

July 10, 2016

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XVIII

Tradition is surprisingly fragile. Once a link of the chain is broken, it is extremely difficult to reattach—and if it effects a second link—almost impossible. What often happens in many disciplines is that an older generation assumes that the younger generation knows how and why certain things are done. We can see this in everything from sports practices to cooking recipes.

The Enemy and spiritual warfare

The Devil is real. He is not the Boogeyman or some fearsome creature from a movie. He is not debonair, either. He is a person with an angelic nature—pure intellect. That means that he is a spiritual being that can manifest himself with a physical form of his choice, but he does not *have* a body. He is therefore immortal, but not eternal as God is. God created him with all of the other angels. Like all those whose nature is angelic, since he does not have a body, he is not limited by space/time, but unlike God (and like us) he *is* bound within time to act only in the present. His name was Lucifer.

Lucifer led a rebellion against God and took many others with him (1/3 of them according to Rev. 12:4). Not being able to do anything to God, he decided to hurt Him by corrupting His children and turning us against Him, too. (Rev. 12:17)

The Devil has a plan for you, just like God. God's plan for you is your holiness and eternal happiness with Him in Heaven. (1Th 4:3) The Devil's plan for you is your corruption against God and depriving Him of your presence and love for all eternity.

The Devil doesn't want to kill you. That would be easy, but he doesn't want to risk simply speeding our journey to Heaven. (If properly repentant of our sins and loving God.) He wants to corrupt us and turn us against God. That means cruel as he is, he doesn't want to make us suffer (in this world) either, because suffering usually leads us to God and is then powerfully salvific. So what is his specific plan for you?

The Devil knows you as well as anyone outside of God (and the Blessed Mother to a lesser degree). He has been observing you since your conception. He knows your habits, weaknesses, strengths, fears, knowledge, and tendencies. He does not know the future, but he can predict an outcome with a high degree of certainty.

Imagine if you knew everything that there is to know about this world—all science and each and every person's total history. Imagine if you could leverage that knowledge by being able to instantaneously process it in order to set into action a plan to bring about your chosen outcome. He is not to be trifled with.

Next week, more on his limitations and how we can resist his plan.

*Fr. Michael*