

THE ATTACKS ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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(Interviewer) Thank you Rick for being again with us and giving us part of your busy work schedule around the world. It is good that you stopped in Panama.

Currently in the world, Catholics are feeling quite a bit the blows that the Catholic Church is receiving, born of inappropriate behavior of many who bear the responsibility to convey God's message. How does the Father feel in light of what is happening with what His Son founded; being Jesus the Head of the Church?

(Rick) I think you have to understand first that all around the world Catholics are abandoning the Church for the last 25 years. We as Catholics do not understand our faith... and because we do not understand it, we do not value it... and if you do not value something that you have, if you have never had to work for it, you have never had to fight for it, it has been given to you freely and it does not mean enough to you for you to understand it, then you can give it away easily... without it meaning a thing to you. You can go and search for other things that you hope will fulfill you without understanding that what you have already in the palm of your hand as a Catholic is the greatest gift ever given. And we do not understand this... We do not understand the gift that we have been given by God. We are the only faith on earth that has the living, the true Presence of God... the only one... nobody has this, no other faith. We are the only faith on earth that has the Sacraments, the gifts given by God for His children to help us to understand this life, understand who we are and to get close to Him... And understand Him in a way that no one else can.

We need to start asking ourselves a question: 'Why is it that every time a priest does something anywhere in the world, within hours, all over the world, we hear what this priest has done... why is this that the attention is on the Catholic Church, the slightest problem is all over the world... why the attack on the Catholic Faith? Yes, as in other societies, in other faiths, we have men who make mistakes...we have men who are in the Church who



had done some terrible things... yes, but the attention that this is getting... why don't we hear about people of other faiths doing the same thing? Why do we only hear continually about this priest, that priest, why is it continual? And the answer is that the Catholic Faith, the chosen children of God for these times, it is the Catholic Faith that the enemy of God knows houses the Truth, houses the Presence of Our Lord. No other faith has these Sacraments. The Eucharist is something so special, this Presence of the Trinity... it is so special. Even the enemy of God understands this. Why do we have people stealing the Eucharist? For what reason would a little piece of bread have any meaning for people to break into churches and to steal this little wafer if it was only just a wafer... Why would they go through all that problem? Because the enemy of God understands the significance of the Eucharist. As Catholics, we do not understand it. We do not understand the Bible, we do not understand the Ten Commandments as we should, we do not even understand our Catechism that explains our Faith. In these times we have become Catholics of obligation. One hour per week and we have fulfilled our obligation; but that is not faith... that is not the Love of God... it is simply an obligation.

If you look at people carefully on a Sunday in church, everyone is talking, looking at their watch, chewing gum... thinking of everything except on the miracle that is about to happen within the Mass... the sacrifice that is actually occurring for the love of us and we could care less because we do not know, we have no idea of what is happening. We are there because we have to be... most people. Do we prepare for five minutes before, ten minutes before as we should? No... Do we stay five minutes or ten minutes after giving thanks to God for what we have just received? No... The minute the priest says it is the end of the Mass, we are out of the door as fast as our feet can get and we are on the porch of the church talking, gossiping again against one another. We do not understand... and this is one thing that has to be restored: the understanding of the Word of God. Other faiths know this much better than we do, and yet we are the chosen children of God for these times and we do not even understand who we are... this great inheritance we have been given freely; we do not value it, all we do is



at the minute that something happens, we point... this priest, this bishop, this cardinal, this pope... it's all we do.