Ex-Nun Testimony: I Was Blind

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Ex-Nun Testimony: I Was Blind
1. My Childhood and My Desire to be a Nun
Catholicism—Highly Appealing to the Senses and Difficult to Leave Behind.
architectural design
inspirational settings
reverence in church buildings, traditions
dogmas, doctrine, the sacraments
rituals, relics, spirituality
liturgies
incense
formality, structure
communion, community, unity
Three-Part Testimony

1. Life in the convent
2. Encounter with the person of Jesus Christ
3. Why I left
The Religious Order
Stages required by the constitution of the institute:

- Postulancy
- Noviceship/Noviciate
- Simple or solemn vows
- Final or perpetual vows
An Activity-Driven Lifestyle
The Bible tells us that, Martha opened her home to Jesus, but Mary chose to listen to Him. Jesus said: "*Martha, Martha,...you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better*, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42)
C. An Activity-Driven Lifestyle

- Where are you going?
- What are you trying to achieve?
- Who are you trying to please?
- Are all your endeavors for the glory of God or for your own vainglory?
- What keeps you so busy that it keeps you from listening to the voice of God?
C. An Activity-Driven Lifestyle

In the Bible we read:

“...seek *first* his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)
D. My Merits: Sacrifices, Self-Flagellation, and Penance
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The Bible says, “...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

The Apostle Paul declares: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit...” (1 Peter 3:18)
Doubts About My Religious Vocation

Mom’s illness

Should I remain in the convent?
Should I return home to help my parents?
Where is Christ in all of this?
Disillusionment, Discontentment, Depression

In Romans 3:23, we read: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” I felt like I was suffocating, but I was actually spiritually dead.

King David described his depression:

“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.” (Psalm 32:3-4)
God hears you!

I vividly remember that I cried out to God in the midst of my anguish. “God, if you exist, help me!”

Let’s listen to these beautiful words from Psalm 34:

“The **LORD is close** to the **brokenhearted** and **saves those who are crushed in spirit**.”

(Psalm 34:18)
A Retreat in the Desert
Newberry Springs, California

23 minutes
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I-40 W

Barstow, California
The Lord’s instrument:

A godly, compassionate born-again man who shared his testimony and introduced us to the person of Jesus Christ.

Evidence of his transformed life:
An authentic love for Jesus
An authentic love for the Word of God
Obedience to the Word
Spirit-filled, joyful
Hospitable
“I acknowledge that I am a sinner. I ask you, Jesus, to forgive my sins, and accept you as my only Savior and Lord. I accept the gift of your death on the cross on my behalf. I open the door of my heart you.”
A Retreat in the Desert –
My Encounter with Jesus Christ

After David confessed his sins to the Lord, he declares with great joy:

“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.” (Psalm 32:1-2)
“Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!” (Psalm 32:11)

David, describes precisely how I felt after my conversion.
Converted, Transformed, Persecuted
Converting, Transformed, Persecuted

The priest, himself, had to be regenerated just as Jesus explained to Nicodemus: "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again" (John 3:3).

He preached directly from the Word of God, shared the Gospel of salvation by faith alone, and removed from the church building all the statues and images.

He underwent persecution in his diocese, and so he left the priesthood, but he continued his labor of love for the Lord.

He chose to obey the authority of the Word of God rather than the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.
My Exodus – The Work of the Holy Spirit
My Exodus

I began confessing my sins to God, Himself, not to a priest. He wants us to approach him only through His Son, Jesus Christ, the *only* High Priest. I no longer pray to God through saints or statues.

“...Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a *high priest* forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

(Hebrews 6:20)
My Exodus

There is no need for the liturgical processes of transubstantiation, the exact re-enactment of what occurred on Calvary.

One of the most powerful statements that Jesus uttered:

“‘It is finished’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:30)

“...Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)
My Exodus

There is no need to worship Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, or any other image. Mary is not the Mother of God.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (John 8:58)
My Exodus

There is no need for Eucharistic adoration, which is the worship and adoration of the consecrated host placed in a monstrance.

I used to believe that Jesus was present inside a monstrance. “However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands.” (Acts 7:48)

Referring to individuals like me, the Apostle Paul says in Romans 1:25: “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator...”
The Holy See and Papal Dispensation
My Exodus

The reason that I left the convent is because almost all my practices were **unbiblical**.

The reason that I left the Roman Catholic Church is because many of its practices and dogmas are **unscriptural** and **harmful spiritually**. As Charles H. Spurgeon states in his sermon titled, *One of the Master’s Choice Sayings*, “the Church of Rome is a church **defiled with error** and **debase with superstition**” (sermon was published on June 27, 1907, delivered at the Metropolitan Tabernacle New Eaton).

I had to decide whether to continue practicing rituals and following institutional rules and regulations or to obey the Word of God. I came out of formal religion to a living faith.
Sister Mary of the Angels Correa
Witnessing to Catholics

Are Catholics Saved?

Are there born again Christians in the Catholic church?

Similarly, one may ask, are there born again Christians in Judaism?

Yes, *IF*...their faith and trust is in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, eternal life—Jesus Christ plus no one else and nothing else. There are a lot of trappings in Catholicism.
Witnessing to Catholics

Show evidence of a transformed life:

❖ An authentic love for Jesus
❖ An authentic love for the Word of God
❖ Obedience to the Word of God
❖ Spirit-filled, joyful
❖ Hospitable
Witnessing to Catholics

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit open their eyes. Only He can remove the **spiritual blinders** that keeps them from knowing the Truth, Jesus Christ. That He open their ears to hear the true Gospel.

2. Probe a bit if Catholics want to chat. Help them discern.

3. Don’t assume a Catholic is a born again Christian.

4. Only the Holy Spirit knows the state of the human heart. He lets us know to whom we should witness.

5. With a loving spirit, **ask questions** about his/her belief system, but don’t get too sidetracked.

6. **Focus** on the person of **Jesus Christ** and the **cross**, salvation being a **free gift**, the need for a **personal relationship** with God through Jesus Christ alone. Don’t go off on theological or doctrinal tangents (e.g., purgatory, Mary, the saints, relics).

7. A, B, C

   - **Admit** that you are a sinner.
   - **Believe** that Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again from the dead.
   - **Confess** Jesus as your Savior and Lord and invite Him into your heart.
“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)
Jesus did all the work

“Christ died for sins once for all”

(1 Peter 3:18)

“It is finished”

(John 19:30)
His Workmanship, a Work In-progress

“He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

(Philippians 1:6, NKJV)