

In my former life, I may have watched Saturday Night Fever a few times. One of my favorite scenes happens when Tony's (John Travolta) brother Frank, a priest who is taking time off from the priesthood to "find" himself, accompanies Tony and his friends to the local disco. Frank is clearly not like them; he sticks out like a sore thumb. That evening, one of Tony's friends tells Frank that his girlfriend is pregnant and then asks him if it is possible for the Pope to grant her a dispensation for an abortion. Frank is practically speechless with both concern and disbelief. Eventually, Frank realizes that the disco scene is not for him and leaves to continue on his journey to "find" himself.



Granted, Frank may not be the best example, but a Catholic should stick out like a sore thumb in this world, even among fellow Catholics. If the Lord has truly "seized" you, you will be different. You will see things differently. The false constructs, on which so many people build their lives, will become increasingly transparent to you. The Catholic is from this world, but not of this world. He or she has a higher calling. This could mean the library appeals to you over the disco, prayer over the car radio, or church on Sunday over relaxing at home. The Catholic should stick out because they have been willingly seduced by Christ. Their allegiance is to Him, not to the crowd.

One of the clearest Old Testament prophecies of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus is found in today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom. The virtuous man referred to in this reading stands as a reproof to the thinking and the ways of the godless. Therefore, the godless are enraged and they put him to death. However, God will ultimately look after him. God wins.

I challenge you today to take the road less traveled, the narrow road to Heaven. You are sons and daughters of God our Father. At your baptism, the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity were infused into your soul by the power of the Holy Spirit. These virtues enlighten your immaterial mind and predispose you to believe, and therefore hopefully, live out the truths of our Faith. Don't fight it.

Jesus told Pilate that he came into the world to give testimony to the truth, that all those who hear the truth, hear His voice. Follow the voice, not the crowd. In many cases, you will know you are on the narrow path when you are misunderstood by the crowd.

