

## **First Sunday of Lent February 21, 2010**

In today's Sacred Scriptures it mentions the Devil tempting Christ.

What is our concept of the Devil or Satan?

Is he just a figment of the imagination?

St. Pius X said that the greatest success of the Devil is that he has us believing that he does not exist.

Some of us are convinced that the Devil is a comical character wearing long red underwear, with a tail, horns on his head, and a pitch fork in his hand.

Mentioning all that resurrects the theme of this homily. The title:

### **"If I were the Devil, What Would I Do?"**

#### **"If I Were the Devil....."**

As the Devil I would tell you that going to confession during Lent is not necessary. It is just an option, a suggestion, not that important, just skip it!

Also I would play on your embarrassment, guilt, difficulty in confessing.....

I would hope that you don't subscribe to the Catholic Times, it costs too much!

As the Devil I would want you to be very critical of priests, nuns and other religious. In particular, demanding perfection even though they are human beings, just like yourselves.

I would tempt you to often use phrases like: later, not now, call me, I'll see...

As the Devil, I would hope to convince you that it is not necessary to receive Holy Communion each time you attend Mass or that the Mass and Holy Communion are not that important.

I would try to convince you that penance, sacrifice, mortification, daily Mass, or attending weekday Masses is antiquated. That stations of the cross and benediction are old fashioned.

As the Devil I would tell you that it is not necessary for your children to have a Catholic Education, either at our grade school or through our PSR program (Parish School of Religion).

I would hope that you would see God as a task master, a judge, a policeman, not as a father, your creator, merciful and patient.

As the Devil, I would try to lead you to believe that it is not necessary to ask one another for forgiveness, or to apologize, to say, "I'm sorry, forgive me, my fault."

As the Devil I would tell you that it is not important to be on time for Mass, or it doesn't matter if you leave early.

Cleverly, as the Devil, I would try to minimize the importance of being active in your parish; I'd tell you not to worry about it, someone else will do it.

Hopefully and erroneously, I would suggest to you, as the Devil, that you view abortion, immigration, war and unemployment as political issues, rather than moral issues.

Yes, if I were the Devil, I would not attack your belief in the power of prayer but plague you with distractions, and discouragement.

I would still put questions in your mind about the need for a new church building.

As the Devil, I would harass you about the stupidity of singing and verbally participating in your Mass. I would cater to your laziness and indifference by mentioning to you the ridiculousness of participation at and in the Mass.

I would hope that you ignore WARM/Paul's Pantry, and protest the second collections, by not sharing what you have.

I would hope that you see no relationship or Christian connection with bond issues, tax levies, and welfare issues on the ballot, ignoring brotherhood, charity and justice.

I would play on your fears, doubts, anxieties, more than upon your hope and trust in God.

As the Devil, I hope you believe that God will end the world; but these days, as the Devil, I am convinced that mankind will destroy themselves, and not God.

Yes, as the Devil, I think for the first time in history, I can now retire, because I have so many people working for me.

I will retire and let people do themselves in and do themselves out!

And finally, as the Devil, the most subtle temptation that I would throw at you today.... Is for you to ignore what I have just said to you.