

DEMOLITION OF THE FAITH I:

The Lost Identity Of Catholicism

<<STEADY CAM>>

Hello everyone and welcome to our all new program Dispatches .. this episode is the first part of a series of five we called - The Demolition of the Faith.

I'm your host, Michael Voris. <<GREEN CAM>>

The Catholic Church in America is enduring a SPIRITUAL DEVASTATION unlike almost anything in our history.

While its true the Bride of Christ has been faced with challenges throughout all of her 2000 year sacred history .. what we are undergoing now has never before happened .. a worldwide apostasy in both clerical and lay ranks alike.

And much of this is centered right here in the United States and is causing many of the few remaining faithful Catholics to begin to seriously consider if the Church in the US can pull out of this death spiral. <<LOOP CAM>>

ChurchMilitant.TV spent weeks pouring over data from the CHURCH ... the official numbers from the Church itself. Data going all the way back to 1785 ... more than two hundred years ... practically the entire life of the nation, so we could get a very clear picture of the life of the Church in this country.

Such a massive and thorough undertaking has never been done for the Church in the United States.

We looked at numerous categories that measure the vitality of the life of the Church ... around 43 separate categories ... remember - as recorded by the Church itself. <<STEADY CAM>>

Categories like ... the raw number of Catholics ... the rate of conversions ... the number of parishes, total seminarians, lay teachers, number of schools, the frequency of the sacraments and so forth - in short - all the markers of Catholic life and identity.

In the figures and graphs to follow, we will illustrate the numeric difference between the highest point of a category and compare it to the number that exists today. <<LOOP CAM>>

Our data is from Kennedy's Catholic Directory and Kenneth C. Jones' compilation of the Index of Leading Catholic Indicators.

With all this in mind ... we now unveil the dramatic decline ... and loss ... of the Catholic Identity in America ... <<**GREEN CAM**>>

Consider this graph that spans from 1950 to 2010 ...

According to the Catholic Directory ... the RATE of Catholic converts from 1950 to 2012 has declined by 75%.

And believe it or not . . . so have the actual RAW numbers of converts! Plummeting from roughly 120,000 converts in America in 1950 ... to just 75,000 in 2010 and THIS in the face of generally increasing raw numbers of Catholics overall.

Between 1950 and 2012, the United States Catholic population expanded from (nearly 28 million) 27,766,141 to (more than 68 million) 68,229,841 ... a 246% increase. <<**LOOP CAM**>>

If there are that many MORE Catholics in the US today, why are there so few converts?

What caused this decrease in Conversions - both in terms of the raw numbers AND the rate – a staggering data point when coupled together.

Are these tens of millions of Catholics on the official rolls really following the teachings of the Church as Catholics are meant to do – or is that one explanation for why such increased numbers of Catholics are having so little impact converting their friends and families and neighbors?

Makes one wonder ... how many REAL Catholics constitute the Catholic Population as opposed to the “Church of Nice” Catholics? <<**STEADY CAM**>>

We'll dive into this differentiation between Church of Nice Catholics and actually believing and living the Faith Catholics shortly. But first ... we have more numbers to show you concerning the Catholic laity in America.

We brought up the decrease in conversions to give those uninformed a bit of a reality check as to the real danger we're in.

These decreases strike at the very heart of the Church's sacramental life. The fewer Catholics in the pipeline so to speak ... the less sacraments are received both now and in the future.

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For example ... the number of Adult Baptisms has decreased ... not just the rate, but the actual raw numbers ... from a high point in 1994 of 80,000 ... to just 43,000 in 2012.

That's a 46% decrease! Almost 50%. Adult Baptisms in America have been cut in half in just 20 years.

What about Baptism for infants? Get this ...

The high point was in 1962 with a total of about 1.3 million ... and now there are less than 800,000. That's a decrease of almost 40%! So much for cradle Catholics! <<**LOOP CAM**>>

As contraception and abortion become more and more accepted among Catholics ... it only follows that there would be less infant baptisms because there are less infants.

Perhaps more than any other single cause ... contraception among Catholics has taken a huge toll in destroying the Church in America – <<**STEADY CAM**>>

In 2011 - an impressive team of highly respected Catholic educators and researchers released results from a national survey they authored of fellow Catholics.

They asked Catholics to place themselves in one of three categories that they felt best described their commitment level to the Church - highly committed, moderately committed and low commitment.

Before we go deeper into the numbers and what they reveal - let's look at the overview.

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In 2011 - 19 percent (about 1 in five) Catholics regarded themselves as highly committed.

66 percent (2 out of 3) self-identified as moderately committed and 14 percent as having a low level of commitment.

Tellingly ... the percentage of Catholics who consider themselves "highly committed" has dropped 30 percent in the past quarter century. In 1987 .. more than 1 in 4 viewed themselves this way. Now it's one in five.

At the same time ... the ranks of the self-identified moderate Catholics shot up by 14 percent.

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No doubt about it .. Catholics are becoming more and more lukewarm and indifferent about the Faith.

But when you dig deeper into these numbers... the reality of the damage the Church has undergone is breathtaking.

In that group of Catholics who self-identify as “highly committed” (which according to the polling methodology means they said - they attend Mass frequently, said the Church was very important to them personally and they would be very unlikely to ever leave the Church) among THIS group ... which again is 1 in 5 Catholics in America ... the cream of the crop so to speak ... get this ... <<GREEN CAM>>

...we have 60% supporting birth control, a third believing that abortion is OK and they can still go to heaven committing these acts and supporting these things.

Consider this picture for just a moment. 4 out of five Catholics admit they are not really highly committed to the faith. That’s troublesome enough.

But then among the ones who DO consider themselves highly committed ... over half of them reject the Church’s dogmatic teaching on birth control.

But just as the old saying goes - there’s no such thing as just one cockroach - it is the case in the Church that if you jettison one dogma, you’ll jettison others.

<<LOOP CAM>>

In this same group of “highly committed”... half say going to weekly Mass isn’t a necessity ... denying the Third Commandment and supporting mortal sin ... half say that being married in the church isn’t necessary and divorce and re-marriage is acceptable, thus denying the Sixth Commandment, half support women priests, and two-thirds say you can disagree with Church teaching and still be a ”good” Catholic.

And again, this is all from the very group who self-identify as highly committed Catholics. The top twenty percent. One wonders exactly what they are exactly committed to .. cuz it sure ain’t the Church. If this is the best ... what is going on with the other 80 percent of Catholics?

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What's the picture here? In a typical parish Sunday Mass, half the people present disagree with fundamental Catholic teaching - HALF! Meaning ... if YOU support ALL Church teaching ... the odds are that the person sitting next you doesn't share the same faith - right there in your pew .. right next to you .. reaching out to grab hold your hand during the Our Father – exhibiting a unity that doesn't exist.

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60% of American Catholics believe the Church is wrong on abortion and have succumbed to the Culture of Death.

Unsurprisingly two-thirds of this two-thirds majority of Catholics ... a majority of the majority .. believe the issue of contraception and abortion should be left to the individual to follow his own conscience and get this 53% over half of them believe individuals have final say whether sex outside of marriage is okay or not .. not the Church.

Let's talk now about the levels of participation in the sacraments by US Catholics.

63% of moderate Catholics in the US disagree with the Teaching Authority of the Church on the necessity of the Sacraments?

Look here ...

Our ChurchMilitant.TV research reflects that between 2001 and 2012 ... the number of first holy communions declined from 900,000 to less than 800,000 ... a decrease of 12% .. remember all the while with the raw number of Catholics actually increasing. <<LOOP CAM>>

That's a loss of one percent per year. If the raw number of Catholics is increasing each year ... then why is the participation rate in the sacraments actually declining? Why are 12% fewer children being prepared to receive the body and blood of our Lord?

One of the most central beliefs of the Catholic Church ... the Real Presence ... meaning that Jesus Christ is present, really, truly and substantially body, blood, soul, and divinity under the appearance of bread and wine - this teaching is believed by only HALF of Catholics. <<GREEN CAM>>

What about Weekly Mass Attendance?

77% believe they can be a good catholic without attending weekly mass.

AND this single response reveals a whole huge underlying problem ... not among the liberal and modernist gang in the Church, but among those that are usually identified as “good” Catholics. They go to Mass and they don’t know what it is!

Continuing with the Sacraments ... the number of Confirmations was at a high in 2004 of 645,000 and has declined to 618,000. That’s a decrease of 6% in 10 years. For a church whose was given the mission to go out to all nations, this is nothing less than an epic fail. <<LOOP CAM>>

Confirmation is a sacrament of commitment. It is a Catholic’s way of wedding one’s self to the Church of Christ. Now 6% less make this oath. And many who do make this oath fail to uphold it. Just press rewind and look at what we said about the “highly committed Catholics”.

Now we’ll take a look at another sacrament which has become one of the greatest tragedies in America .. the death of Marriage. <<GREEN CAM>>

In the US census ... the marriage rate from 1970 was 10.6 per thousand population. In 2010 the rate had dropped to 6.8 ... a decrease in the overall US marriage rate of 36 percent in 40 years.

Now for Catholic Marriages ...

By direct comparison ... there were 417,000 Catholic weddings in 1970. By 2010, the raw numbers had dropped precipitously to just 180,000 ... a drop of 57 percent and blazing the trail in the United States. <<STEADY CAM>>

So, here’s the issue ... for decades the official ... and we say official for a reason ... the official number of Catholics has been increasing markedly, but the number of Catholics actually believing and practicing their faith is in steep steep decline.

How much longer before this house of cards totally collapses?

Given this reality surrounding Catholic marriage ... it should come as no surprise that half of all American Catholics reject the Church’s definition of a valid marriage ... <<GREEM CAM>>

57% of American Catholics believe they can be good Catholics without following Church teaching on same-sex marriage.

67% of American Catholics believe that they can be a good catholic without adhering to the church’s teaching on divorce and remarriage.

This certainly puts things into perspective who's in the Church of Nice and who's in the Catholic Church ... doesn't it? <<**LOOP CAM**>>

Everything in this episode answers this question ... this is what this is all about ... the Catholic identity.

The Identity of something or someone is a constitution of characteristics that describes one thing or one being. And yet many who do not possess the characteristics of the Catholic Identity persist in still claiming to have it. <<**GREEN CAM**>>

61% of Catholics in America support women as Catholic priests.

And where do the Catholics of America stand in the big picture? 70% of Catholics in America view the Teaching Authority of the Vatican as not an important aspect to their identity as Catholics.

What can be gleaned from all this? Why this departure from the faith? Why call themselves Catholic if they act nothing like they claim?

The Catholic Population is 22% of the US Population ... though a survey cannot calculate which of that amount are true to the faith ... one can certainly estimate which are not. <<**LOOP CAM**>>

Have we lost our Catholic identity? Before that question can even begin to be answered .. we have to ask an even more fundamental one .. do Catholics today even know what being Catholic means?

God Love You. I'm Michael Voris.