

June 19, 2022

Dear Deacon,

Today, Father's Day June 19, to my ears, was your best homily to date, both in content and delivery. It sounded that it came from the heart and you believed in what you were saying. Trust me, as I am taking the time to write this as your message was on target.

You asked for us to stand tall as Catholics. For many this is a tall order nowadays. There was a time when the community knew we were Catholics, and we were proud. Whether it was Ash Wednesday when, based on our schedules we went to 6 a.m. mass or the noon mass in downtown Philadelphia and wore the ashes on our forehead as a sign of pride and devotion. Or abstaining from meat on Friday. We were the ones that kept the fishcake and pizza industry going. We displayed our devotion collectively as we had a common bond. Today that community has all but disappeared. There are many factors that contributed to that demise.

Much of this is the loss of identity that made us stand out and the other is the hierarchy of the church. Yes, the scandal of the priests and how the archdioceses mishandled the crimes was a big factor. It even touched an old schoolmate, who was once our pastor. So many Catholics were disillusioned by this sin. I had a hard time believing any of it. I was an altar server from the third through the twelfth grade. (I was a member of the Bonner Breakfast Club and served mass three days a week in the monastery). I never witnessed any of the crimes. That does not rule out the facts. Most of my family became Catholic in name only.

Time would heal all wounds, but now the church hierarchy is again failing the faithful. The acceptance of our political leaders promoting abortion without repercussions is now affecting us old Catholics. I know some bishops have taken a stand, but unless bishops are united as Catholic bishops it is a waste of time asking us to abide by church teachings. The church was united on divorced Catholics not being eligible for communion, but not against pro-abortion politicians. The pope just elevated a bishop in San Diego who thinks pro-abortion politicians can receive the Eucharist. Why should the faithful stand firm if the bishops won't?

I have stopped supporting Catholic Charities because they are aiding and abetting illegal aliens coming into our country. In Texas and Arizona Catholic Charities receive government money to have shuttles pickup illegal aliens and deliver them to facilities then let them enter our country. Yet the church wants us to obey both church and civil laws. How is this spiritual leadership?

You addressed the declining church attendance in your homily. It is not for losing faith in God, but in the church itself. My podcast partner chose to be a Catholic at the age of 42. This was a life and faith choice that is being tested. I was born into the Catholic church via Irish Catholic parents. I did not make a choice to become a Catholic. I have made the choice to remain one. I would probably be a Catholic living remotely in the woods as it is in my DNA.

A long time ago I wrote an article saying being a Catholic was more than believing in God, it was believing in the faithful. It was the faithful that helps educate and take care of the community. It was

the faithful that would weather a storm. But unless the church hierarchy puts on its collective Shepherd's Cloak and stands up to be Catholic as you asked us to do today, the faithful will wilt away, maybe not from God, but the church.

Your homily obviously hit home today, at least to me. God works in mysterious ways my mother used to say whenever the forces of evil, usually the nuns, were aligned against me for doing some deed that required some atonement. (My mother never had to kneel on rosary beads). Yet here I am still attending Mass. Mysterious ways indeed.

Respectfully,

TwoSmartFarts.com