

**Looking for Answers –
Explore What The Catholic Church Really Teaches –
Part 16**



CONCLUSION



There it is – the truth about Catholic beliefs and practices. This is the truth which brings the author of this story and millions of people into the Catholic fold year after year... The truth which explains why Newman, Chesterton, Knox, Brownson, Maritain, Mann, Swinnerton, Muggeridge and a host of other world-famous

intellectuals choose to embrace the Catholic Faith. This is the truth which inspired the following confession by renowned scientist, John Deering – a confession which expresses in eloquent fashion the fundamental motivation of every Catholic convert, be he famous or unknown:

"I was born and raised in an atmosphere of proud, agnostic intellectualism. My father, a medical doctor by profession, was a disciple of Schopenhauer and Freud, and my mother was an ardent disciple of my father. My own favorite dish as a youth was Voltaire. Thus by the time I reached manhood, I was quite thoroughly baptized in the pseudo-religious cult of humanism. I preferred to call it humanism because, unlike the blunt Voltaire, I could never profess publicly to being an out and out atheist, even though there really isn't much distinction between the two.

"Being of a curious, speculative turn of mind, with strong leanings toward the more challenging fields of dialectics (Ed. Note: the art or practice of logical discussion as employed in investigating the truth of a theory or opinion), I eventually took up the study of metaphysics – the science of the fundamental causes and processes of things. This subject intrigued me, indeed obsessed me, as no other subject had before. Here, I told myself, was the science of sciences. Here was the supreme test of my personal philosophy. If God exists, I told myself, metaphysics would reveal Him. Either I would be justified in my quasi-atheism or I would be compelled in conscience to abandon it completely.

"Then the inevitable happened. I came face-to-face with the proposition, proved by all the principles of logic, that God does indeed exist. The evidence was so abundant as to be incontrovertible. Just as sure as two and two make four, God not only exists, HE IS existence. To argue the point would have been tantamount to arguing against all reality!

"Topped at last from the vainglorious perch of agnosticism, I immediately set about making another intellectual ascent – this time up the great imposing structure of Christian theology. I procured a Bible and spent every free moment absorbed in its sacred content. I had established the existence of God in my mind; now I must know something of the nature, the *personality*, of God. The Bible, I figured would give me a clue.

"Much of what I read in the Bible was vague. I was not, after all, familiar with the customs and language idioms of the ancient Jews who wrote the Bible, but I could grasp the central theme. Quite obviously, the central theme of the Bible portrayed God not only as an Omnipotent, All-Intelligent Spiritual Being, but as the Essence of Love, Essence of Justice and Essence of Mercy.

"In other words, God is pre-eminently a *personal* Being. And Jesus Christ was God *personified*, come into the world not only to make atonement for the sin of Adam, but to reassert His Sovereignty, elaborate on His Laws and illuminate with brighter light the pathway to heavenly immortality. And the torchbearer of this light was His Church, founded on the Apostles. Endowed with the authority of God, and imbued with the Holy Spirit of God, His Church was given the holy task of perpetuating His ministry of salvation after His return to Heaven. "There was the divine plan of redemption, life's real purpose, brought into clear and beautiful focus by the Author of the plan - God Himself. There, in brief, is man's only real hope for happiness and security.

"Only one thing remained to be solved. God's Church – where amidst the vast galaxy of the world's churches was God's true Church to be found? Then I recalled something Christ said: *Seek and ye shall find... Knock and it will be opened unto you*. Inspired by these words of divine wisdom, I embarked on the search. I undertook an extensive study of comparative religion, concentrating on the Christian religions. Since the other religions rejected the divinity of Christ, they naturally were in default.

"With painstaking impartiality I held every Christian church up to the light of Scripture, logic and history, checking and double checking lest I overlook some small but significant piece of evidence. Three years of this meticulous checking, then I found the object of my search. I finished with one name superimposed in great bold letters on my conscience – *Catholic*.

"On every ground I found the claims of the Catholic religion valid and altogether irresistible. The Catholic Church is the oldest Christian church, I determined; therefore, She is the *original* Christian Church, the one Church founded, constituted and sanctioned by Jesus Christ Himself.

"I had no other recourse in conscience but to embrace the Catholic Faith. And now I must testify that it satisfies my mind, solaces my heart and gratifies my soul. My blessed Catholic Faith fills my soul with a peace and a sense of security I had never before thought possible.

"Now that I am in the Catholic Church I have a much clearer picture of its true image. I see in all Her vitals the *Image of Christ*. In the reception of Her sacraments I feel His comforting hand; in Her pronouncements I hear His authoritative, cogent voice; in Her manifold worldwide charities I see His love and compassion; in the way She is harassed and vilified I see His agony and humility on Calvary; in Her worship I feel His Spirit girding my soul.

"This compels my obedience. All else is shifting sand."

This series of stories was written by Paul Whitcomb a Protestant who converted to Catholicism. Tomorrow he concludes the series by reviewing the ages of the various denomination of religious churches that exist today.