

## Dear Jennifer

Some thoughts follow regarding your thoughts on religious matters. Let me begin by saying I am not your judge nor am I anyone else's judge. Judgment belongs to God. However I can give you opinion or better yet, what I believe regarding this weighty matter. Private conversation with God is always good. He likes to hear from us and interact. I do this often during the day. To be humble is to recognize our dependence on God for all things. So prayer, conversation is always good. I pray for many people, living and deceased, that God pours his graces on them and has mercy on them. We must also bear witness to what we believe and this cannot be done privately. This is done by the way we act and also by our attitude and belief about prayer. This is what others see and come to understand about us. So let me give you some insight if I can about prayer and faith as I see it.

Belief in God must include God's intimate concern and interaction with what he has created. Belief in a loving God also demands that God would not mislead and seeks to be united eternally with his created. Therefore all religions cannot be true for this makes a mockery of God, the author of truth. God is not wishy washy, unable to make up his mind. That is the stuff of humanity, not God. So where is God for me to see?

There is no more powerful common sense story for me than that presented by the Roman Catholic Church. It is continuous and unbroken, from Abraham to the present time. It is filled with God's presence, powerful, loving, forgiving, with the promise of being free from error in guidance, for us to find our true path to God. That is what Jesus promised with the gift of the Holy Spirit, that the church would be free from error in faith and moral instruction, needed for us mortals to find his salvation in world that seeks him not.

Many see the Church as a stumbling block. They see the errors of priests and religious or they tout the masculine hierarchy or it's position on things they disagree with. The Church was instituted by Christ to bestow grace on its followers, not to acquiesce to the whims of the world. That is why it is difficult for many to accept its teachings. The Church has only one purpose, the salvation of souls! Some want an easy faith and many invent new ones just for that purpose, but what they do cannot come from God.

Prayer, so very important. The most important prayer that can be offered to God our Father is Mass. Nothing, absolutely nothing on earth, can come close to the offering of Jesus in an unbloody manner on Calvary, in the Eucharist. All the private prayers of everyone on earth could not equal one mass, one Eucharist. So I must bear witness to this belief. Publicly, for it is impossible for me to do this privately. Priests possess two powers, which the rest of us lack. They can forgive sin. They can change bread and wine into the real presence of Jesus. Two gifts from God, given only through his Church.

So I offer myself in the Eucharist with Jesus. I do this recognizing Jesus as the most worthy offering to the Father, and myself, not. I do it just the same because this will always be true. I also make this offering for Mary our mother's intentions, as I am certain my intentions are not important. Mary will know what to ask Jesus for and I'm sure He will grant her what she asks. I am content with this.

Free will is also a great gift from God. It allows us to observe the multitude of Creator-created experiences and make a decision for ourselves. We are conceived into eternity and there is no escape. We must make the correct decisions, the ones that bring us to God, and not away from Him. Eternity is an awful long time to be wrong.

Jennifer, be at peace, and be yourself. You're doing a fine job at it.

Love dad.

PS: Our Father loves the Mass. Our Mother Mary loves the rosary. Offer them both as often as you can. Again, if you are not sure what to offer them for, let Mary decide. Mary knows best. 