

Deacon Corner

Question 1: “Never understood the fact that our priests and nuns were not allowed to marry. What I was taught during my Catholic School is that you grow up, marry, and produce more little Catholics. What did I not understand?”

I think perhaps what was not conveyed to you properly is that God has given us all a vocation in life, and this vocation is a free will choice on our part. Some people, like Mother Teresa had what she called “a call within a call”, meaning she was called by God to become a nun, and then in addition, she was also called to work as a nun among the poorest of the poor. God calls some of us to be single, married, deacons, priests, or religious (nuns/monks). The way to look at it is that if a person is called to be a priest, they understand that choice means (as a Catholic), that you will be called to be celibate. The man does not HAVE to become a priest. He can choose to become married and produce “more little Catholics”, as you say. Choosing to be a priest or married is a free will choice. No one is imposing celibacy on a priest. He is choosing it. Just as a man and a woman who enter into marriage dedicate themselves exclusively to one another as husband and wife, a priest (or religious) is dedicating themselves fully into their relationship with Christ and the Church. Just as Christ is the Bridegroom and the Church is His Bride, so, too, the priest, who acts in “Persona Christi” the (“person of Christ”) follows Christ’s lead and gives (chooses, is not forced) to take on the Church as his bride and dedicate himself fully.

Question 2: Why is the “Hail Mary” not recited in St. Margaret’s Church? I miss hearing it.

If you are a member of St. Margaret Church (or any other Catholic Church), you CAN recite the Hail Mary! We don’t recite the Hail Mary at Mass as it is not part of the Mass. The prayer to St. Michael is also not part of the Mass, but nothing is stopping anyone from reciting it. Many people do their rosary at home, or before or after Mass (don’t do it during Mass) and you can say a lot of “Hail Marys”. Some churches, like the one I used to belong to would say the St. Michael prayer and 3 Hail Marys while in church, after Mass. In 1886, Pope Leo XIII added the St. Michael Prayer and 3 Hail Mary prayers to be recited after Mass. According to various reports, this was in response to a frightening vision Pope Leo had of “demonic spirits, who were gathering on the Eternal City (Rome).