From: Mike Humphrey
To: mike.humphrey@rcn.com;
Subject: Our AskACatholic.com Lenten Newsletter
Date: Sunday, March 08, 2009 7:03:46 PM

AskACatholic.com*

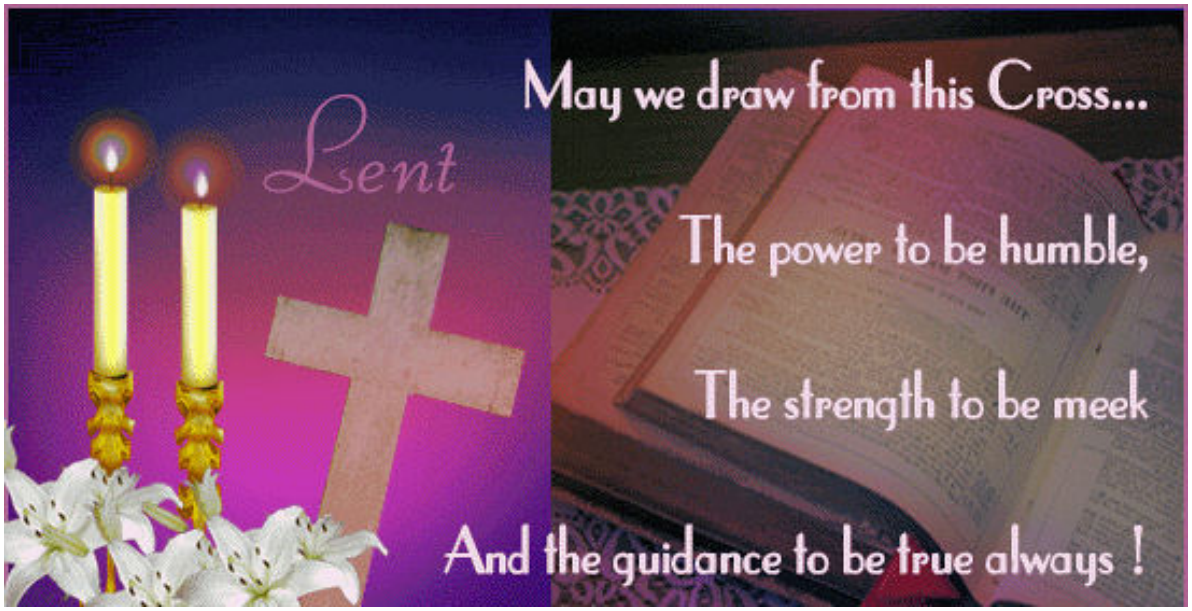
From the same people who brought you the Christifideles Pizza and Theology Society, CPATS.ORG

A spiritual oasis for sincere seeking Protestants and confused Catholics

New Name, same reliable apostolate

We are Catholic Christians who clarify teachings and correct misperceptions on the web about the only True Church Our Blessed Lord Jesus established on St. Peter, the Roman Catholic Church.

* Does not imply ecclesiastical approval



Lent 2009 - What's New from AskACatholic.com

AskACatholic.com: Catholic Christians who clarify teachings and correct misperceptions on the web about the only True Church Our Blessed Lord Jesus established on St. Peter and His successors, the Roman Catholic Church.

First Friday of the Month: St. Basil, Feastday: March 6 (335)
Bishop of Bologna, Italy, ordained by Pope St. Sylvester in 315

Forward to a Friend

Dear Web site Visitor,

In this issue:

- New web postings
- If you have been helped by our web site ...
- New features, new pages to the site!
- Building a new lay organization of Catholic Apologists and Professional Web Developers

- MY FAVORITE: Do you like the beat and music of the 60's, 70's and 80's but want it "Catholic style"?
- Getting the other side of the story: a new book: From Harvard to Harvard.
- Don't forget about our apostolates for seeking Protestants and non-Catholics.
- Do you have a strong devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory?
- From everyone on the AskACatholic.com team:

New web postings.

Since our last newsletter we have published over 120 more postings containing a variety of different questions (with answers) about the Catholic Church and what we believe as practicing Catholics. (80 postings in October 2008 and 130 more in February 2009.)

There are now 1,060 postings you can search on.

Go here to read through the new ones: http://www.askacatholic.com/_WebPostings/Answers/_SubTopics/00newquestions.cfm#new

As always, a hearty thanks goes to the team: (in alphabetical order)

- John DiMascio
- Eric Ewanco
- Bob Kirby
- Mary Ann Parks
- Terry Quinn

- and occasional help and assistance from Richard Chonak

Check out all our bios if you haven't yet: http://www.askacatholic.com/_About_AAC/whoanswersyourquestions.cfm

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If you have been helped by our web site ...

If visiting our web site has helped you to better understand the Catholic Faith (either as a Catholic, a seeking Protestant or non-Christian), a small note of moral support and recognition would be appreciated for "the team" work we have done. I don't get much, if any, support from my pastor.

A note to Cardinal O'Malley, the Cardinal for my area, would be appreciated as well!

Fr. Brian Kiely
St. Patrick Catholic Church
44 East Central Street
Natick, Massachusetts 01760
http://www.stpatsnatick.org
e-mail: stpatsparish@comcast.net

Cardinal Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap

66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, Mass. 02184

OR

Cardinal Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap
75 Union Park Street
Boston, Mass. 02118

http://www.rcab.org/Information/contactform.html

New features, new pages to the site!

Cool Catholic Videos

We have added a BRAND NEW FEATURE to our site: Cool Catholic Videos.

http://www.askacatholic.com/_WebPostings/Answers/_SubTopics/01coolcatholic_videos.cfm
(Right below the New Questions category on the left hand side of the main knowledge base page.)

There are currently 9 videos for you to watch. My favorites are the ones by Glenn a.k.a. "OneTrueChurch" on YouTube.com.

In addition, over the past two months **the Vatican has gone "YouTube"!!** This is a way for you to hear the numerous talks and speeches from the Holy Father on a regular basis.

Currently, you can hear the speeches in English, Italian, Spanish and German. Check them out today.
http://www.youtube.com/vatican

NEW for non-Christians and great "check-up" information for Catholics

Over the past year or so, our group has noticed a slow increase in the number of non-Christians that are visiting our site for the first time. Because our Lord's mission to spread the Gospel extends to all people, worldwide, we are in the process of finishing a new set of web pages for non-Christians.

You can find them under the Resources tab on the upper left hand side, titled:
Basics for the non-Christian.
http://www.askacatholic.com/_Resources/ChristianBasics/ChristianBasics.cfm

Improved Favorites area.

I'm also in the process of improving the Favorites area of the site. There may be new pieces you haven't seen yet, so check them out:

http://www.askacatholic.com/_WhatsNew/myfavorites.cfm

New Catholic Marriage Preparation and Marriage page.

Under our Family Life tab we have added a new page for couples preparing for marriage.
http://www.askacatholic.com/_FamilyLife/marriage.cfm

Building a new lay organization of Catholic Apologists and Professional Web Developers

Speaking for myself, though my colleagues probably agree, since we began this apostolate 13 years ago, one of the most edifying things about this work is:

- dialoguing with our separated breathren in a constructive manner
- seeing Protestants and other non-Christians interested in joining the Church,
- hearing about fallen away Catholics considering coming home, and
- having the opportunity to assist confused Catholic brethren in the Church.

What has made this possible? Two words: THE WEB. What's more exciting is the future! Why?

Over the next few years, I'm trying to develop a network of practicing Catholics, loyal to the Magisterium, who **are also** Web Development and Design professionals. The goal is to develop Catholic apologetics web sites across America run by lay Catholic apologists that could do work similar to the work we do. Ideally, each group should have a diocesan or religious priest within their diocese who could assist the group with priest-oriented questions.

The reason I would recommend a lay organization approach is solely to protect the Church from "nut-cases" who hate the Church...plus it's within our obligations according to canon law. See my About Us page:
http://www.askacatholic.com/aboutus.cfm#church_approval

From my view this would require several things:

- a close-knit, **prayerful** group of Catholics loyal to the Holy Father and Church's Magisterium
  - with an ability to work together as a team
  - who can take constructive criticism and correction, if needed, from their colleagues
  - who have a solid knowledge of the Church's teachings
  - who can answer questions about what the Church teaches in a mature, charitable manner and
  - who have at least one person who knows how to develop and maintain "knowledgebase-type" web sites.

Hopefully, visitors see these attributes in our team.

If any cardinal or bishop of a diocese was interested in this approach, he could develop a training program for, what I call, CICA's "Catholic Internet Catechist and Apologists".

With the goal of "getting the ball rolling", I've created a special on-line group:

> The Catholic Web Developers of America *(Please e-mail suggestions for a better group name.)*

You can read about the group on my LinkedIn and Face Book group profiles.
I currently have 21 members: 16 on LinkedIn; 5 on Face Book:

- http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=156844&trk=anet_ug_grppro
- http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=28664157956&ref=ts

As I said near the end of my group description:

> The process of how Catholic Web Development and Design professionals will be able to exchange ideas and provide "real solutions" that can be implemented by young Catholics at the parish level has yet to be determined.

With time, hopefully other faithful Catholics will be able to advance this idea.

Do you like the beat and music of the 60's, 70's and 80's but want it "Catholic style"?.

When I first hear Nick Alexander on EWTN's "Life on the Rock" singing "These Forty Days",
I was laughing in stitches for about 15 minutes.

After buying his "I Want to be Debated" audio CD, I enjoyed his other songs as well. Do you
remember the songs by groups like: The Beatles, the Mamas & Papas, Sonny & Cher, The Police, and Cyndi Lauper.

What Nick does is Catholic parodies off of famous Rock and Roll songs most of us grew up with. If you love the Solid Gold songs of the 60's, 70's and 80's and need some humor and laughter in your life, you owe it to yourself to visit Nick's web site and buy one or more
of his audio CD's. He has done three (I've bought the first two):

- A Time to Laugh
- I Want to Be Debated
- Eternal Life: The Party Album

They can be bought individually here:

> http://www.nickalexander.com/store/

OR in bulk packs of 10 that you can share with family and friends.

Further, individual songs are available through digital download, for those who have an iPod or MP3 player. If you wish, burn them onto your own CD. Sample the songs individually, purchase what you like. Try it out here:

> http://www.nickalexander.com/itunes/

(Make sure you have the iTunes Player installed first)

I highly recommend Nick's parodies. Why? Because now you can sing to songs with lyrics that edify the Lord! The songs you grew up with! Check out his web site TODAY!

Tell'em Mike Humphrey from AskACatholic.com sent you!

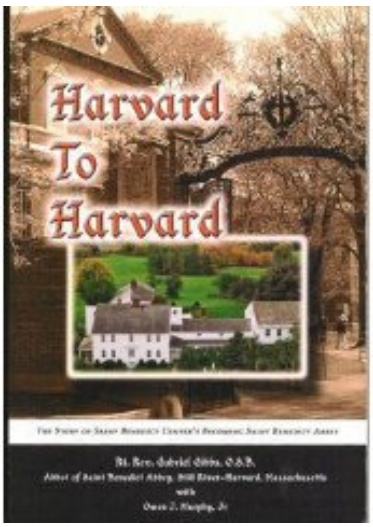
http://www.nickalexander.com/home/

Looking for a link to his site on ours? Where else would you look? Our Catholic humor page:
http://www.askacatholic.com/_WhatsNew/catholichumor.cfm

under the **What's New** tab.

> *Once again it seems clear that music and song thanks to their skillful intertwining with faith can be of high educational value in religion.*
>
> *Music as art can be a particular great way to announce Christ making visible the mysteries of Christ with His eloquence.*
>
> Pope Benedict XVI
> On the 80th Anniversary of the Vatican City State after a Papal concert.

Getting the other side of the story: a new book: From Harvard to Harvard:



Over the past twelve years that we have been answering questions from either the CPATS.ORG or AskACatholic.com web site, one of the more common areas visitors have confusion with is in the proper understanding of the Catholic doctrine:

"Outside the Church there is no Salvation" CCC 846.

I believe we address this issue very well in our "No Salvation Outside the Church" category.

At the core of the development or clarification of this teaching over the centuries were secular and ecclesiastical events that surrounded Father Leonard Feeney in the late forties and early fifties. For those

who have heard about Fr. Leonard from a second, third or fourth hand source, now you can get the scoop from the dedicated Catholic religious brothers who lived through it (Benedictine Monks that are in union with Rome and the Holy See.) The witness of their monastic life and their willingness to answer any question I had with kindness and gentleness, along with their love for the Church, were a great help in my spiritual growth

in the Faith.

Abbot Gabriel Gibbs gives you their side of the story in "From Harvard to Harvard". It's worth the read! Want a taste first? Read some quotes from my posting on the issue.

Be fair and get their side of the story today! From their web site: http://www.abbey.org/book2.htm

or on Amazon.

Don't forget about our apostolates for seeking Protestants and non-Catholics.

Are you a sincere-seeking Protestant OR non-Catholic that is being drawn to the Church?

Check out my FREE programs for Protestants and non-Catholics here:

Free Catechism of the Catholic Church for Protestants, Jewish people and other non-Catholics: http://www.askacatholic.com/_WhatsNew/feature_pages/CatechismForProtestantsProgram.cfm

Free Holy Rosary for Protestants, Jewish people and other non-Catholics: http://www.askacatholic.com/_WhatsNew/feature_pages/RosaryForProtestantsProgram.cfm

Are you a Catholic who wants to develop and/or strengthen their faith?

You may be interested: Between now and March 27 2009 the USCCB Publishing are selling soft cover Catechisms of the Catholic Church for only $10.00.

You have to buy at least 10 and pay for shipping.

If you are interested, just call 1-800-235-8722 and tell'em Mike Humphrey from AskACatholic.com sent you :)

A Church with Catholics who know their faith is a strong Church!

Do you have a strong devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory?

If you DO! Check out another apostolate I run with Brian Bagley at: http://www.helpersoftheholysouls.com

We are currently trying to find serious Catholics with a strong devotion to the Holy Souls who would be interested in starting a regular prayer meeting dedicated to praying for the release of the Holy Souls from Purgatory.

As Catholics we believe there are three "groups" in the Church which make up the Mystical Body of Christ:

- the Church Militant: those of us bringing the Gospel to others on earth;
- the Church Suffering: those in Purgatory, who, though they died in a state of grace, died with remaining self-love; and
- the Church Glorious: the saints in Heaven.

Although the souls in Purgatory have been saved and are destined for Heaven, they still have self-love from this earthy life that must be purified to satisfy God's justice.

We have a suggested "start-up" Purgatory Prayer Program package we can send you. Some have made it a private devotion, others, after using it as a private devotion, have brought the program to their parish priest as a possible weekly prayer program within the parish.

If you are interested, just e-mail me at: mike.humphrey@rcn.com with "Please send me a Purgatory Prayer Program" in the subject line OR ask for one from our web site:

http://www.askacatholic.com/_WhatsNew/feature_pages/HelpersOfTheHolySouls.cfm

You can also send a postal request to:

Brian Bagley
Purgatory Prayer Program
1099 Providence Road
Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588

The only hard copy prayer programs we have are in English.

When sending your request please:
-- clearly spell out your postal address and
-- **please send us your e-mail address**, if you have one.

As a final side note: Remember:

- Purgatory has NOTHING to do AT ALL with one's justification OR salvation; rather it has to do with one HOLINESS!

  Revelation 21:27 - Nothing unclean will be allowed to enter into heaven.

- Also, Purgatory in no way takes away from the finished work of Christ, rather it medicinally applies the finished work of Christ to the Christian.

From everyone on the AskACatholic.com team:

From everyone on the AskACatholic.com team:

- the Apologists
- the Priest-friend helpers who assist from time to time,
- our specialization helpers and
- our Grammarians

We would like to wish you and your family a penitential Lenten Season full of sacrifices and almsgiving, followed by a Blessed, joyous Easter!

Please keep my non-practicing temporal mother: **Dorothy Mae Humphrey** in your daily prayers, as well as the other AskACatholic.com team members **and their families** who have made AskACatholic.com possible!

My family:
Steve, my older brother w/wife Denise
Mark, my younger brother w/wife Pam
Mark and Pam's kids: Katie, Brian, Justin
and Stevie - I'm Stevie's Godfather :)

Thanks!

Mike Humphrey, CICA
Unemployed Web Developer/HTML Programmer,
Catholic Internet Catechist and Apologist
and Benedictine-at-heart, **but shhhh!** don't tell my Archbishop :)

Forward to a Friend

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http://www.AskACatholic.com

We are Catholic Christians who clarify teachings and correct misperceptions on the web about the only True Church Our Blessed Lord Jesus established on St. Peter, the Roman Catholic Church.
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"Quotes from the Early Church Fathers and first Christians of the Church"

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