

Msgr. Bill's Weekly Letter...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peter Kreeft authored a delightful book; *Forty Reasons I Am Catholic*. Since I have ADD and get bored very easily, I believe books should be short. Since introductions are almost always boring, I also believe introductions should be short. "Why are you a Catholic?" is a good question. A good question deserves a good answer. Here is a sample of the forty reasons, you will find in this book. *I am a Catholic because only the Church can whup the devil.*

The Catholic Church is an "expert" in the most dangerous war of all, spiritual warfare. Why? For these reasons:

1. Jesus was. He performed many exorcisms in the Gospels. And His Church does His work.
2. She has the experience of two thousand years of this work.
3. She has the supernatural power to do this work, given to her by the Holy Spirit.
4. The Devil is an "expert" at attacking his holiest and most formidable enemies.
5. **Almost nobody in our culture today believes the Devil even exists anymore, and in any war, ignoring your enemy makes him invisible and ten times more powerful. (emphasis added)**
6. Natural weapons alone are insufficient against a supernatural enemy.
7. We have a nuclear arsenal in Mary, who is more powerful in gently protecting her beloved children than the Devil is in attacking them.
8. **The Devil loves to target women and children, especially in our culture today. (emphasis added)**
9. The Devil really, really resents being smashingly whupped by a woman, especially a womanly woman, holy and humble and (therefore) happy instead of an Amazon full of anger and resentment and belligerence like himself. Just look at all Mary has done in recent history, from Guadalupe to Fatima and Zeitoun. (Never heard of it? Google it.)

There is no doubt the devil is real and doing all he can to win us over to his side. We are in galactic war between God and Satan. Satan will use all his effort to cajole, to trap us, give us wrong direction, and lead us to the room of everlasting suffering and loneliness.

On the other hand, our God always leads us in the path of truth to the Kingdom of peace and tranquility of spirit. Our God loves us so much that he will not ever lead us onto a path of non-holiness. One of the reasons why Satan hates virtue is because it reminds him over and over again what he had with God and can never have again.

It is very difficult to imagine never again. Can you imagine your car is a solid piece of granite? Every five years a Sparrow lands on that piece of granite and sharpens his beak with three sweeps. In the time it takes for that Sparrow to chisel that piece of granite to the ground would be a second in the fullness of heaven.

There is nothing on the face of this earth that can match, what God has in store for us. Satan's desire for us is that we be only in ourselves to keep us isolated for all eternity in the smallness of our being and loneliness of our being.

St. John of the Cross wrote a beautiful poem, *On a Dark Night*, the end of the poem offers us this thought, *I went out from myself, leaving my cares forgotten among the lilies.* I hope to someday experience this as well. You can find the poem on the net.

pace – bene,

