

Reasons to Believe in God and in the Holy Catholic Church He Set Up (by Fr. Michael)

More and more people are coming to me wondering if God exists and if the Catholic religion is just a “fairy tale” to make us feel good. There is a lot of confusion out there! We have a duty to seek the truth.

If someone came to you today and asked you why you believe that God exists and why you believe that Christ set up the Catholic Church, what would you say?

God does exist and He did set up the Catholic religion to worship Him. Here are eight reasons to believe that God exists (in no particular order) and a few final comments about our religion.

1. Creation. I know that God exists because of creation. Some Being had to create us and everything around us. **Romans 1:19-20** states: “For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what He has made. As a result, they have no excuse.”

Some people try to explain away the universe by the “big bang theory.” It is just a theory. However, if the universe was created through a big bang, Someone had to cause the big bang; we call God the First Cause.

2. The gift of faith. I know that God exists because of the gift of faith and the consolation I receive by following His “rules.” In **John 14:15**, Jesus says, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” I notice that when I have a intimate relationship with God and try to keep His commandments, I am full of joy. When I follow the teaching of the Bible, I have peace. As a matter of fact, I feel like what Paul said in **Galatians 5:22-23**: “[T]he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

3. Eucharistic miracles. I believe God exists because of Eucharistic miracles. Here are two examples. In September 2013, I went to Santarem, Portugal, and saw a Eucharistic miracle from the year 1266. There is a Host (Jesus) that has not corrupted at all since that year. The staff at the church where the miracle is on display told us the Host was tested around 2003 and the results were that the Host was still bleeding.

During Mass in Boxmeer, Holland, in the year 1400, the wine in the chalice was transformed into Blood and bubbled out of the chalice, splashing onto the corporal. The priest, terrified at the sight, asked God to forgive his

doubts, and the Blood immediately stopped bubbling out of the chalice. That Blood that had fallen onto the corporal coagulated into a lump the size of a walnut. Even today one could go to Holland and see the miracle, which has not changed.

When scientists test many of these Host miracles, they find that the Host is heart tissue. For me, this shows that Jesus is trying to love us with His heart when we receive Him in Holy Communion.

To see more examples of Eucharistic miracles, visit: http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/engl_mir.htm

4. Incorrupt bodies. I believe that God exists because of incorrupt bodies; we call them incorruptibles. God performs miracles in keeping them from decaying all the way. Some are partially corrupt.

In September 2013 while I was on pilgrimage through Portugal, Spain, and France, I saw the incorrupt bodies of St. Catherine Laboure (d. 1876) and St. Bernadette Soubirous (d. 1879)—both dead for well over 100 years.

If you do a Google search on “incorruptibles,” you will find page after page. One practical Youtube video is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cygNDLJx_aw

5. Present miracles/healings. I know that God exists because of the current miracles that I get to see. On May 15, 2013, I was concelebrating at a Healing Mass in Cincinnati, OH, at the Holy Spirit Center. There were about 150 people in attendance. One person in attendance was my former Air Force R.O.T.C. cadet, Jennifer. I asked her and her husband to come. To be succinct, she was healed that night of a vocal cord problem, an eyesight problem, and serious complications from a concussion. She was singing the final praise song that night (after three hours of Mass and Eucharistic Adoration), and her voice came back. She thought that God may have healed her, so she stopped taking her daily medication for the concussion. She has been fine and med-free ever since.

I have seen a number of people get healed from additions to pornography and masturbation. All of them were healed after they were in right relationship with God—attending Mass, frequent Confession, and praying the Angelic Warfare Confraternity Prayer. Also, they did other prayers.

There are many miracles/healings at Lourdes, France. There are almost 7,000 healings that have been documented there, but the Church—being careful—will always be slow to approve them. Please visit: http://www.miraclehunter.com/marian_apparitions/approved_apparitions/lourdes/miracles1.html

6. Exorcisms. I know that God exists because of the reactions of demons when they are exposed to God and His saints and holy objects. If you speak to an exorcist, he will tell you about what happens during an exorcism. The demons react to many things: the Eucharist; the Word of God (Bible passages); blessed water, crucifixes, incense, bells, rosaries; relics of saints; certain prayers in Latin (considered a sacred language); and other prayers (Rosary, Litany of the Saints, Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, etc.) A few ways to tell if someone is influenced strongly by a demon is that he/she can speak a language he/she never studied and/or the person has superhuman strength. There are people who fake a possession, but there are ways to discover who is faking and who is not. Visit: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/help-for-exorcists-how-a-new-york-psychiatrist-battles-demons>

7. Saints willing to give their lives for Christ. I know God exists because of the countless number of people who have defended Jesus Christ and were martyred because of doing so. We just celebrated the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29. St. Paul was beheaded and St. Peter was crucified upside-down. As a matter of fact, 11 of 12 of the Apostles were martyred.

Reports are coming in saying that over 900,000 Christians were martyred for their faith in 2016.

St. Bernadette Soubirous [1844-1879] died of serious physical complications at age 35. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her 18 times at Lourdes (Feast Day, Feb. 11), and she was never afraid to defend her story. St. Bernadette was taken in by the local police and questioned many times. She never worried or flinched. One time, the police commissioner Jacomet insisted, “No, you’re not speaking the truth. If you don’t tell me who it was who forced you to tell this story, I’ll prosecute you as a liar.” Bernadette replied, “Do as you wish, sir.” He said, “Get ready to go to prison.” She calmly replied, “So much the better! I shall cost my father less, and in prison you’ll come and teach me my Catechism.” She was always ready to die for God and Mary. She was in excruciating pain at her death, and even ridiculed by her mother superior.

8. The tilma of St. Juan Diego. Recall that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared several times to Juan Diego at Tepeyac in Mexico in December 1531. Eventually the image of the Blessed Virgin appeared on his tilma (cape). Here are just a few miraculous facts.

(a) The image has lasted and shows no signs of deterioration. Juan Diego’s tilma is made of a rough cactus fiber which normally disintegrates in 15 to 30 years. Yet, the image of Guadalupe has remained intact for almost 500 years without fading or cracking.

Moreover, it was subjected to candle smoke for many years, which should have accelerated the process of deterioration. In 1778, a worker accidentally spilled strong nitric acid onto a large portion of the image. To everyone’s astonishment, only slight stains appeared which can still be seen in the upper right side. Additionally, in 1921 a bomb concealed in some flowers was placed directly under the image. When the bomb detonated, the marble altar rail and windows 150 feet away were shattered, a brass crucifix was twisted out of shape, but the image was left unharmed.

(b) The image is always 98.6°F, the temperature of the human body. No matter what the surrounding temperature, season, or weather, the image remains at an even 98.6°F.

(c) Using enlarged photos, several images can be seen reflected in the eyes of the Virgin. They appear to be the images of Juan Diego, Bishop Juan de Zummaraga, Juan Gonzales, the interpreter and others.

(d) Within a few years of the image appearing on the tilma, over six million Aztecs converted.

To get more miraculous facts, visit: <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-amazing-truth-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe.html>

To end, let’s just say that these are just a few things that point to the existence of God. There are countless other examples we could use. Also, we could have added many real stories about the Mass and the sacraments. If people were intellectually honest, they would study the early Church Fathers and see what they wrote. As one example, St. Justin the Martyr wrote about what Mass looked like in 155 A.D. It looks almost exactly like what you see today. So many Church Fathers and Mothers talked about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Please visit:

<http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/tes/a7.html>

When people are struggling to believe in God or His Catholic Church, all of us need to be able to give reasons for our faith. Let’s end with **1 Peter 3:14-16**: *But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.*

Good Website to Study Your Faith:

<https://www.scripturecatholic.com/>

Elevation Festival

-Saturday, July 13 from 2 – 10 p.m.

-A FREE festival with food, games for kids, extreme sports, and a performance by Plumb! You won't want to miss this incredible festival on July 13 at West Grand High School in Kremmling!

St. Peter: Four Weeks in the Bible (English Study)

Tuesday, July 9 from 2:30 to 3:30 at St. Peter.

Join us for a short overview of the big picture of Scripture. Bring a Bible, your questions, and a friend.

The Meaning of the Mass

At every Mass, the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus is offered back to the Father so that invisible power can come upon us each day for mercy and forgiveness. So Jesus' entire life was a prayer for us, and the pinnacle was His death on the Cross. **John 15:13** states: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Since Jesus' death is re-presented to the Father, the Mass is a funeral. Since Jesus conquered death and rose from the dead, and wants us to be with Him, Mass is also the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. Since Jesus' suffering and death (very painful and bloody) is re-presented to the Father, we don't have, in general, cushy chairs, Starbuck's coffee during the Mass, and a praise band in the center of the sanctuary. We are at a Funeral and a Wedding. How do you dress for these events?

Many people do not dress up for Mass because no one has addressed this issue or they do not know what Mass is. Gentlemen, I humbly ask you to dress up a little for Mass. Nice slacks and a collared shirt would be nice for you to glorify Almighty God, what He has done for all of us, and what He intends to do for us in the future. Please become the spiritual leaders and examples that God has called you to be. Dressing up demonstrates your commitment to God and will increase your merit before Him. Become a great saint. If you dress up, the women will do the same.

By the way, priests wear black because Jesus died for us, and they are supposed to be detached from the world.

Wisdom of The Dialogue of St. Catherine

Summary of Chapter 24. God the Father says, "Do you know what course I follow, once My servants have completely given themselves to the teaching of the gentle loving Word [Jesus]? I prune them, so that they will bear much fruit....When My servants remain united to Me, I prune them with great suffering so that they will bear more and better fruit." "These are true workers. They till their souls well, uprooting every selfish love, cultivating the soil of their love in Me."

"[Y]ou cannot do good or evil for yourself without doing the same for your neighbors." "Unless you are engrafted into Him [My Son], you are rebels against holy

Church." God is calling us to help Him "because the world is failing fast."

Future Church Celebrations with Meals after Mass

-July 27 (Sat), StA. Right after 5 p.m. Mass.

-July 31 (Wed), StI. Right after evening Mass.

-Aug 4 (Sun), OLS. Right after 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Sports-Bible Camp; July 18-19

-Days: Thursday-Friday

-Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

-Where: Fraser Valley Sports Complex.

-For boys and girls: kindergarten completed through 6th grade completed.

Calendar of Events

-Jul 7 (Sun). Coffee and donuts after 9:30 OLS Mass

-Jul 18-19 (Thu-Fri). Sports-Bible Camp

Mass Collections, June 29 – 30

St. Anne	\$ 1828
St. Bernard	1690
Our Lady of the Snow	1506
St. Peter	766
St. Ignatius	767
Total	\$ 6557

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—Men in our boundaries called to the priesthood

Sun—Women in our boundaries called to consecrated life

Mon—Men in formation for the diaconate

Tue—Women in Colorado still in formation

Wed—St. John Vianney Seminary staff

Thu—*Redemptoris Mater* Seminary staff

Fri—Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Jul 6, StA, 5 p.m., Steve McGinn

-Sat, Jul 6, StB, 5:30 p.m., Mike and Donna Sargent

-Sun, Jul 7, StB, 7 a.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sun, Jul 7, OLS, 9:30 a.m., John and Kathleen McKenna

-Sun, Jul 7, StA, 12 noon, Joseph and Annette Burbach

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Jul 8, StA, 8:30 a.m., Mark and Debbie Goulette

-Mon, **Jul 8**, OLS, 10:30 a.m. TLM, P. & K. Brownell

-Tue, Jul 9, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Peter and Kathleen Brownell

-Tue, **Jul 9**, OLS, 10:30 a.m., TLM, R. & J. Boynton

-Wed, Jul 10, StB, 8:30 a.m., Timothy and Jodee Seitz

-**Thu**, Jul 11, **OLS**, 8:30 a.m., Robert and Janice Boynton

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Jul 7, StP, 10 a.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sun, Jul 7, StI, 1 p.m., Tim and Barb Lytle

-**Fri**, Jul 12, **StP**, **7:30 a.m.**, +Harold Hillenbrand