

On Thanksgiving Night in 2009, something went down at Tiger Woods' home. Allegedly, his then wife found some racy text messages from another woman on Tiger's cell phone and chased Tiger out of their Florida mansion. Tiger ran to his truck. His wife ran after him. She allegedly then smashed in a few windows of the truck with a golf club. Speeding away, Tiger promptly smashed his car into a fire hydrant knocking himself out in the process. In the weeks and months that followed, a parade of women came forward claiming to be one of Tiger's mistresses. These women ranged from a porn star to a waitress at a Perkins Restaurant. Obviously, Tiger was not raised by my saintly mother 😊. Eventually, Tiger took some time off from golf to seek help for a sex addiction. Ultimately, Tiger and his wife divorced.



In the midst of the scandal, on January 3, 2010 to be exact, *Fox News* Correspondent Brit Hume on *Fox News Sunday*, suggested that Tiger, who was raised a Buddhist, should become a Christian because of the unparalleled forgiveness and redemption offered by Christianity. Brit Hume had committed his life to Jesus Christ in the aftermath of his son's suicide in 1998. In the firestorm created by his remarks, Brit Hume stood his ground.

A week later, on the feast day of the *Baptism of the Lord*, I gave a homily essentially defending Hume's remarks. I guess you can say I went a step further. I suggested Tiger become Catholic. Unfortunately, I'm not sure the parishioners heard my entire homily. A few members of the choir coughed throughout my homily. Afterwards, I was told that the coughing was led by a non-Christian and two Catholics in the choir. Apparently, they disagreed with my remarks that Tiger should seek baptism. I don't know if that's true or not. All I know is that suddenly a few people to the right of me all seemed to need to clear their throats at the same time during my homily. To my knowledge, none of the parish choir members defended me. Perhaps, they thought my remarks were divisive.

There are quite a few self-hating Catholics out there. The scandals have only added to their numbers. Despite the scandals and our own personal sinfulness, the truth remains: Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). There is only **one** Church and that's the Catholic Church. It is within the Catholic Church **alone** where the fullness of God's revelation is found. Don't be shy about proclaiming it.

In the first reading today, the Apostles, Peter and John, are thrown in jail for preaching about Jesus in the Jewish Temple. The next day they are brought before the High Priest and the Jewish ruling body, the Sanhedrin. Peter tells them that Jesus of Nazareth, who they crucified, is the only Person one can be saved by.* I wonder how that would go over at a local inter-religious dialogue? It would never be said which helps explain the state of the 21st century Church.

The truth is attractive. To keep it real, you're sexy when speaking the truth, not when you regurgitate the mind control fed to you by the media or by some overly sappy religious figure. We need to be respectful of other people's beliefs. However, by doing so, we shouldn't compromise our own beliefs. That said, I ask you: Are you sexy or are you a sap?

*People of good will in other religions, who have lived good lives, can be saved. However, they are saved through Jesus, even if they don't realize it at the time of their death.