

NO MORE TEARS

No, this is not about a baby shampoo that is so gentle that it will not make your baby cry when its little head is being washed. Quite the contrary, it is hoped that this little pamphlet will cause many in the Church, parents as well as clergy, to shed tears of sorrow for the horrible state into which so many of our Catholic families have descended. Another problem we have in the Church is unfortunately the absence of tears for the sins of our children.

We as a society have accepted sin, and for the most part, will defy anyone who tries to bring it to the forefront for correction. It is as if we think that by defending the sinner, we are promoting the Christian virtue of compassion. We can always use both Old Testament and New Testament quotes concerning the Pharisees and their attack on the poor sinners of that time as credible references to bolster our stance. We can also quote Christ's many condemnations of these Pharisees who used the law to burden the poor sinners. By doing this we are fraudulently placing ourselves on the side of Christ. If anyone disagrees with our acceptance of these sins, we automatically put these people on the side of those hardhearted, unloving, judgmental Pharisees. We can make ourselves feel and even appear truly Christ-like to this nonjudgmental society that we have helped to create. We have become a society that can honestly boast that we are definitely not a pharisaical society. We have become a people that has accepted the sins of the society and, as a whole, seem to fight for the right to sin and sin bravely. For this acceptance of our neighbor's sins, we truly expect to be hailed as loving and compassionate Catholic Christians.

Have you ever heard a priest say, "Don't let anyone shut the doors of Heaven in your face"? They make such a statement in response to someone advising a sinner that if they die in mortal sin they will not go to Heaven. So what the priest is saying is that the person doing the informing is closing the door of Heaven in the face of the poor sinner who is receiving the information.

Let us analyze this situation and show that it is really the priest and not the person giving the information who is the one who is possibly closing the door of heaven in the face of the sinner.

We must remember and never forget that from Ezechiel in the Old Testament to Christ in the New Testament, it is clearly understood that we were to go out and teach all men what has been commanded. That being, if your brother sins and you tell him, the sin is his, but if you don't tell him, the sin is yours. Now, I would imagine, my priest friend believes that the best way to save souls is to keep the Good News away from them. For Scripture does say if you tell your brother that he is sinning, the sin is his, so now the sin is his and you have shut the door of Heaven in his face. Shame on you for doing that.

Well, it would take more than a pamphlet to clarify such a warped view of Scripture, but I can offer a short and modest explanation.

What Scripture is conveying is that we should love our brothers so much that we would risk offending them and even severing our friendly relationship with them in an effort to bring them the Good News. Nowhere in Scripture will you find Christ even slightly insinuating that the truth should be withheld from the sinner. On the contrary, "It is the truth that will set you free," not the withholding of the truth. Yet that is exactly what has been happening in the Church for the past half century, the deliberate withholding of the truths (the Good News) of Holy Mother Church.

At this time let us put aside the salvation dilemma, for only God and God alone will decide who does and who does not enter the kingdom of Heaven.

We want to focus on something that even a blind man can see. That is, since the subject of sin has been almost completely eliminated from the Catholic vocabulary, the practice of sin has astronomically increased! Fornication has produced countless unwed mothers. Adultery has produced countless divorces. Diseases have claimed the lives of countless sinners who were denied the Good News that could have given them the courage to resist sin and its horrible consequences. Remember, Christ warned us of the blind that would lead the blind to their own destruction. Before we move on, I would like to make this statement and hope it will make a mental impression on you: ***Not only will most of our shepherds refuse to tell the sinner what sin is and why it is a sin, they are hellbent on stopping anyone else from doing so.*** It is as though they want everyone to adopt a life of sin so no one will feel guilty, and God would have to either send everyone to hell or exempt everyone. We truly have ***big problems*** in our Church.

The Compassionate Mother

A mother, troubled with her daughter's unconventional lifestyle, came to my home seeking counsel. She related to me that her daughter was living with her boyfriend, and she did not know what to do about it. I said to the lady, "Your daughter is living like an animal." She was quite taken aback and exclaimed, "Don't you think that is being harsh?" "No," I responded, "You see, Ma'am, your daughter is having lots of fun, and she is not about to give up all that fun for just a slight wrong. She has to be convinced that what she is doing is extremely wrong. She needs a mother to love her enough to do what the worldly will not do, that is, make her understand that what she is doing is degrading to a child of God and could put her in hell for eternity. She needs a mother who will explain to her that animals respond spontaneously to the sexual drive and there is no wrong in this. She, however, is a child of God endowed with an immortal soul, a conscience, and a will."

If our young people are expected to live a life in Christ, their conscience must be correctly formed, which means understanding the evil in the different sins they encounter throughout life. If young people do not know and understand the evil in the abuse of their sexuality, we must conclude that the parents, as well as the Catholic community, have failed to pass on these moral Christian principles, principles that are absolutely necessary for a truly successful life in this world as well as in the next.

Young people judge the gravity of mortal sin by the responses of the respected adults in their life. When they see their parents' acceptance of their sinful practices, even though the parents may show some kind of displeasure, they assume that what they are doing is not really all that bad. For what loving parent would accept a child living a lifestyle that they believe (and the Church teaches) will send them to hell for eternity? With all the supposed changes since Vatican II, which, in the minds of the vast majority of Catholics, has abolished practically all the old taboos of the past, one might rightly reason, why bother with the few remaining rules, for they will surely be abolished in the near future. It is all just a matter of time. The Church is finally moving into the twenty-first century.

It is this sort of reasoning that has brought about the rot that has destroyed countless families and destroyed the credibility of the Church's teachings. The sad fact of the matter is, even if these poor unfortunate souls are saved by their ignorance, they will still reap the disastrous consequences of a disordered life. Take a look at what error has spawned: sixty percent divorce rate, child neglect and abuse, unwed teen mothers, abortion and shackups (the nice name given to this is "cohabitation". Now doesn't that sound a lot better than shackup?) For me I want to stick with the term shackup, the word sounds almost as crude as the act it defines—an act which you might not be proud of and might even want to flee from.

Saint Monica

If only we had mothers today like St. Monica. Her whole life was spent struggling for her Catholic faith within her own family. Her husband Patritius, who was a pagan, caused her great pain, especially in his refusal to allow her to baptize their children. Yet her sweetness and patience paid off. Patritius became a Christian and Augustine, her wayward son, not only became a Christian, but a great bishop, saint and Doctor of the Church. She was told by a holy bishop the now famous words, "The child of so many tears shall never perish." It is true that St. Monica shed many tears for her husband and son. It is also true that she prayed unceasingly for them. Moreover, we must never forget her constant effort to get St. Augustine to accept the faith of Christ, going so far as following him to other countries. St. Monica's tears were the tears of a true Christian mother who, like her master, knew the value of her son's soul.

There are no more tears today. Unlike St. Monica, today's mothers are nonjudgmental. They lovingly accept the sins of their children with little fear of the eternal consequences. They seem to have lost the sense of sin. No longer is sin something the modern mother fears for herself or her wayward children.

Bishops, priests, and parents must truly believe that sin is something awful if our youth are ever to believe it is something awful. Once they truly believe, they must act accordingly. It is psychologically impossible for our actions to contradict our beliefs. Today, however, it is the rare mother who truly shows remorse by both her words and actions. When parents can casually excuse the sins of their children, they are casually saying that sin is not all that bad, and their children respond accordingly. This kind of attitude opens the way for everyone in the family to be opened-minded and nonjudgmental. Sin is then lovingly accepted by the whole family.

The Results

The result of the lack of tears of the parents, especially the mother, is the destruction of generations of young people. Young people, who through no fault of their own, were not loved enough to be told the truth. Teaching the truth, just as doing a good deed, requires love, especially love of God. Yes, at the heart of it all is a diminished love of God.

Parents who truly love God will desperately try to pass this love on to their children. Many have even started home schooling their children in spite of ridicule from family and friends who seem to resent their efforts.

It is difficult for these home schooling families to succeed because their children have to be different and many parents cannot convince their children that this difference is necessary for success. The lack of support from the Church, the weaknesses of the parents, as well as their lack of skills in communication are the primary causes of their children wanting to be like the world. We have to be good salesmen if we are to sell a moral lifestyle to our children in a materialistic and sexually permissive society. And do not expect help from the local church. It seems that it is too busy shielding parents from their parental responsibilities, which if known, could give them a guilty feeling. It might even cause some parents to cry over the sins of their children.