

By
Joe Sixpack



The Murderer & the Nun

Some years ago a young man killed a little girl in a most terrible way. To defend him, the lad's relatives called on a famous attorney who had little hope of winning the case. Before leaving his home city to go defend the murderer, the attorney called on his sister—a nun who'd been temporarily relieved of her duties because of ill health. The attorney told his sister about the case and how slight his chances were of winning it. Sister smiled and said, "Do what you can for the boy. If you can't save his life, maybe you can save his soul."

Her attorney brother almost laughed. He said, "That sort of murderer? Why he has no morals, and certainly no faith. What can I do for his soul?"

"Try," said the nun. "You work on his case; I'll pray for his soul."

The attorney did his best, but the murderer was bitter. He didn't care what happened. Witnesses piled up facts and things looked more and more hopeless as the trial dragged on. But the nun prayed for the criminal, even if he didn't pray for himself.

Then one evening the murderer sent for his lawyer. His entire manner had changed. He sat quietly and said, "I just sent for you because I don't want you to push my case. I want to die. I did it, and the least I can do now is to give my life to God in return for my crime."

The attorney looked at him in surprise. Give his life to God in return for his crime? The young man continued, "Would you mind getting me a priest?"

A priest came. The young murderer took religious instruction, became a Catholic, took his death sentence willingly and walked up to the electric chair with this prayer: "O God, have mercy on me a sinner."

Prayer obtained the grace of true repentance for this murderer. He realized how much he'd offended God. He knew that God would forgive his sins in the sacrament of penance, as terrible as his sins were. That's why he called the priest and was willing to offer his life as a penance for those sins. Only in the sacrament of penance did the murderer find peace, because that sacrament took away the cause of his worry—sin. Thank God for this means of bringing peace to your heart, and go to confession often.

Certainly those of you reading this aren't murderers, because I don't know of a death row anywhere in America where *What We Believe... Why We Believe It* is being read. But I chose this story because I wanted to get your attention and hopefully cause you to think introspectively.

Pope Pius XII after World War II once said we'd lost our sense of sin, and the modern day evidence demonstrates how correct he was. Every single week at Mass almost everyone in atten-

dance goes to Communion, yet when confessions are scheduled only four or five people show up. We have to conclude from this that you should either be congratulated for achieving sainthood, or that this is proof that Pius hit the nail on the head. It would seem that most people are playing a terribly dangerous game that can result in eternity in hell. Is that a game you really want to play? Believe me, there's only one possible outcome, and you really won't like it.

Over the last 30 years Catholics have often told me they don't agree with the Church on this or that moral issue. They don't even realize just how foolishly arrogant they sound or are being. Morality isn't an opinion poll or a cafeteria. Jesus didn't tell us we could pick and choose what to believe is right and wrong. He didn't say we would be led by the Holy Spirit or our emotions or the government's laws on matters of faith and morals. Repeatedly throughout Scripture He told us the **only** way to know definitively what is moral or immoral is by listening to His holy Catholic Church. Scripture is also clear that because He's God He can't change, so His moral laws can't change—despite how modern or politically correct you want to be.

By their own admission, 90% of Catholics admit that they use artificial contraception. That means that 90% of you who are reading this are using contraception. (Don't stop reading now because this makes you uncomfortable; the stakes are too high.) That means 90% of you are committing mortal sin. And you pile tons of other mortal sins on top of it each week when you go to Communion, because you commit the additional damnable mortal sin of sacrilege!

The contraception issue is just one of many. How are many of the women around you at Mass dressed? Are they all dressed modestly? I doubt it. Are you men staying away from pornography, despite that nearly 70% of Catholic men admit to indulging in it? Hmm. That's okay, though. Everyone just keep on being what society and the culture says you should be. Defer doing what you know to be the right thing and gamble that you get a chance to correct the situation before you die. Just remember that when you gamble the house always wins, and the house in this case is the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Why do I keep harping on long Communion lines and short confession lines? Wake up and look around you. Christians (especially Catholics) are being persecuted and martyred globally at a much higher rate than the 10 great Roman persecutions of the first three centuries. Homosexuality in all its forms is now glorified and accepted, despite that it's one of the three sins crying out to God from the earth for justice. We quite literally kill *millions of babies* each year globally through abortion and chemical contraception. The list of ways we offend God could go on and on, yet most Catholics seem not to care.

Maybe—just maybe—the problem is that you don't really know or understand what is moral and immoral. That's possible. After all, Neo-Modernists infiltrated chancery offices so badly after Vatican II in order to dumb down catechesis and promote their heresies that several generations of Catholics haven't been taught the fullness of divinely revealed truth. There're remedies for that, though, and they're all free and easy. Your priest makes sure you have access to this every week. He preaches the truths of the faith at every Mass. He sits in the confessional each week, mostly alone. I've set up JoeSixpackAnswers.com for you, I offer a free email course for you, I host free weekly webinars for you, and I've started *The Cantankerous Catholic* podcast for you. Not free but easy, I've written five books for you, with more on the way. If you continue the way you're going, with all that's available to you, what excuse will you offer to God on the horrible day of your judgement?