “medical research”, doctors and medical technicians at the University of California, San Francisco were discovered to have been harvesting organs and tissues from fully-formed, second trimester babies to use for grotesque human experimentation. On December 1, 2020, The Federalist reported: *“As a longtime fetal tissue research center, UCSF has conducted and published numerous studies using the tissue of aborted babies, including some in which fetal intestines and reproductive tracts were transplanted into rodents.”*

The “researchers” were removing intestines from second trimester babies, that could have lived on their own, for transplantation into mice. In other experiments witnesses reported researchers scalp babies and graft the scalps onto rodents. There are pictures that show tufts of babies’ hair growing on the backs of animals. Documents further show that “researchers” transplant livers, thymuses and lungs from second trimester babies to create humanized mice for further experimentation. You won’t see or hear about any of this on the news. Pro bono lawyers are on it. Biden, Pelosi Pope Francis, where do you stand?

Not to know is bad.
Not to want to know is worse. Not to care is unforgiveable!!



The report continues, ... “according to records from the National Institutes of Health, UCSF received \$2 million from the federal government in 2018 for a study using “Humanized Mouse Models.” \$600,000 in 2019. That’s \$2.6 million in grants at the UCSF’s Zuckerberg Hospital! (Yes, Zuckerberg, the hyper-liberal founder of Facebook and fervent pro-abortionist.) Bill gates, pro abortionist, has given over \$130 million dollars to promote abortion world-wide and now He is in the Dominican Republic.

There Is A Balm In Gilead

Refrain F B $\flat$ F C 7

There is a balm in Gile-ad to make the wounded whole,

F B $\flat$ F/C C 7 F

there is a balm in Gile-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

B $\flat$ F

1 Sometimes I feel dis-couraged and— think my work's in
2 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like

C B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F 7 Gm F/C C 7 Dm B $\flat$ Refrain

vain, but— then the Ho-ly Spirit re-vives my soul a - gain.
Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all.”

Text: Afro-American spiritual
Tune (BALM IN GILEAD, irregular): Afro-American spiritual



The heavens are telling us of the glory of God, the Creator! EVERYTHING is a footprint and a fingerprint revealing the glorious nature of God. The more scientists discover about the universe the bigger God gets!!

“God lives in us out of choice, out of preference.”



- Thomas Merton



According to a 2019 Pew Research study, 69% of self-described Catholics now believe that the consecrated host at Mass is not the true Body and Blood of Jesus. Who is responsible for this?? The Catholic bishops, ALWAYS behind the times, have unrolled a 3-year Eucharistic revival. Why is it that institutions only respond to crises? Shouldn’t they respond when a problem is big enough to be seen and understood and small enough to be fixed - like 50 years ago!!

Let’s think about this for a moment. **OBJECTIVELY SPEAKING**, the 69% OF Catholics who say that the communion host is only symbolic are in effect accusing the 31% of Catholics who treat the host as the Body of Christ, of committing idolatry by adoring and worshipping the host. -EXACTLY LIKE THE GOLDEN CALF. If I recall correctly, God was upset over this. On the other hand, the 69% of Catholics who say the host is nothing more than a Necco wafer

are **OBJECTIVELY SPEAKING**, committing blasphemy by treating the host as nothing more than a piece of bread, mere symbolism, and not the Body of Christ! Are the 69% saying that for 2000 years Catholics have been committing idolatry? That St. Peter, St. Paul, Augustine, Aquinas, Mother Teresa, Pope Francis et al. are committing idolatry? You can't have it both ways, can you, without serious OBJECTIVE, REAL consequences, if you **THINK** ABOUT IT. Of course, the American EMOTIONAL decision is: Everybody is right. I THINK, I THINK, I THOT!! -BUT WHO THINKS? Move on!!



SPEAKING SOFTLY

Feodor Dostoevsky wrote a classical novel called The Idiot. Dostoevsky's biographers tell us that he rewrote the ending ten times because he wanted to portray the most Christ-like being he could imagine. Prince Myshkin was considered by most people to be insane. However, all the children loved to be with him; he always made the children happy.

The prince was finally sent to Switzerland for therapy and after he is declared "sane" the prince returns to Russia and he continues his gentle Christ-like ways in a society of "normal" people. In the end Dostoevsky has his hero return to his usual Christ-like form of "insanity". *"Not all those who wander are lost."* - Tolkien



**WOE TO THOSE
WHO CALL EVIL GOOD AND GOOD EVIL**
Isaiah 5:20

**"ALL OF GOD'S CREATION
IS CONSTRUCTED TO
AVOID SELF-SUFFICIENCY."**



Mary's Field is now on YouTube. Short videos will be uploaded to help nourish your heart and strengthen your spirit during these difficult times. Type "YouTube Mary's Field" into the Bing.com search engine or "Mary's Field" into the Youtube.com search to find our channel. 250 podcasts in our library!

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