

One Church, Infallibility, and Mediation



R. J. M. I.

By

The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ,
The Grace of the God of the Holy Catholic Church,
The Mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Our Lady of Good Counsel and Crusher of Heretics,
The Protection of Saint Joseph, Patriarch of the Holy Family,
The Intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel
and the cooperation of

Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi

To Jesus through Mary

*Júdica me, Deus, et discérne causam meam de gente non sancta:
ab hómine iníquo, et dolóso érue me*

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Original version: 6/2005; Current version: 6/2005

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From Mr. P to Jane Bowe

From: Mr. P (a fallen-away Catholic who is now a Protestant)

To: Jane Bowe (A Catholic who abjured from the Great Apostasy)

Date: 5/18/2005

Dear Jane Bowe,

It seems as though you and I have different reference points on when the Church has begun to walk in heresy. My point is earlier in time. Here is why I say that.

1) You say "...the only Church instituted by Christ, the Roman Catholic Church... outside of which there is no salvation." But Paul states about Christ in Acts 4:12 "And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved." It seems to me it is in the name of "Christ" we are saved—rather than the "Roman Catholic Church", otherwise Paul would have stated salvation was through membership in the Church back then (in the 1st century)—rather than the name of Christ.

2) You also have stated essentially "to Jesus - through Mary" - but Paul states in 1Tim 2:5, "For there is one God, one Mediator also between God and men, [Himself] the man Christ Jesus". Jane Bowe, with all due respect, I don't see Mary's name in that verse.

Jane Bowe, these are just 2 obvious discrepancies in our reference points.

I'm praying for you and Richard also... so that you both slide the reference point back in time even farther than where it is now—back into the 1st century.

Mr. P

Ps. By the way - I also agree - it was idolatry when the pope kissed the Koran. Sad statement about how far the leaders in the church have slipped from the truth.

From Jane Bowe to Mr. P

From: Jane Bowe

To: Mr. P

Date: 6/2/2005

Dear Mr. P,

Thank you for your concern for my soul. And thank you for your most recent email and for your patience in awaiting my reply. Because your letter stated, "I'm praying for you

and Richard also....”, I decided to get Richard involved. To begin an apologetics page for Protestants, Richard is using your letter on his website as a teaching tool, based on an anonymous name for identification purposes. What is attached [below] is the article that he has written as his response to your questions. Yes, it may be longer than you expected, but it was written for you. Take the time to read it, Mr. P, as it was written for your edification and salvation. The article also addresses the subject of mediation.

I was surprised by your statement: “so that you both slide the reference point back in time even farther than where it is now – back into the 1st century....” Mr. P, if the Catholic Church is not the Church instituted by Christ, then what became of that Church “that the gates of hell” would not prevail against (Matt 16:18) and to which Jesus promised in Matthew, Chapter 28, verse 20, “and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world”?

In your second question you took issue with the phrase *To Jesus through Mary* when you stated: “but Paul states in 1 Tim 2:5, ‘For there is one God, one Mediator also between God and men, [Himself] the man Christ Jesus.’ Jane Bowe, with all due respect, I don't see Mary's name in that verse.” Mr. P, to avoid re-inventing the wheel, I will paraphrase a quote from a fellow abjured Catholic and good friend of mine who wrote the following in a letter to me a few weeks ago (Laura Gott was raised as a Lutheran):

“If you want to love Jesus with your entire heart, study Mary. She knew him and loved Him perfectly here on earth. This is something we aspire to, but have the impediment of our sinful natures to overcome. Mary was conceived without original sin, and therefore she was most willing to love God, as well as being compliant, humble, and obedient to all that He would ask of her. The converse is also true because Christ has a most special love for Mary, His mother. We are truly lost if we do not avail ourselves to the special gift God has given us in Mary as Our Mother. What a loving God who shares his mother with us sinful creatures! Christ also wanted us to be His brothers and sisters, so this is how we are adopted into the Holy family.” Mr. P, Laura Gott said it quite well.

I will close for now with my revision of your “P.S.”:

Ps. By the way – I also agree – it was idolatry when the apostate Antipope kissed the Koran. Sad statement about how far the leaders in the Vatican II Church have slipped from the truth.

With prayers for your conversion, Mr. P!

Jane Bowe

Mary's Little Remnant

SOLI DEO GLORIA

From RJMI to Mr. P

From: RJMI

To: Mr. P

Date: 6/2/2005

Dear Mr. P,

Thank you for the concern for our souls. As good Catholics, we also care about your soul and would like you to attain eternal salvation. But you cannot be saved where you are, outside the Catholic Church.

Protestants admit by implication that they cannot know the truth

As you should know, Bible quotes can be and are taken out of context. Proof of this is the many different Protestant sects (more than 27, 000 of them). They interpret Bible verses differently, yet they all say the Holy Ghost teaches them. Now, either “God the Holy Ghost” is lying or men are lying. Even though all Protestants believe they are right regarding the doctrines they believe in (just as you believe you are right), they cannot all be right. Now we know the Holy Ghost does not teach falsehoods. Therefore, the only conclusion is that Protestants believe in religious falsehoods; and even worse, they have no way of knowing if the religious doctrines they believe in are absolutely true (infallible). Hence the Protestant doctrine which teaches that all men can learn the absolute truth directly from the Holy Ghost without the need of authorized men and a Church to infallibly teach them is easily proved to be illogical and false (and heretical according to the Catholic Church).

Therefore, a Protestant cannot know for certain that any religious doctrine that he believes in is true, even if some of the doctrines he believes in happen to be true. Why? Because he believes religious doctrines based upon his own fallible human opinion since he believes that no human can teach infallibly. Mr. P, to be consistent, you would have to admit that everything you believe can be wrong because you, as well as all Protestants, believe no mere man is infallible. Therefore because you are a mere man, everything you believe can be wrong. So why should I even listen to you, let alone believe you? Also, I have already demonstrated by logic that a Protestant cannot invoke the Holy Ghost to prove that what he believes in is true because other Protestants do the same, and they believe in different religious doctrines. These two things considered, one logically concludes the need of a Church and a man authorized and inspired by God to infallibly teach what is the truth. This is the only way that men can know the absolute truth regarding religious doctrines and thus be bound to believe them.

The One Church men must hear is the pillar and ground of truth

Thus Catholics believe religious doctrines, not because they themselves happen to agree with what they think the doctrines mean, but because the Catholic Church tells

them what the doctrines mean when She infallibly defines a religious doctrine. If this were not so, then God's Church would not be the pillar and ground of truth, as St. Paul teaches, but would be the "pillar and ground of uncertain opinions." *"Behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* (1 Tim. 3:15) Here St. Paul clearly refers to the infallibility of not only Jesus and the Holy Ghost, of which you would agree, but also of the infallibility of God's Church. Because the Catholic Church is the only one that claims to infallibly teach the truth, this alone rules out all the other Churches from being the true Church of Christ.

Jesus teaches that men must not only listen to and believe what He said during His first coming if they want to be saved but that they must also listen to and believe what His Church teaches: *"If he will not hear the church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican."* (Mt. 18:17) If Christ's Church were not infallible, then Jesus would have lied and committed a grave act of injustice by binding people to what the Church teaches under pain of being akin to heathens.

Hence there can only be one true Church. If there were more than one true Church, each teaching and binding its followers to religious doctrines that differ one from another, there could be no **one** Church that is the pillar and ground of truth that men must listen to and obey in order to know the truth, believe in it, live by it, and be saved. This contradiction would make Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost liars. It follows, then, that there can be only one true Church, not only because it is logical but most of all because Christ said so.

Papal Infallibility

For this true Church to be one in Her faith, laws, and government, it logically follows that this Church must have one leader who rules the Church, settles disputes, and infallibly defines religious doctrines so that this Church is the pillar and ground of truth. This one person is the pope, and St. Peter was the first pope. Christ gave St. Peter and the following popes the keys to the Church; that is, the power to bind and loose, which includes the power to bind all men to religious doctrines: *"Thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven."* (Mt. 16:18-19) God would never let Peter and the following popes bind men to religious doctrines if those doctrines could be false, or Christ would be a liar and unjust for binding people through Peter to false religious doctrines. It follows then that Christ gave Peter and the following popes the charism of infallibility, the power to infallibly define religious doctrines and bind men to them.

To believe that God never speaks through men infallibly is easily proved false. One only need examine God's dealings with His chosen people during the Old Testament era. God spoke to Moses and other prophets, and they in turn taught God's infallible truths to men. Moses, other religious leaders, and other prophets indeed had the charism of infallibility when God was speaking through them; and they in turn spoke to men. Likewise, God speaks infallibly through men during the New Testament era. He does so through the popes, and the popes in turn teach men God's infallible truths.

The infallibility of the pope is a negative charism that prohibits the possibility of error. The process of infallibly defining doctrines usually involves debate and counsel. However, it is the pope alone who infallibly defines a doctrine by God's grace and assistance, and the Holy Ghost prevents him from introducing an error into an infallibly worded document that the pope promulgates.

Popes are not impeccable

Because popes have the charism of infallibility, this does not mean they are impeccable. They are not. They can commit any sin that other men can commit. If a pope mortally sins against the moral commandments, he is in a state of damnation but is still the pope as long as he does not commit a public act of heresy. However, even these bad popes can teach infallibly. We read that the prophet Balaam was paid by Balac to prophesy lies against the Israelites; but every time Balaam attempted to prophesy a lying anathema against the Israelites, he prophesied blessings for them instead:

“And Balac being angry against Balaam, clapped his hands together and said: I called thee to curse my enemies, and thou on the contrary hast blessed them three times... Balaam made answer... If Balac would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to utter any thing of my own head either good or evil: but whatsoever the Lord shall say, that I shall speak.”
(Num. 24:10,12-13)

This is similar to the way in which God the Holy Ghost can use a bad pope to infallibly define a doctrine. Even if a pope who is persuaded by bad counsel or by his own bad intentions attempts to infallibly proclaim a lie, the Holy Ghost would not only prevent him from teaching error but could force him to teach the truth. If God used Balaam, an evil prophet who practiced divination, to prophesize the truth, then He certainly can use a bad pope in the same way.

God spoke infallibly through the evil Caiphas while he was still the religious leader of God's chosen people, the equivalent of an evil pope during the New Testament era. In spite of Caiphas' bad intentions, God forced him to prophesize, to speak infallibly regarding the death of Jesus: “*Caiphas, who was the high priest of that year. Now Caiphas was he who had given the counsel to the Jews: That it was expedient that one man should die for the people.*” (Jn. 18:13-14) Caiphas intended this prophecy to apply to carnal things. He wanted Jesus to die so that the Romans would not kill the Israelites, destroy their Temple, and banish them from the Promised Land. However, God intended this prophecy to apply to spiritual things. God wanted Jesus to die for the remission of peoples' sins so that they could attain eternal salvation. Indeed, God can also use bad popes who have bad intentions to infallibly teach the truth. (See my books *Revelation and Infallibility* and *The Solemn and Ordinary Magisterium*.)

A Pope who becomes a public heretic is no longer the pope

However, the consequences are different if a pope mortally sins against the faith by sins of heresy or apostasy. If a pope becomes a notorious heretic or apostate, he is not only in a state of damnation but he is also no longer the pope. That is why the rulers of the Vatican II Church are not popes, but are apostate antipopes. If God allowed a notorious heretic to remain pope, such a pope would teach the flock heresies that past

popes have infallibly condemned; and hence such a pope would effectively undermine papal infallibility and thus undermine the whole deposit of the Catholic faith (dogmas). That is why a pope who becomes a notorious heretic or apostate is no longer the pope. (See my book *A Public Heretic Cannot Be the Pope*.)

So, we see that a pope can commit any sin that other men can commit. If he does sin, he will be more severely punished than others. God is the respecter of no persons, and a greater punishment awaits those to whom much has been given. *“For there is no respect of persons with God.”* (Rom. 2:11) *“For God will not except any man's person, neither will he stand in awe of any man's greatness: for he made the little and the great, and he hath equally care of all. But a greater punishment is ready for the more mighty.”* (Wis. 6:8-9)

You may ask, “How can a pope possibly teach heresy if he has the charism of infallibility?” Just as God spoke through Abraham and Moses and the prophets, so God speaks through the popes when they engage their charism of infallibility. However, not all of Abraham’s, Moses’, and the prophets’ teachings were infallible, but only those in which it was clear they were speaking for God. Likewise, not all of the popes’ teachings are protected by the charism of infallibility. A pope is not protected from teaching heresy when he does not engage his charism of infallibility. To speak infallibly, the pope must meet four conditions: 1) He must make it clear that he is defining, declaring, or pronouncing a teaching (doctrine). 2) The teaching must be on faith or morals. 3) It must be clear that the teaching applies to the whole (universal) Church, even though it may be addressed only to a local church. 4) The teaching must be binding on all, under pain of anathema (condemnation) or words of similar import. If a teaching from a pope does not meet these four conditions, he is teaching in his fallible capacity; and this is how a pope could teach heresy or apostasy to the flock and in so doing lose his papal office:

1917 Code of Canon Law: “Canon 188, §4. There are certain causes which effect the tacit resignation of an office, which resignation is accepted in advance by operation of law, and hence is effective without any declaration. These causes are: ... (4) if he has publicly defected (fallen away) from the Catholic faith.”

The Church and the apostles

I have already proved through Bible verses alone that Jesus authorized one Church to rule and infallibly teach men and that this Church is ruled by one man, the pope, Peter’s successor, and that the popes were given the charism of infallibility. With this in mind, you can easily see that you have taken the following Bible verse out of context: *“Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12) You wrongly believe that this means that Christ did not authorize a Church to teach and rule men and by implication that Christ also did not authorize His apostles to teach and rule men because, according to you, Christ is the only teacher and ruler and thus all men who want to be saved must go directly to Christ to be taught and ruled and not to a Church or mere men. You wrote the following:

Mr. P: 1) You say “...the only Church instituted by Christ, the Roman Catholic Church... outside of which there is no salvation.” But Paul states about Christ in Acts 4:12 “And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved.” It seems to me it is in the name of “Christ” we are saved - rather than the “Roman Catholic

Church”, other wise Paul would have stated salvation was through membership in the Church back then (in the 1st century) - rather than the name of Christ.

Other Bible verses that you ignore prove that Christ did indeed authorize a Church to infallibly teach and rule men in His name when He said, *“If he will not hear the church, let him be to thee as the heathen and publican.”* (Mt. 18:17) St. Paul teaches that this one Church infallibly teaches the truth: *“The Church... the pillar and ground of truth.”* (1Tim. 3:15) Mr. P, what Church do you listen to and obey? Give me the name of this one Church that men must hear or be heathens?

Christ put Peter in charge of this one Church as its ruler who infallibly defines doctrines. *“Thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.”* (Mt. 16:18-19)

Before Christ ascended into heaven, He commissioned His apostles to teach and rule in His name. *“Then calling together the twelve apostles, he gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.”* (Lk. 9:1-2) *“Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.”* (Mt. 28:19-20) Notice that Christ is not just giving this authority to the original apostles but also to their faithful successors (Catholic bishops) until the consummation of the world. Christ is so intimately related to the apostles and their faithful successors that Jesus says anyone who does not listen to and obey them despises Him: *“He that heareth you, heareth me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth me; and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me.”* (Lk. 10:16) Mr. P, what successors of the apostles do you listen to and obey? Give me the name of a few of the apostles’ successors whom men must learn from and obey from the first century onward?

So united were Christ and the apostles’ teachings that we read in the Book of Acts, Chapter 2, and verse 42, that faithful Christians *“were persevering in the doctrine of the apostles.”* It does not say they were “persevering in the doctrine of Christ” although this is implied. Therefore, again, we see that it was the apostles who made known the doctrine of Christ to men, the same doctrine Christ had entrusted to them. In proper context, Christ’s doctrines come to men through other men, the apostles and their successors.

We also know that in John, Chapter 14, verse 6, that Jesus refers to Himself as *“the way and the truth.”* Yet His Church is also referred to as the truth, “the pillar and ground of truth” in 1Timothy, Chapter 3, verse 15. Is there a contradiction here? There cannot be. In context this means that Christ’s truths, even Christ Himself because He is the truth, come to men through His Church, which is Christ’s Mystical Body on earth.

Consequently, after Christ ascended into heaven, men went not directly to Christ—which was impossible—but instead they went to the apostles (the Church) to learn what they must believe and do in order to be saved, as Christ had commanded. Christ ruled, taught, and sanctified His flock through the apostles (His Church) and their successors. The apostles, then, were mediators between the people and Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ

is the one mediator before the Father. The people went to the apostles, in the place of Christ, to learn and do what they needed to be saved and for miracles.

Believers went to the apostles to learn

After Jesus ascended into heaven and by His command, men did not go directly to Jesus to learn what they needed to be saved; instead, they went to the Church, the apostles and their successors. On Pentecost Sunday it was the apostles who authoritatively taught men about Jesus:

“Now there were dwelling at Jerusalem, Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ...Peter standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke to them: Ye men of Judea, and all you that dwell in Jerusalem, be this known to you, and with your ears receive my words. ...Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you, by miracles, and wonders, and signs, which God did by him, in the midst of you, as you also know: ...Peter said to them: Do penance, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins: and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ...They therefore that received his word, were baptized; and there were added in that day about three thousand souls. And they were persevering in the doctrine of the apostles, and in the communication of the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2: 5, 14, 22, 38, 41-42)

Referring to himself and the other rulers of the Catholic Church, St. Paul says, “*Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ, and the dispensers of the mysteries of God. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ.*” (1Cor. 4:1, 16) As recorded in Acts, Chapter 8, God sent the deacon Philip to teach the Ethiopian eunuch about Christ, what he must believe and do to be saved. The Ethiopian did not go directly to Jesus; instead, he had to learn about Christ through Philip, whom God sent to the Ethiopian.

Believers obeyed the apostles who ruled over them

Proving that God had authorized Catholic bishops to rule His one Church, St. Paul, speaking to these bishops, says, “*Take heed to yourselves, and to the whole flock, wherein the Holy Ghost hath placed you bishops, to rule the church of God.*” (Acts 20:28) Here, again, we see that God has a Church on earth that has bishops ruling this one Church. If men want to be saved, they must know the apostles and their successors, the popes and other Catholic bishops: “*And we beseech you, brethren, to know them who labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you.*” (1 Thess. 5:12) Men cannot know with certainty anything about Jesus unless they first know and believe the men that Christ authorized to teach and rule in His Name. St. Paul refers to the Catholic bishops as rulers of and mediators for the people before Jesus: “*We are God’s coadjutors: you are God’s husbandry.*” (1 Cor. 3:9)

Demanding obedience from the flock, St. Paul says, “*Be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that in all things you are mindful of me: and keep my ordinances as I have delivered them to you.*” (1 Cor. 11:1-2) St. Paul tells the people that the only way they can learn about Christ and His ordinances is to follow Paul and what Paul teaches because Jesus authorized Paul to teach men about Him.

Therefore, if a man wants to be saved, he has to follow the apostles and their successors (the popes and other Catholic bishops); that is, he has to believe their infallible teachings and obey their decrees and precepts. As St. Paul and St. Timothy *“passed through the cities, they delivered unto them the decrees for to keep, that were decreed by the apostles and ancients who were at Jerusalem.”* (Acts 16:4) St. Paul *“went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches, commanding them to keep the precepts of the apostles and the ancients.”* (Acts 15:41) Obedience, then, to Christ comes through obedience to the apostles and their successors, the popes and other Catholic bishops.

God punished Christians who did not hear or obey the apostles. God struck Ananias and Saphira dead for disobeying and lying to St. Peter, the ruler of the Church and the first pope:

“A certain man named Ananias, with Saphira his wife, sold a piece of land, and by fraud kept back part of the price of the land, his wife being privy thereunto: and bringing a certain part of it, laid it at the feet of the apostles. But Peter said: Ananias, why hath Satan tempted thy heart, that thou shouldst lie to the Holy Ghost, and by fraud keep part of the price of the land? Whilst it remained, did it not remain to thee? and after it was sold, was it not in thy power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thy heart? Thou hast not lied to men, but to God. And Ananias hearing these words, fell down, and gave up the ghost. And there came great fear upon all that heard it. And the young men rising up, removed him, and carrying him out, buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. And Peter said to her: Tell me, woman, whether you sold the land for so much? And she said: Yea, for so much. And Peter said unto her: Why have you agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold the feet of them who have buried thy husband are at the door, and they shall carry thee out. Immediately she fell down before his feet, and gave up the ghost. And the young men coming in, found her dead: and carried her out, and buried her by her husband.” (Acts 5:1-8)

Indeed, Jesus demands that men must submit to other men, His apostles and disciples and their successors, in order to be saved.

Believers went to the apostles to be sanctified

After Christ ascended into heaven and by His command, men did not go directly to Christ to be sanctified; instead, they went to the apostles and disciples and their successors (Catholic bishops, priests, and deacons) to be sanctified in the name and by the power of Jesus by the New Testament sacraments instituted by Jesus.

The apostles and disciples by the sacrament of baptism baptized men: *“The eleven disciples went into Galilee, unto the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ...And Jesus coming, spoke to them, saying: All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”* (Mt. 28:16-19)

The apostles and their successors (Catholic bishops and priests) forgave men’s sins by the sacrament of penance in the name and by the power of Jesus: *“The disciples therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord. He said therefore to them again: Peace be to you. As the Father hath sent me, I also send you. When he had said this, he breathed on them; and he said to them: Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.”* (Jn. 20:20-23)

The apostles and their successors (Catholic bishops and priests) by the sacrament of extreme unction healed the sick and remitted their sins in the name and by the power of Jesus: *“Is any man sick among you? Let him bring in the priests of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick man: and the Lord shall raise him up: and if he be in sins, they shall be forgiven him.”* (Ja. 5:14-15)

Believers went to the apostles for miracles

After Jesus ascended into heaven and by His command, men did not go directly to Jesus for miracles; instead, they went to the apostles and disciples for miracles that they performed in the name and by the power of Jesus. As God’s representatives and rulers on earth, they mediated between men and Jesus: *“These signs shall follow them that believe: In my name they shall cast out devils: they shall speak with new tongues. They shall take up serpents; and if they shall drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them: they shall lay their hands upon the sick, and they shall recover.”* (Mk. 16:17-18)

Just as the people had sought to touch Christ’s clothing to be healed—*“And they besought him that they might touch but the hem of his garment. And as many as touched, were made whole.”* (Mt. 14:36)—so now they sought St. Peter and Paul to be similarly healed—*“Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that, when Peter came, his shadow at the least might overshadow any of them and they might be delivered from their infirmities.”* (Acts 5:15) *“God wrought by the hand of Paul more than common miracles. So that even there were brought from his body to the sick, handkerchiefs and aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the wicked spirits went out of them.”* (Acts 19:11-12)

Just as Christ had raised men from the dead, now St. Peter did the same: *Peter, kneeling down, prayed. And turning to the body, he said: Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes and, seeing Peter, sat up.”* (Acts 9:40) These miracles were promised not only to the original apostles and disciples but also to their successors through the generations. Only Catholics have performed true miracles from the time of Peter, the first pope, onward.

And the apostles’ successors (popes, Catholic bishops, and Catholic priests) continued to rule, teach, and sanctify the people and to perform miracles. And Catholic laymen also teach and some perform miracles. There is no other Church than the Catholic Church that did all these things from the birth of the Church on Pentecost Sunday onward over the centuries.

With these Bible verses that I have included and you have excluded, you can see that you have misinterpreted the book of Acts 4:12—*“Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved.”* You have excluded the one Church (the Catholic Church) and the apostles and their successors (the popes, Catholic bishops, and Catholic priests), the only Church and men given the authority by God to offer salvation to men in the name of Jesus. Your real argument, then, is that you do not like those whom Jesus placed in charge of spreading His truth and ruling His Church. You want to bypass His mediators on earth because you do not like one or more of the Catholic Church’s teachings on faith or morals, or you do not like to give true obedience to any authorities. Which brings us to your next misinterpretation regarding mediation.

Christ is the one mediator before the Father

It is an infallible truth that Jesus is the one mediator before the Father. All mediation before God hinges on Jesus Christ the one mediator before the Father, so that without Christ there can be no mediator between God and men. *“There is one God: and one mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* (1 Tim. 2:5) *“By his own blood, entered once into the Holies, having obtained eternal redemption... For Jesus is not entered into the Holies made with hands, the patterns of the true: but into Heaven itself, that he may appear now in the presence of God for us.”* (Heb. 9:12, 24) Only Jesus Christ, the slain lamb, was worthy to open the seven seals: *“Who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof? ...Thou art worthy, O Lord, to take the book and to open the seals thereof: because thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God, in thy blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”* (Apoc. 5: 1-9)

However, Jesus never taught that there would be no mediators between men and Him. Rather, Christ has ordained many mediators between men and Him, while Christ is the one mediator between men and the Father. Without Christ, the whole hierarchy of mediation under Him can never reach the Father, never mediate between man and the Father.

Mediators on earth between men and Christ

What I have said above regarding the Church and the apostles is proof that Christ has mediators on earth between men and Him. After Jesus ascended into heaven, He authorized one Church and Her apostles and their successors to teach and bind in His name. Men could no longer go directly to Christ because He is in heaven. Now they must go to and obey the Church and Her apostles and their successors to learn what they must believe and do to be saved.

Mr. P, by your trying to teach me what these Bible verses mean, you are mediating before Christ because you, a mere man, are telling me what Bible verses mean or do not mean. To be consistent with your false interpretation, the most you could have said to me is, “Go to Christ and He will teach you what the Bible verses mean because no mere man has the right to teach you religious truths.”

To ask a man to pray for you is mediation before Christ

Every time a Protestant asks another man to pray for him, he contradicts his false interpretation that excludes mediators between men and Christ. Why ask another man to pray for you to Christ if there are no mediators between Christ and men? Every time a Protestant asks another man to pray for him, he has that man mediating for him before Christ. To be consistent with their false interpretation, a Protestant must never ask another man to pray for him. He must also condemn St. Paul and the other apostles, who many times prayed for others and asked others to pray for them. St. Paul says, *“We pray always for you.”* (2 Thess. 1:11) *“Always in all my prayers making supplication for you all.”* (Phil. 1:4) And *“brethren, pray for us...”* (2 Thess. 3:1) St. James says, *“Pray one for another, that you may be saved. For the continual prayer of a just man availeth much.”* (Ja. 5:16)

Mediators in heaven between men and Christ

Christ also has mediators in heaven: Mary, the saints, and the angels. They mediate between men and Christ, and Christ in turn is the one mediator before the Father. We read of saints and angels in heaven bringing the prayers of men on earth. God transported St. John to heaven where John saw saints in heaven bringing the prayers before Jesus, the Lamb. *“And when he had opened the book, the four living creatures, and the four and twenty ancients fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”* (Apoc. 5:8) Many times God sends angels, Mary, and other saints to earth to assist men, to intercede and mediate for them before Jesus Christ. If Jesus had ordained that men must go directly to Him, then He would be contradicting Himself for ordaining and fostering this intercession and mediation of the angels and the saints between men and Christ.

Lastly, Mr. P, contrary to what some believe, I have not started a new Church; rather, the robber’s Vatican II Council started a new Church when it revolted from the past infallible teachings of the Catholic Church. It is not my Church, the Holy Roman Catholic Church, but the Vatican II Church (also known as the Conciliar Church) that prays with and justifies heretical sects that the Catholic Church has already condemned, such as Lutherans, Anglicans, etc.

May Jesus Christ, through His Holy Mother Mary, grant you all the graces and aid that you need to embrace the truth, abjure your false religion, and enter the Catholic Church so that you may have a hope to save your immortal soul.

In the eternal love of Jesus and Mary

Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi
To Jesus through Mary
Ad Majorem Dei Gloiriam