

From The Lecturer:

Much is made of any hint of scandal in the Catholic Church by the press, and invariably they quote some so-called expert for comment. More than likely, if it is the secular press, that comment comes from someone who is a Catholic in Name only rather than a true Faithful member of the Church. I recently had a letter published by the area Newspaper in which I took issue with this type of individual, and promoted the concept of Faith in the Catholic Church. Faith is easily described when it comes to the Church. In the distant past, Faith is what characterized the early Christian, who more often than not, gave his life because of that Faith. We Catholics today are fairly, I say fairly, immune from that type of persecution, but given their way, there are many in secular society who would promote that way of life. The faithful Catholic stands steadfast in his faith and would have no part in criticizing his Church, but there are many who would do so at the drop of the hat, because they do not have the Faith. These individuals come and go and are found everywhere where the Church has made a home. The Faithful Catholic need not apologize for the Church because the Lord himself has said that the Church will not be dissolved, it will go on for Eternity. But the attacks will continue just as long and we must be able to discriminate between what is true and what is scurrileous. The man of Faith is not shaken by innuendo and false theories put forth by those of little Faith. I mentioned in my published letter that I would not get into an explanation of how one has that kind of Faith which grows the Church, rather than that which comes from the Faithless ones. That is a topic for later. For now, I want to emphasize the Truth, the Beauty, and the Goodness which is easily perceived by the one of Faith. He is one who understands and obeys the Magisterium of the Church and is not so easily swayed by arguments to the contrary. He speaks from knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, and he is certainly not one to jump on any false theory by the enemies of his Faith. He is a person who understands that humans can err and have done so since the dawn of civilization. Men make errors – we are far from perfect no matter what our persuasion, but we also have forgiveness by the one who knocked St Paul off his high horse. St. Paul became a repentant sinner and one of the greatest Saints in the History of the Church. Jesus Christ preached forgiveness and said quite plainly to all who would listen, that he came to save sinners. We are perhaps not of the “special chosen” like St. Paul, but we can follow his teachings in our own way if we are humble enough to believe! So my message for today is simply remember that we are human with all the baggage that such entails, but we can be of good Faith by following the teachings of Christ and not making of ourselves any more than we can possibly be. We may not get any medals for this, but keeping the true Faith will get us to heaven. In my next message, I will attempt to illustrate where that Faith comes from!