



Pray for your priest and church.

As the men turned and walked on toward Sodom, Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said: "Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous people in the city; would you really sweep away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to kill the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike! Far be it from you! Should not the judge of all the world do what is just?" The LORD replied: If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake... "Please, do not let my Lord be angry if I speak up this last time. What if ten are found there?" For the sake of the ten, he replied, I will not destroy it. (Genesis 18:22-32)

Many are looking for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, they are comparing events happening around us: moral degradation, shrinking number of people going to churches, cataclysm etc. and predicting that it will happen soon. It is coming, if not tomorrow then the day after tomorrow. With such predictions it is easy to forget that our job is to do the will of God (Matthew 7:21), not to wait and do nothing.

In Book of Genesis, chapter 18, God said; *"For the sake of the ten, I will not destroy it."*

Bab edh-Dhra, better known as Sodom, estimated population at the time of the destruction was between 600-1200.¹ This give us 0.85-1.67% righteous people as required threshold to avoid the destruction. If we look around today we may find more than two righteous, (doesn't mean holy), for every hundred people. We have to realize that the day of the return of our Lord may not happen soon, and at the same time remember that we can be called to stand at the front of Him any time, any minute. If we want to be found worthy of His promises we have to be ready and not waste the time given to us. To guide us in our voyage God gives us the Holy Catholic Church with its priests.

The purpose of the Church and priests is to serve God for the salvation of souls. For this reason they hold a special place in society, and for this reason priests and the Catholic Church are especially targeted by our enemy, the enemy of God, Satan. St. Peter in his 1st letter, 5:8, warns us: *"Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*

Evil spirits are intelligent, they know that the priest representing God and Church can over his lifetime influence thousands of people. Holy priest will help save many souls, corrupt ones will guide them to hell. Evil forces put extreme pressure on priests to make them to neglect their duty in order to increase the numbers of lost souls and to discredit the Catholic Church as a whole.

Sadly on many occasions parishioners unknowingly may have a bad influence on their priest, keeping him occupied with too many activities which often turns churches into social clubs. Many times they will try to influence the priest to liberalize, to soften his preaching, or they are so nice to their shepherd that it becomes difficult for him to take strong, unpopular positions, fight bad behaviors, and do the job he was called for, guiding his flock to heaven.

¹ <http://www.accuracyingenesis.com/sodom.html>

About the future of those priests who cave, we learn from Matthew 7:22-23 *"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'"*

In this battle priests need as much help as they can get. For this reason parishioners in their own interest, for their own salvation have to: love their priests, help with challenges, and enthusiastically pray for them.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)

"You shall love the God". This commandment mandate us to love God and the greater gift from Him to human kind, this gift is the Holy Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is a chest full of treasure, full of God's mercy, and is not locked like other treasure chests. It is open to everybody, just come join and take, and take again and again. The only church built on our Lord's Jesus Christ, the Son of God and His sacrifice, standing on two pillars, Holy Bible and Tradition. The shortest road to Heaven.

When we step into a building of the Catholic Church everything is God's love and mercy. Holy Water, The Sign of the Cross, the High Altar with the Tabernacle, holding the Prisoner of Love, our Lord Jesus Christ. Side altars, the Way of the Cross, confessionals, statues and images. In this building the door to Heaven is opened through confession, the miracle of Holy Communion and other sacraments performed by a priest ordained by the Bishop, a descendant of the apostles. In this building the teaching of our Lord and His Church are organized in the liturgical year, with holidays and feasts that are enriched by the wisdom of God revealed through saints in their extraordinary lives. His wisdom is revealed to the faithful, showing the way to Heaven. The Treasury of Prayers is in action: the Rosary, First Friday and First Saturday Devotions, and the Indulgences and promises of our Lord and His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, are obtainable. **The Catholic Church is God's love and mercy which flows out through priests in local churches.**

Sadly for many years we see the numbers of parishioners in many churches, especially in urban areas shrinking. So many churches which in the past had six, seven masses, and were fully packed on Sunday, today have two or three with decreasing number of attendees.

Mandates of love, love of Catholic Church and individual churches we are members of, and love of neighbor, demands action on our part.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."
(Matthew 7:7)

We have to ask for holy priests, ask for increasing numbers in our churches, ask for conversion of people of all faiths, ask for a revitalized Catholic Church, "ask and it will be given to you... and you will find the way... and the door will be opened."

Prayer for our Church

Most gracious God. Thou art good and kind, full of mercy for all who call upon Thee. Restore us O Lord and lay aside Thy indignation against us. Incline Thy ears to our prayers, and by the infusion of the Holy Spirit sanctify our Bishop(s) [N], priest(s), Father(s) [N]. Gather Thy children around him (them), increase our numbers, and fill our hearts with Thy love. Make our church, the Church of [N], the place of conversion for people of all faiths, and an instrument to restore and revitalize the Holy Catholic Church. Through the same Christ our Lord, Amen. Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God pray for us. All Saints and Holy Souls in purgatory, pray for us.