

Zany Sermons Heard at St. Bozo's Parish



Do you ever sit through a sermon thinking, "I'd like to respond to that"? Here, selected from a large collection, are paraphrased snippets from sermons delivered by the legendary Fr. Flapdoodle at St. Bozo's Semi-Catholic parish. To each we give the response it deserves. See if you agree.

Fr. Flapdoodle: "What are you drawn to in a church? You're attracted to *life!* You're not attracted to a church that preaches rules and regulations and morality, that says you're going to Hell if you do this or that."

Response: Well, Father, if people won't receive moral wisdom in church that will guide them to Heaven, why would they go to church at all? After all, there's plenty of "*life!*" outside the church building. Does this prevalent attitude of yours explain the sharp drop-off in Mass attendance? Are people staying away or switching to evangelical churches, not because they're given moral guidance, but because they aren't?

Fr. F. (in a farewell sermon for his assistant priest who is moving to another parish): "I'm glad he's leaving because he's a lady's man and has quite a nightlife, and with him gone there'll be more beautiful women available for me."

Response: An attempt at humor, Father? If a priest's vow of celibacy is a laughing matter, shall I treat my marriage vows likewise? My wife wouldn't be amused. Is this how you fortify your parishioners to face the challenges and temptations of the coming week?

Fr. F.: "It's Thanksgiving, and perhaps many of you parents are unhappy because your kids are doing things you don't approve of. Well, I've got news for you: There's no such thing as a perfect family. So just sit down with them at the Thanksgiving table and be thankful for them just the way they are."

Response: A Catholic couple told me about their Thanksgiving dinner last year: Their son snuck outside to smoke a joint, and their daughter announced that she and her boyfriend had to get back to their apartment because they had "things" to do. Many parents would be profoundly thankful if they ever heard a sermon on how to deal with, not ignore, such decadence.

Fr. F. (at a funeral Mass for a murdered man): "I don't know why this happened. No one knows why. Even God doesn't know." Later in the sermon, Father addressed this injunction to the man's children: "You have your Dad's DNA. Take his energy into your future!"

Response: So at this solemn moment when the bereaved need most acutely to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, you give them limp agnosticism and pop genetics — but not Catholicism. You portray God as befuddled about His own creation, and direct the man's children to place their hope, not in God but in their DNA.

No doubt you could add some choice snippets of your own (send 'em in and maybe we'll put 'em in an ad!).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and He commissioned His priests to shepherd His flock and guard it from the wolves. But in many parishes — even where the sermons aren't exactly zany — we aren't being shepherded with Catholic truth or wise counsel, and we're left unprotected from the wolves of our depraved culture.

We at the NEW OXFORD REVIEW, an orthodox Catholic monthly magazine, stand up to the wolves — and urge pastors to do likewise. Protect yourself and/or your family! Subscribe today!

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