

THE ALL-IN CATHOLIC: Are You All In?

Bringing a greater understanding of Catholic Christian teachings to Catholics & non-Catholics.

There is a Catholic commentator who talks much about being an “all in Catholic” and he challenges us to become such.

What is an “all in Catholic” you ask?

Well, it is a Catholic that is all in for Jesus and His Church. That you will do whatever it takes. That becoming holy is a primary concern in your life. That you will do what it takes to please God and desire heaven.

Well, how does one become an “all in Catholic” vs being *just* Catholic?

Who wants to be *just* a Catholic? We are all called to be saints.

Would you not want to be “all in” for Jesus as He was “all in” for you on the cross?

These are ways to become “all in” for Jesus:

1. Mass
2. Confession
3. Read
4. Good works
5. PRAY!!

Mass: We are required to attend mass every Sunday or else we are in mortal sin. Try one or two additional masses every week. This will double or triple graces you receive. Weekday masses are really special, personal, and best way to become even closer to Jesus. As the Catechism says, the eucharist is “source and summit of Christian life”. Why would we not want the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus as much as possible? We are blessed to have mass available as many in other countries do not...so say a mass for them.

Confession: We are required to go to confession at least once a year, especially during lent. You know the peace when you leave confession, why not get that feeling several times a year? We must remain free of sin to be in true relationship with Jesus. Jesus calls you to release you of your sins...help our priests spend more time in the confessional.

Read: Put aside some time to read the bible, the Catechism, other good spiritual readings especially those from the saints. If your church has a spiritual library, then visit it. As St. Jerome says, “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

Good works: There are multiple opportunities to do something outside yourself in the community or especially at your church. Get a little uncomfortable because life starts where our comfort zone ends. Don’t just give money but get away from TV, sports, internet, and social media to do something for Jesus who said “...as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” Great way to grow in relationship with your spouse and children, and ultimately Jesus.

Pray: Given this year is a year of prayer...what are you doing to improve your prayer life and in turn your relationship with God? Two great ways to pray: Rosary and adoration. In the approved apparitions of Mary, she constantly asks us to pray the rosary for peace and conversions. The rosary is our best weapon against evil. If the rosary was good enough for St. Pio, St. John Paul II and St. Theresa of Calcutta, along with other saints, then it should be good for us. So, pray it EVERY DAY. Carve out 15 minutes to say rosary...time well spent. Regarding adoration, if Jesus is a good friend, and never visit him, how will you argue at your judgment that he was your friend? Good friends spend time with each other. If you expect a relationship, then you must visit Jesus, our friend...it is **imperative**. Carve out ONE hour a week to visit our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament or any time the Church doors are open...he is patiently waiting for your visit...don’t leave a friend waiting. Please

Get answers to your questions: Called To Communion M-F 1-2pm & Catholic Answers Live M-F 5-7pm; Catholicquestions.com

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read Section 4 of the Catechism on Christian Prayer, which will take about an hour, as this will help you grow in your prayer life. Simple prayer: *Mary and St. Joseph, help me lead a life worthy of spending eternity with you and your son Jesus.*

Fr. Heilman talks about us having to CARE for our relationship with Jesus. C: confession; A: adoration; R: rosary; E: eucharist.

How much do we CARE? We cannot let the world take over our relationship with Jesus...our soul, and souls of others, depends on it.

Fr. Ripperger, exorcist, said in a talk "The more sinful we become, the more our world becomes more like hell. The more holy we become the more our world becomes like heaven." We are required to grow in holiness in love for, and of, God to merit heaven. This in turn will make the world a better place. Like GK Chesterton said when asked what is wrong with the world, he said "I am". We are called into relationship with Jesus so we can make our lives, our neighbor's lives, our family's lives and the world a better place.

You *know* what Jesus wants from us as he promises that "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Mt 11:30) and "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world..." (1John 5:3-4). Do we believe him or not?

The best response to what Satan offers us in this world is to be on team Jesus vs team Satan, and we do this by being "all-in" for Jesus.

Make the decision right **now** to CARE and be all-in for Jesus. He is waiting.

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