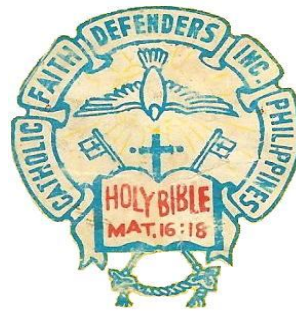


**9. Why do you believe in tradition and not on the Bible alone?**

We believe in Tradition because the Bible itself is a product of tradition. In 2 Thessalonians 2:15 we read, "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter". In this passage there are two kinds of tradition: the unwritten tradition that is transmitted orally and the written tradition that is transmitted in written form. The Bible is now the written form of tradition in which Paul urges Christians to hold fast to. In 2 Thessalonians 3:6 St. Paul said "Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the traditions that they received from us." Therefore we are obliged to accept tradition either in its written form, the Bible, and the unwritten form, the Apostolic Tradition.

**10. Why do you believe that you can earn salvation by doing good works?**

Catholics do not earn salvation by doing good works. We firmly believe that we are saved by God's grace; it is a free gift from God. We do good works because it is how we put our faith in action (cf. Gal. 5:6). In James 2:26 "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead." This passage shows us the relationship of faith and good works, that without good works our faith is dead. In Matthew 25:31-46 in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ we will be judged according to our good works. So we are reminded by St. Paul in his epistle to the Romans 2:7 "to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life."



**CATHOLIC FAITH DEFENDERS**

**Written by: Bro. Isahel N. Alfonso**

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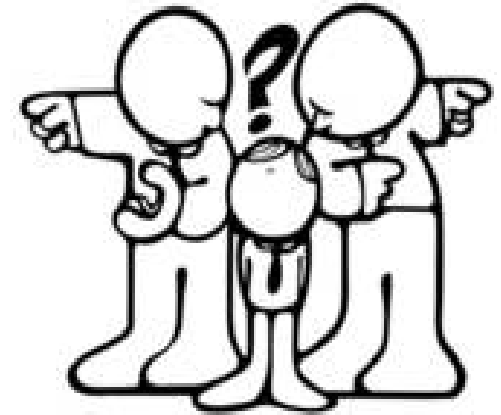
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"Pro Deo at Ecclesia"

# Top Ten Questions



# Catholics Are Asked

### **1. Why do you worship Mary?**

We Catholics do not worship Mary, as a matter of fact the Catechism of the Catholic Church explicitly prohibits Catholics in rendering to Mary worship which is due to God alone. What we give to Mary is respectful veneration (this is not the same as adoration which is due to God alone) in Rom.13:7 it tells Christians to give honor to whom honor is due. And since Mary is the Mother of God to whom Christ took his flesh and blood it is fitting for us Christians to give Mary honor and respect. And to deprive her of this elements is directly disobeying her, for she commanded us to venerate her Lk.1:48.

### **2. Why do you have images in your church? Isn't it prohibited in the Bible?**

We have images of saints in the church not to worship it or worship God through it. But rather it serves as a memorial for Christians who live an exemplary life. What was prohibited in the Bible are the images of idols Ex.20:4, but the images of saints were not prohibited by God. In Ex.25:18 God commanded Moses to build a statue of Cherubim (angel) on top of the Ark of the Covenant. Even the temple of God was filled with various images 1 Kings 6:29. In the earlier part of Church history images in the church were used to educate Christians about the faith (remember there were no books yet in those times).

### **3. Are you Saved?**

For us Catholics we always believed that salvation is a process. Hence we can say that we have been saved 2 Cor.5:17 since Christ already redeemed us when He died on the cross. Yet since salvation is a process we can say that we are being saved 2 Cor.3:18 & Acts 2:47, since we can still commit sins thus we need to continually repent and be transformed spiritually in order to achieve the holiness necessary to enter heaven. And lastly since we are not yet in heaven we are hoping to be saved Phil.3:11-13, like the attitude of St. Paul.

### **4. Are you assured of your salvation?**

Yes a Catholic is assured of his salvation if he abides in the teachings of Christ 1 Jn.2:24-25 and applies it in his daily life. However we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling Phil.2:12, since those who sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of truth there remains for us no sacrifice but a fury of fire that will consume the adversary Heb.10:26. Therefore if we are in the state of grace (absence of mortal sin) we must work hard not to lose it because we are assured of our salvation. But if we are in the state of mortal sin we must confess our sins and repent in order to achieve the state of grace.

### **5. Why do you pray the Rosary?**

We pray the Rosary because we want to pray the gospel and we want to know more about Christ. Through the Rosary we can be able to comprehend the fullness of the gospel by meditating on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary. These mysteries is centered on the life of Christ and through the Rosary we are contemplating the face of Christ through the eyes of Mary. The Rosary is a kind of antiphonal prayer (responsive prayer, cf. Psalm 136) that is why we repeatedly pray the Hail Mary. In Rev.4:8 the angels in heaven repeatedly for eternity praising God using the same words. Christ too prayed repetitiously Mt.26:44 He even said the same words.

### **6. Christ already cleansed us from our sins, so why do you still believed in Purgatory?**

You might have forgotten that even if Christ cleansed us from our sins there are still people who are condemned to hell by disobeying God. Purgatory is not a second chance at salvation. Purgatory is a place for souls in the state of purification, all souls in purgatory are assured of their salvation. However they need to be purified first before they can enter heaven since no defiled can enter the kingdom of God Rev.21:27. In Zec.13:8-9 and 1 Cor.3:15 it tells us that there is indeed a process of purification. In Mt.12:31-32 & 1 Pt.3:19 it speaks of a place in the next life wherein sins can be forgiven, this place

cannot be heaven since it is a place for souls liberated from sin, it cannot also be hell since there is no longer forgiveness for the souls of the damned. Hence this place is named by the church as Purgatory.

### **7. Why did the Catholic Church prohibit reading the Bible?**

There is no truth to this allegation, the Catholic Church did not prohibit reading the Bible. What was prohibited was the reading and acquisition of corrupt Bible translations perpetuated by the Protestant Reformers. As a matter of fact it is the Catholic Church who gave the Bible to us in 397 A.D at the Council of Carthage. And it was also the Catholic Church who first translated the ancient Greek manuscripts into vernacular so that people could understand the Word of God, this translation was commonly known as the Latin Vulgate. In our contemporary times the Catholic Church is spear heading in Biblical scholarship, while the Protestant camp is flooded with various heresies in their Biblical scholarship such as denial of the historicity of the miracles of Jesus Christ, polygenism and rejection of the Deuterocanonical books. Therefore it is very illogical to conclude that the Catholic Church prohibited reading the Bible.

### **8. Why do you believed that Mary is sinless even if she too needs a savior?**

Yes, Mary too needs a savior that is why through the anticipatory merits of her Son on the cross she was prevented from committing sins throughout her life. Christ sacrificed his flesh and blood on the cross (cf. Heb.9:14 & Heb.10:10) in order to redeem us. What Jesus Christ sacrificed is a real flesh and a real blood which he obtained from Mary through His Incarnation (cf. Jn.1:14 & Heb.2:14). Christ was able to offer an unblemished sacrifice because the source of his flesh and blood is pure and undefiled. In the gospel of Luke 1:28, the Angel Gabriel address Mary as full of grace which means that she is fully endowed with God's grace. Grace and sin cannot co-exist with each other, Mary was called full of grace therefore there is no sin in her soul.