

What is Missing from the Following Sentence?

You must follow your conscience.

The previous sentence is a correct statement, but it is missing something. Here is the corrected sentence:
You must follow your conscience AND you have a duty to form it correctly from the teachings handed down by Jesus Christ through His Church.

If my conscience is in error and I follow it, I will make many mistakes and fall into many sins.

Recently in the *Sky-Hi News*, you may have read an article from one of the churches. Part of it said:

“We honor the vast possibilities of human self-expression and the infinite variety of God’s creation. We celebrate diversity in gender, age, culture, ethnicity, sexuality, profession, language and other facets of human identity, and value the gifts that each individual brings to the whole... Mindful of God’s limitless grace and our salvation in Christ Jesus, we believe there are no outcasts from God’s table.”

We can use this ad to learn a lot. At first this ad may sound really good. Obviously, this church wants all people to feel welcome, which is a good thing. The questions for all churches—including ours—are: **Once this diversity of people come to a church, will they be taught the truths contained in God’s Bible? Will they be taught about virtuous living in Christ, or will they be told that certain sinful behaviors are okay?**

Since this ad was put out into the public forum, let’s learn from it in our bulletin—in a public forum. First, just so you know, several parishioners told me that they felt the ad implied that the Catholic Church did not welcome people—that the ad was an “attack” against us. Having a good rapport with many Protestant ministers in the valley, I think they would also think it was a slight “attack” against their churches, also.

Our hope is that this church that placed the ad—and all churches—will teach the truth. By the way, I get along well with the pastor who placed the ad.

Hosea 4:6 states: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge.” Using examples and discussing various Bible verses, let’s learn some truth and theology together. When we correct each other with truth, we are not judging each other; instead, we care about each other. Truth is love, not judgment. In a gentle, peaceful conversation with those who wrote this ad, I would make the points that follow.

Of course, God loves all of us, even when we sin, and even if we have serious interior trials or dispositions. However, He does want us to make changes and grow in holiness and to be with Him forever in heaven. So we

should want to help each other love God, behave as children of God, and grow in holiness.

Notice what Jesus said in **Luke 9:23-24**: “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

Notice that He did not tell us to stay turned in on ourselves and do what we want. He did not tell us to take the path of least resistance and have a comfortable life.

Let’s look at a simple example. Suppose Billy Ray stole \$100 worth of stuff every week, and he came to Mass every week. Questions: (1) Was he born with a “thief” gene? (2) Should he tell the whole congregation that he is a thief? (3) Should the congregation celebrate Billy Ray’s problem and honor his self-expression of theft? (4) Should he come to Holy Communion right away?

Correct answers: (1) He was not born with a “thief” gene. He chooses to steal. If he loves God and neighbor, he will choose not to steal anymore—even though he may be tempted strongly. [Even if people want to use the genetic argument—“He was born that way”—Billy Ray can choose not to steal.] (2) He should only tell the priest in the confessional, and maybe a confidential spiritual director or friend. He doesn’t need to broadcast his problem. (3) The congregation should not know of his problem, and we don’t celebrate problems and/or sins; we celebrate the fact that God gives us the grace to walk with Him, and we acknowledge the dignity of Billy Ray, a human person. (4) God says through St. Paul that all of us should go to the Sacrament of Confession before receiving Holy Communion, if we are aware of mortal sin. (See **1 Corinthians 11:27-30**.)

St. Rose of Lima understands what Jesus says in Luke 9:23-24. She said, “**Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.**”

What is a simple definition of “the Cross”? The Cross is following Jesus and doing what He wants, no matter how difficult it is.

All of us have several crosses to bear. We can either grow in holiness as we bear them in humility and learn from them, or we can run away and follow the “god of convenience”—the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Here are a few examples of “the Cross”:

- 1) Some people grew up in families that did not go to Mass very often, and so for them, it is difficult to come to Mass. By making the sacrifice to come to Mass weekly, they can receive graces to get to heaven.
- 2) Some people have a difficult time going to Confession, praying the Rosary, reading the Bible, etc. But these are all things God wants us to do.

- 3) Some people have difficult family situations or children or spouses.
- 4) Some people have chronic infirmities, birth defects, mental conditions, disabilities, etc.
- 5) Some people have financial burdens.
- 6) Many people have unwanted thoughts, feelings, and compulsions. These are not sins. They are just unwanted temptations. Feelings are not facts.
- 7) You fill in the blank—you know your crosses.

In spite of all our difficulties, we choose to renounce ourselves, walk with our crosses, and follow Jesus. When we run away from Him, we are running away from our true peace and possibly eternal life.

The Catholic Church, established by Jesus Christ, welcomes all peoples (sinners and saints, confused and non-confused, and those with serious interior trials) **AND** She teaches the truth of Christ so that people can be set free. The Catholic Church teaches the virtue of hope, and teaches us to go against the vice of despair (“I cannot be saved.”) and to go against the vice of presumption (“All people are going to heaven, even those who commit grievous sins and don’t repent.”) The Catholic Church teaches what sin is and how to renounce it and avoid it. We pray with all kinds of people, including those with addictions, deep-seated issues, and gender confusion. (We even created a fund to help people pay for therapy sessions.) The Catholic Church teaches us how powerful the sacraments are and how we can grow to become like Jesus, as He enters into our body and soul. The Catholic Church teaches us to follow Christ and how to carry our crosses. The Catholic Church has both Jesus **AND** the Cross. God speaks through St. Paul in **Colossians 1:24**: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of His body, which is the Church.”

Some churches—not all—want Jesus, but don’t want the Cross. They want an easy path. This is the temptation for all of us—to become our own god and have a comfortable life. This is one reason people leave the Catholic Church. They are told that they will be saved no matter what they do, and that the Catholic Church has too many rules. But Jesus said in **John 14:15**, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” God gave us the commandments and rules to “keep His children in the playpen” and so they don’t “tear up the House.”

The Catholic Church teaches that there are two sexes—male and female. **Genesis 1:27** states: “God created mankind in His image; in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” The Church teaches that there are two genders—Prince of the Lord and Princess of the Lord (after valid Baptism). Even though the world wants to tell God that He is wrong (some sociologists and psychologists are now saying there are 63 genders), we will listen to God, and not to

the world. If a man comes to church and thinks he is a female kangaroo, we will love him and get him the help he needs to grow into his identity as a Prince of the Lord. If he rejects the love and help, we will keep praying for him. The Church did not reject him or make him an outcast; he rejected God and did not want help. If people truly choose to resist God and His teachings, and we tell them that it is okay to do this, this is not love. We end up affirming their destructive path.

God’s table is called an altar. On our altars, the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ is re-presented to the Father every day—a solemn event. No one is excluded from coming to Mass and receiving grace. No one is excluded from worshipping the Father and thanking Jesus for what He did on the Cross. No one is an outcast. However, there may be times when we will have to make a spiritual Communion (ask Jesus into our hearts invisibly), and not receive Jesus physically in Holy Communion because we are not ready yet (not in right relationship with Him). Sometimes we have to show humility and make a sacramental Confession first to receive God’s healing grace before receiving Jesus in Communion.

If you want to know what the Church teaches, get a Catechism. There are times when people say, “Well, our priest at [church name] doesn’t teach [this or that].” My answer is, “But what is the truth? The truth sets us free, not emotions, not opinions, not political correctness, and not omitting truths.” Priests are supposed to pass on what Jesus taught, not give their own theological-ideological opinions.

We welcome all to the Catholic Church. We help each other renounce ourselves, pick up our crosses, and follow Jesus Christ—the way, the truth, and the life. The national conversation should center around God and His goodness. We must be true examples of holiness to the youth. We teach what Christ taught, wanting each person to know, love, and serve God in this life, so that he or she can be happy with Him forever in the next life.

Please Pray for Ireland

On May 25, the Irish people will be asked to vote to retain or repeal the 8th Amendment to their Constitution, which is the only legal protection any unborn child has at present in Ireland. The vote literally is a life or death issue for this predominantly Catholic country.

Let us join our prayers with those all over the world that the Irish people will choose life.

You may enjoy the following video from an Irishman: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyYAj8vGsJM&feature=em-share_video_user

Welcome to the Altar of Jesus on May 13, 2018

Princes and Princesses receiving First Holy Communion: Saul Cereceres; Kimberly Cereceres; Erick Alexis Rosas Valente; Abril Flores Mario Silva

This Weekend We will Consecrate Our Five Churches to Jesus through Mary

The priest will lead a prayer after Mass, and then you will pray a short prayer from a card, and then one decade of the Rosary. Here is the prayer that Fr. Peter will say:

I, Father Peter, at the request of Fr. Michael Freihofer, Pastor of the five churches of Grand and Jackson Counties, Colorado, pray the following from the depths of my heart:

O Blessed Mother Mary, on this weekend that celebrates the 101st anniversary of your appearances to the three children at Fatima, we come before you in praise of your faith and your trust in Almighty God. The Father chose you before time to bear His Son, and He prepared you, by the power of the Holy Spirit and through a unique gift of grace, to be the worthy Mother of our salvation. Today we entrust to you this Church, (St. Anne or St. Bernard of Montjoux or Our Lady of the Snow or St. Peter or St. Ignatius). We ask you to bless, in the name of your divine Son, every family, every home and every place of work within it.

Through your prayers, may we work for the proclamation of the Gospel, seeking always to laud and magnify God’s holy name in every pastoral work in which we engage. We place under your patronage and we entrust to you every society and organization of this church. Inspire within us a deeper faith, an ardent hope, and a more selfless love so that we may serve the Church your Son has founded and work with Him for the salvation of all. O Mother of Divine Love, O Cause of Our Joy, O Queen of All Saints, hear the prayers we offer you, and make of us a gift fitting of your most holy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Note Some Charisms (Special Gifts) of the Holy Spirit

Acts of mercy, administration, apostleship (bishops), casting out demons (deliverance/exorcism), discernment of spirits, evangelizing, exhortation (preaching), faith, handling serpents (power over evil), healing, inspired singing (hymns or psalms), interpretation of tongues, martyrdom, miracles, pastoring, presiding (leadership), prophecy, revelation, service/helping ministry, teaching (catechizing), tongues (praying, singing, speaking), voluntary poverty, word of knowledge, word of wisdom.

Which of these has the Lord given to you? Are you using them to build up His Church?

Pentecost is Next Weekend—Wear Red Clothing

St. Anne Prayer Garden Fund Raiser Garage Sale

May 25, 26 and 28 (half price on this day). Proceeds go to establishing a prayer garden at St. Anne’s Church in Grand Lake. Donations are needed of new/slightly used items. Please no tube TVs, mattresses, baby cribs or hide-a-bed sofas. Volunteers are needed to mark, sort and work days of the sale. Please call Steve/Jan Robar

(970-887-2000) to volunteer, for pickup of items or with questions. Tax donation slips are available.

Totus Tuus Vacation Bible School; June 17 – 22

Our Lady of the Snow. \$20 donation to offset the cost. Grades 1-6: Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; grades 7-12: Sun – Thur, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Be sure to pack a lunch and snacks for your children.)

Sports-Bible Camp; July 19-20

- 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.
- Typical sports: **volleyball** (the best), basketball, soccer, football, cheerleading, martial arts. -No cost.

Calendar of Events

- May 13 (Sun)**. First Communion at St. Peter, 10 a.m. Consecration of our five churches to Jesus through Mary.
- Jun 17-22 (Sun-Fri)**. *Totus Tuus* Vacation Bible School
- Jun 23 (Sat)**. Mass resumes at StB; 5:30 p.m.
- Jul 19-20 (Thu-Fri)**. Sports-Bible Camp in Fraser

<u>Mass Collections, May 5 – 6</u>	
St. Anne	\$ 1513
St. Bernard	910
Our Lady of the Snow	939
St. Peter	821
St. Ignatius	<u>325</u>
Total	\$ 4508

<u>Vocations Prayer Calendar</u> <i>Please pray for our seminarians every day.</i> Sat —Blaise Buches & Daniel Rivas Sun —Jason DiRito & Rommy Goyes Mon —David Hall & Drew Jones Tue —Drazen Hosi & Javier Moretton Wed —Jun Pham & Owen Limarta Thu —Trevor Lontine & Kyle McDonald Fri —Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

<u>Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS</u> KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard; OLS = Our Lady of the Snow <u>Weekend Masses</u> -Sat, May 12, StA, 5 p.m., Rick and Valerie Steineck -Sun, May 13, StB, 7 a.m., People in our region & visitors -Sun, May 13, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Bernard McGinn <u>Weekday Masses</u> -Mon, May 14, StA, 8:30 a.m., Mary Wells -Tue, May 15, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Peter and Ruth McGinn -Wed, May 16, StB, 8:30 a.m., Zachary Hayes -Thu, May 17, OLS, 8:30 a.m. , Zachary Hayes -Fri, May 18, OLS, 8:30 a.m. , Fr. Peter’s intention
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<u>Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI</u> KEY: StI = St. Ignatius (Walden); StP = St. Peter -Sun, May 13, StP, 10 a.m., First Holy Communicants -Sun, May 13, StI, 4 p.m., People in our region & visitors
