

Sunday, January 24, 2021



The Anti-Catholic at Dunkin' Donuts

Greetings!

Building on my past success with “the atheist at the bagel shop”, I thought you might be interested in the story of **the angry anti-Catholic guy at Dunkin' Donuts**.

Aside: I'm getting the feeling that restaurants are like stages for *my issues*, so maybe I'll start a Netflix series called “Food Fighting in Florida” or something light that. I'll have to run that by my agent...

...anyway...

My generous spiritual director and I met one Saturday morning at the local DD to discuss my wretched soul **over coffee and a sugar overdose**. He's obviously more concerned about my spiritual than my bodily health.

This particular store had a nice booth at the back where we could talk in private and be left undisturbed - or so I thought.

As soon as we were done, we got up to leave and a **rather strange man approached us** with a confused look that quickly transformed into a sort of smugness. He was focusing on Father's Roman collar.

You guessed it, this was the angry anti-Catholic - and his face told us to brace ourselves for a blast of something negative. Just what I needed after a good confession.

Directing his words at Father, he said snarkily: **“So, wearing that outfit reminds you to be a Christian?”**

“Uh, no,” said my priest. “I don't need a uniform to remind me that I'm a Christian.”

The odd man shook his head, “No, no, no!” but made no comeback. Odd. I expected a little more of a fight.

In the Deep South we're no strangers to anti-Catholic sentiment, so I expected the guy to take a swipe at priestly celibacy or quote the tired Scripture passage about “call no man father,” etc., but he could do no more than shake his head and mock what he didn't understand.

Whatever sect he belonged to had taught him to hate but not to think.

Then Father went on the charm offensive:

"Since you inquired..." he said calmly, "The reason I wear this uniform is because it reminds *others* to be Christians. It's a Christian witness. I'm sure you understand evangelization, right?"

Again, the priest-basher just stood there shaking his head, "No, no, no!" derisively and avoided eye contact.

Apparently the charm didn't work.

I was going to step up and give the guy a piece of my mind (you know, indignantly, along the lines of, *NO ONE treats MY priest that way!*" etc., etc.), but **with a subtle shake of the head, Father told me to stand down.**

He was getting ready to lower the boom, but with much more, ahem, *charity* than I would have.

"Tell me, friend, why did you come up and talk to me about Christianity today? Wasn't it because my Roman collar made you think about God and religion?"

The angry man got that deer-in-the-headlights look and suddenly stopped shaking his head. You could hear a pin drop.

The Rock of the Church had just crashed down on the guy.

This clearly infuriated the man – who had no retort – so he rolled his eyes and then beat a hasty retreat out the door.

Score one for the quick-witted padre. *And for the Church!*

Our long-suffering clergy and religious

The Catholic Church has been the object of attacks since, oh, 33 AD maybe? It's nothing new. Some attacks are standard and repetitive (i.e., our Dunkin' Donuts challenger); others find new ways to press us.

But **it's almost always the priests and religious who take the brunt** of these persecutions. The DD guy didn't direct his anger at *me*, he directed it at the priest. The long list of Church martyrs is overwhelmingly skewed toward the clergy.

We have to stand behind these anointed men with our prayers.

No priest, no Eucharist.

No priest, no Confession.

No priest, no Anointing or administration of other sacraments and pastoral works. It's that simple.

I generally abhor the weak-kneed clerics who have caved in to the overbearing demands of the tyrant state during this pandemic, but my spiritual director is certainly not one of them.

In fact, I suspect he's one of many great priests and religious who are silently suffering through this situation lodged uncomfortably somewhere between a rock and a hard place.

Our parish clergy have to "obey" both the bishops and the health regulations as well as be concerned about the needs of the weakest members of their flocks. They mostly take the path of least resistance or play to the lowest common denominator.

I don't like having churches locked down or having our liturgy distorted beyond all reason by the ridiculous CDC requirements, but **I don't really blame the priests.** They're the middle managers, and they've got a tough job.

In some ways **the nuns have fared worse.** A nun friend of mine told me that her convent in a lock-down state was turned into a virtual house arrest situation by health officials who refused to let 38 the nuns leave the house because *one* - just one! - of the sisters had tested positive for the virus.

This is nothing less than persecution dressed up as *concern for your welfare*. We can expect more of it. It's all so disconcerting. But we are not without the eternal hope of our Catholic faith and that leads us to keep a positive outlook on life despite the desolation of culture and politics.

We must pray for our clergy and religious as we move into the next era of America's life, which promises to be more challenging for them – and us – than any other time in history.

There will always be persecutors of the Church, but the truth will always be with us too, and we have it on good authority that **the Truth prevails in the end**.

Our feature articles

The Roman collar issue in Dunkin Donuts was one of the memories that inspired me to write “The Clothes Make the Man”, our feature article this week.

I never realized how much emphasis the Church places on religious garb. There's more to it than meets the eye.

Its companion piece, “A Father's Love Remains to the End” is more of a self-explanatory video than an article. If you can get through it without shedding a tear, you're much stronger than !!

And don't forget to **forward our newsletter** to anyone you think may benefit from a burst of Beauty-Truth-Goodness inspiration, and keep praying.

The Clothes Make the Man



A Father's Love Remains to the End



Thank you and God bless you!

Peter Darcy

PS-1 – Remember: I post one article a week on the Sacred Windows website and send out this newsletter every two weeks – on Sundays.

PS-2– For those of you who are interested in praying for priests, I've placed a link below to a wonderful prayer-for-priests initiative started by a college student, “Daily Decade” Prayer Campaign.

Daily Decade Campaign for Priests

If you have any questions or want to add priests to the Daily Decade prayer list, email the campaign at onedecadeaday@gmail.com!



TO CONTACT PETER:

Email: peterdarcy@sacredwindows.com

Author's Website: www.petedarcywriting.com

Strength of Soul Books: publisher@strengthofsoulbooks.com
