

services every Sunday, with each one packed with crowds of people. After the service I would stand outside to bless the people, including the children. Catholics have a high regard for the priest in India, and long to get his blessing. They would surround me to get my blessing, because they believed it was from God.

My life as a Catholic priest was very active. Over time I visited all the families in the church and got to know them. I found out there were many broken lives in the church – meaning many broken families. As a priest I was supposed to recite daily prayers and rosaries. I would carry my rosary everywhere. I would carry it in my hand and recite the rosary three or four times a day. If ever I forgot it I would pray, “Mother Mary, I am sorry I forgot my rosary.”

One of my strongest desires from the beginning of my priesthood was to become a great preacher of Mother Mary.

Each day of the week I would have different main prayer person. On Sunday at 3 pm, I would kneel and pray to Jesus. On Monday I would pray to Mary. On Tuesday I would pray for myself (Anthony). On Wednesday I would pray to ‘Baby Jesus.’ On Thursday I would recite the rosary and pray to the saints. Yet, in spite of all these prayers, I experienced emptiness in my heart.

Although I was very active in my religious life; had a full church, said many prayers and conducted Mass frequently – I still felt empty! When I went to bed at night I felt this emptiness most acutely.

People would come to me to confess their sins, and I would absolve them of all their sins. But I John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Therefore, as a Catholic priest I was not following the Word of God. I was trying to take the place of God. In all of my Catholic practices and rites there was no connection with Jesus and the Father.

Every September 8 on my birthday I would have a special devotion to Mother Mary. Still, it didn’t give any connection to Jesus or the Father. I said to God,

“With all these things, the broken families I am trying to minister to and help can’t experience your fullness. What is wrong, Lord?”

It was at this point in my life that God took me along a path to show me what is happening in the Catholic Church. I started to explore and look for an answer. By the grace of God I met a ‘brother’ who witnessed to me. He told me there is only one Mediator between God and men. He showed me John 14:6, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” He said there is no Mediator but Jesus, and the Catholic Church makes Mary a Co-Mediatrix with Jesus. This difference puts the Catholic Church and the Bible in conflict with one another. “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Timothy 1:5-6)

Having heard these things I said, “Brother, I want to know more.” I trained for 12 years to be a Catholic priest only to find that Jesus only is the Mediator between God and men. I went to four different churches to hear the preaching services. There I heard the gospel message. I learned from this experience that the Catholic Church teaches, ‘Tradition and the Bible go hand in hand.’ The gospel churches preach Jesus from the Bible. It is Jesus (the Word) alone from the Bible Who is the answer. I continued for ten days under this gospel preaching and teaching.

On the last day of the meetings I repented of my sin, and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ in my heart. I prayed to Him saying, “Jesus, You alone are my Mediator, the way, the truth, and the life.” I got saved at that moment and perfect peace came into my heart. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Up to that point in my life I had glory in the Catholic Church from the people, but absolutely nothing satisfying the deepest needs of my heart, which was salvation and a connection (relationship) with Jesus and the Father. Now I wanted to preach the gospel alone to the people in my church. Those were the

people who were so good and friendly and kind, and needed the Lord themselves – like I did. I said, “Jesus, use me! They should love You like me.”

In October, 2013, I decided, “I will preach the truth no matter what! You are my Master; use me.” I asked the senior priest for permission to hold a worship service in the night. He said, “Anthony, do all you want.” I announced on the first Sunday of the month, a whole night of prayer saying, “You may bring your rosary but be sure to come with a Bible.

[Parenthesis – At this point in his testimony Anthony goes through a five minute or longer liturgy in Latin as he did as a Catholic priest. He is wearing his white priest’s garments. It is all memorized and very captivating. If you did not know the Bible this type of ceremony would deceive you.]

Every first Sunday of the month we would open and read our Bibles in the night service. People started to ‘see’ spiritually. Other priests invited me to their churches. They started night services. Less people came to the day services, and more to the night services. Yet, my fellow priests would pray to Mother Mary. I asked them, “Do you love Mother Mary?” They said, “Yes, we do!” So I answered, “Therefore, do what Mother Mary says.” She says, “Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.” (John 2:5b). The senior priest interrupting me said, “Anthony!” I replied to him, “It’s about Jesus, not me. Father, the Word of God says this.” Then he walked out.

The people wanted me to preach the Bible to them. I said, “This preaching is the Word of God, not my ideas.” Soon they cancelled me from the services. But before this happened more than 500 people came to know the Lord. But I didn’t stop preaching. They couldn’t keep me quiet. I had to preach Jesus like in the Book of Acts. “And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:18-20). When you know Jesus personally you cannot keep quiet.

A young person said to me, “My parents go to confession, pray the rosary, pray to Mary and the saints, attend Mass, etc, etc. Why do they do this?” I explained to him, “The Catholic Church passes its Tradition on from generation to generation. But the Bible says in Exodus 20:3, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

It wasn't long before some people started to complain about my preaching. The church authorities took me to a psychologist. I was asked, “Where do you mark in your Bible?” I pointed them to Jesus. They told me, “Pray more.” I answered them, “As He leads me, I will pray.” They said to me, “We love the Bible, but we must also follow the Catechism of the Catholic Church.” I observed that they, like me before, had no power nor any relationship (connection) with Jesus Christ. “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority (power), and not as the scribes.” (Matthew 7:28-29)

The authorities (senior priests) continued to try and persuade me to change. “Anthony, you are educated; you should know the truth. Go to this Father (a noted priest) for six months – He speaks to God; God speaks to him. You will be changed.” I answered them, “No, he will be changed.”

They asked me further, “What about your faith in Mary, the Eucharist (Mass) and the sacraments? What has happened in your life?” The Catholic Church gave me four months to answer these questions. The next day I told them, “I love Mother Mary; I don't denounce her.” The authorities told me, “Anthony, your mind is too narrow.” They said they would bring a priest to talk of Mary, and he and I would speak of Mary together. I perceived that they wanted to confuse me so I answered them, “We wouldn't be able to understand one another.”

At this point they gave me an option; to go to Australia for five years. I answered them, “That's not God's will for me.” So they told me decisively, “Anthony, You are against the Catholic Church. There is no place for you here!”

At this point I realized that I had come to a great turning point in my life. As a Catholic priest I had a name, fame, money, privilege – BUT I HAD NO PEACE. So, I turned to the Lord praying, “Lord, I have no freedom to preach your Word here. What do you want me to do?” God's answer took time to come; but before long He said, “Go!”

I now realized more than ever that in life today, people for the most part are looking for money, their next cell phone or laptop; that is, material things.

Finally Jesus gave me peace and a connection. God is not a liar – He is faithful. Jesus will never forsake His own (Hebrews 13:5). His Word will never pass away (Matthew 24:35). I told the Lord, “You called me, separated me and took me as your own.”

The Catholic Church asked me to resign. The senior priest said to me, “Anthony, who will take you now? You had it all.” I answered, “Jesus is my Master; God is my Provider.” I told him, “Father, you've asked me all these questions. What about the (your) faith that you are teaching to the people?” His answer to me was, “Go away – Far away from us, and don't preach to our people.” I answered, “Father, I will build a church beside your temple.”

So, I gave it all up and left. I went to my friend's house for two months. The Catholic Church told the people, “Stay away from Anthony. He's not part of the Catholic Church anymore.”

Lastly, I want to tell you an important truth. Young people, the world may look so exciting, but beware. Satan wants to gather more people into the wide gate. But Jesus will take you if you turn to Him. He will bless you.

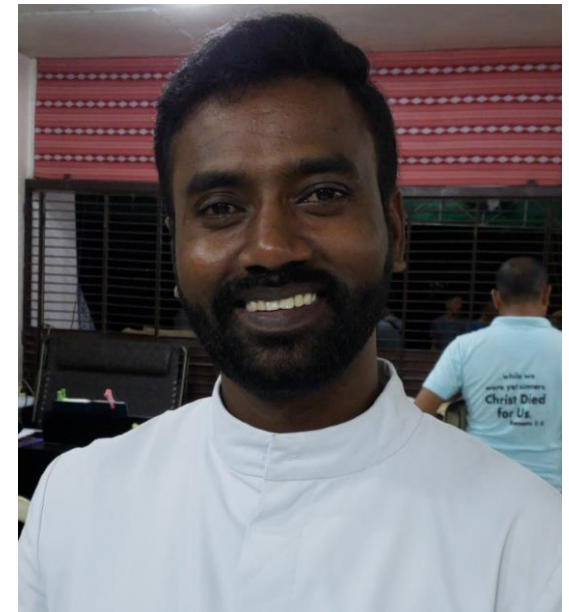
“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)

CW

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Testimony of Anthony: A converted Catholic Priest



“Do you want to experience that Jesus is real and living?”

I was a Catholic priest. I grew up in a Catholic family in India. My parents and siblings still belong to the Catholic Church. Mom prayed, “I want Anthony to be a Catholic priest.” And I set out on the journey to become one. In 1998, I entered the seminary. Twelve years of training followed. At the end of that time, in 2010, I visited Germany, France and Italy. I spent ten days in Rome. After that I came back to India. On the 27th of December, 2010, I was ordained into the Catholic priesthood. At our ordination all the newly ordained priests, including myself, lay prostrate on the floor. My purpose for lying there was simply to praise God. While on the floor I prayed, “I want you Lord, and the Holy Spirit, to serve you sincerely!”

My first assignment was as Assistant Parish Priest in the City of Bangalore, in south central India. The church I served in had a congregation of 10,000 souls. Every Sunday, 600 to 700 young people attended the religious class. There were four church