

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries



Steve Clifford

<mailto:stevec@transporter.com>

<http://www.transporter.com>

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

1

The Catholic Response



- Faith and Reason are not diametrically opposed
- Three legs to stand on:
 - Bible (historical accuracy, God-inspired)
 - Tradition (Early Church Fathers, consistency)
 - Teaching Authority (Apostolic Succession)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

2

Catholic Church The Word of God



- **Sacred Scripture** (Holy Bible)
 - The books (46 in OT and 27 in NT) which contain the truth of God’s revelation, composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit
- **Tradition** (capital “T”)
 - The living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church (the oral preaching of the Apostles conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the Church)
- **Magisterium** (teaching authority)
 - The living, teaching office of the Church, whose task it is to give authentic interpretation of the word of God

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

3

Catholic Plan of Salvation



- Where did we come from?
 - “The world was made for the glory of God.... The ultimate purpose of creation is that God who is the Creator of all things may at last become ‘all in all.’ ” God wanted to make His creatures share in His being, wisdom and goodness. (CCC 293-295)
 - God created heaven and earth from nothing, by His word only; that is, by a single act of His all-powerful will. (Baltimore Catechism, Question 33)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

4

Catholic Plan of Salvation (Cont.)



- Why are we here?
 - “God enables men to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbors.” We enter into the divine plan by our actions, prayers and sufferings. (CCC 307)
 - We were made “to know, love, and serve God in this life, and be happy with him in the next.” (Baltimore Catechism, Questions 3, 4, and 6)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

5

Catholic Plan of Salvation (Cont.)



- Where are we going?
 - “Those who die in God’s grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ.... Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.... In the glory of heaven the blessed continue joyfully to fulfill God’s will in relation to other men and to all creation. Already they reign with Christ; with him ‘they shall reign for ever and ever’ “. (CCC 1023, 1024, 1029)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

6

Catholic Plan of Salvation (Cont.)



- The Four Last Things
 - **Death** (end of our earthly life)
 - **Judgment** (by Christ)
 - Particular Judgment (each individual at the moment of death)
 - General Judgment (all men on the last day)
 - **Heaven** (Beatific Vision)
 - Directly if in a state of perfect holiness (without sin or reparation due to sin)
 - Purgatory for those who die without perfect holiness (with venial sins or reparation due to sin)
 - **Hell**
 - Eternal state to which the wicked are condemned (without God)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

7

The Christian God



- There is only one God
 - Deut. 4:35, 6:4, 32:39; 2 Sam. 7:22; 1Kgs. 8:60; Ps. 86:10; Is. 43:10-11, 44:6, 8; Hos. 13:4; John 17:3; 1 Cor. 8:4; Gal. 3:20; Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:17, 2:5; James 2:19; Jude 25
- Blessed Trinity - One God in three Persons
 - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - God the Father is the first person of the Blessed Trinity
- God is Spirit
 - CCC 370; Num. 3:19; Hos. 11:9; Col. 1:15-16; 1 Tim. 1:17

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

8

The Real Jesus Christ



- Jesus Christ is True God and True Man - the second person of the Blessed Trinity
- Jesus is the eternal Son of God
 - He was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered crucifixion and death, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
- Jesus accomplished perfectly the divine mission of priest, prophet, and King
 - Signified by his anointing as Messiah (Christ)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

9

Christian Holy Spirit



- Third Person of the Blessed Trinity
- Consubstantial with the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified
- Also called the Paraclete (Advocate) and Spirit of Truth
- The Holy Spirit is at work with the Father and the Son from the beginning to the completion of the divine plan for our salvation
- No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:11)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

10

Christian View of Prophets



- The age for new, publicly binding revelation is over (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- Christ is the fulfillment of the Scriptures (Luke 24:44)
- John the Baptist is the last (and greatest) of the prophets (Luke 1:76, 7:26-28; Matthew 11:9-13)
- Scripture warns that there will always be false prophets presuming to speak for God (Deuteronomy 18:20, 22; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

11

Christian Prayer



- Catholics pray as the Lord taught
 - The “Lord’s Prayer” summarizes the Christian’s attitude toward prayer
 - The “Our Father” teaches us to adore God publicly and explicitly
 - We are to ask for help in doing His will
 - We petition Him for forgiveness
- The “Hail Mary” is another biblical prayer
- Through prayer the Christian experiences a communion with God through Christ in the Church

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

12

Christian Testimony



- Christ said the “truth” will set us free (John 8:32)
- Christ did not tell us to “feel” our way into his Church
- Jesus Christ is the “truth” (John 14:6)
- We are to seek Him (Matthew 7:7)
- Study, search his word in Scripture and the Church’s teaching authority (Acts 17:10-11)
- Listen to His chosen leaders for that is the same as listening to Him (Luke 10:16)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

13

Catholic Atonement



- Our salvation flows from God’s initiative of love for us, because “he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10)
- “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself” (2 Cor. 5:19)
- Christ came “to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mt. 20:28), that is, he “loved [his own] to the end” (Jn 13:1), so that they might be “ransomed from the futile ways inherited from [their] fathers” (1 Pet 1:18)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

14

Catholic Atonement (Cont.)



- By his loving obedience to the Father, “unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8), Jesus fulfills the atoning mission (cf. Isa 53:10) of the suffering Servant, who will “make many righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities” (Isa 53:11; cf Rom 5:19)
- For more information see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 571-630

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

15

Catholic Christian Baptism



- Sacraments of Christian Initiation
 - Baptism (the faithful are born anew)
 - Confirmation (the faithful are strengthened by the Holy Spirit)
 - Holy Eucharist (the food of eternal life)
- 3 Types of Baptism
 - Baptism of Water (ordinary means)
 - Baptism of Desire (perfect contrition and implicit intention of fulfilling God's will for man's salvation)
 - Baptism of Blood (Martyrdom for the Catholic Faith or some virtue)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

16

Catholic Christian Baptism (Cont.)



- Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign which cannot be repeated
- Bishop, priest, or deacon may baptize (ordinary ministers)
- In case of necessity, anyone, even a non-Christian, can baptize (with the required intention)
- Form – Trinitarian baptismal formula (Mt. 28:19)
- Matter – Water (triple immersion or pouring three times over the candidate's head)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

17

Catholic Christian Baptism (Cont.)



- The one being baptized is:
 - Cleansed of original sin (infant and adult)
 - Cleansed of particular sin (after the age of reason)
 - Incorporated into Christ and made a member of His Body the Church
 - Infused with sanctifying grace
 - Receives the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity
 - Receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Allows him to receive the other Sacraments effectively

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

18


Catholic Confession Penance/Reconciliation



- Three conditions for forgiveness:
 - Contrition (perfect and imperfect)
 - Sorrow (inward, supernatural, and universal) for our sins because we have offended God
 - Confession
 - To make known and to accuse ourselves (humbly, truthfully, and briefly) of our sins to a priest approved by the Bishop
 - Satisfaction
 - Doing the penance given us by the priest

March 24, 2006
Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries
19

Catholic Confession



- How to prepare for Confession:
 - Pray for the grace to make a good confession
 - Carefully examine our conscience
 - Take time and care to make a good act of contrition
 - Resolve by the help of God to renounce our sins and to begin a new life for the future
- Frequent Confession to a priest

March 24, 2006
Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries
20

Confession to a Priest



- Jesus claimed the authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:7, Luke 7:49, Matt. 9:2-8)
- Jesus passed this authority on to His Apostles (John 20:21-23, Matt. 18:18)
- He breathed on them (John 20:22, see also Genesis 2:7)
- We are to be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:18-20)
- Prayer of presbyters (priests) forgives sin (James 5:13-15)
- Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

21

Catholic Sacraments



- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Communion (Holy Eucharist)
- Confession/Penance/Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick (Extreme Unction, Last Rites)
- Ordination (Holy Orders)
- Matrimony

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

22

Public Revelation in the Catholic Church



- God has said everything in His Word
 - “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.” (Hebrews 1:1-2)
 - Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father’s one, perfect, and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one. (CCC 65)
- There will be no further Revelation
 - No new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ (CCC 66)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

23

Private Revelation in the Catholic Church



- Some “private” revelations have been recognized by the authority of the Church
- “Private” revelations do not belong to the deposit of faith (they are not binding on the faithful)
 - It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation
 - The magisterium knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church
 - Christian faith cannot accept “revelations” that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment (CCC 66)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

24

Apostolic Succession



- Jesus chose the Twelve Apostles to receive the fullness of the gospel teachings (Mt. 10:2-4, Mk. 3:16-29, Lk. 6:13-16, Acts 1:13)
- He chose Peter to be the first in authority among the apostles (Mt. 16:18-20, Lk. 22:32, Jn 21:17, Mk 16:7, Lk 24:34)
- Upon "this rock" (Peter) Christ promised He would build His Church
- He promised the gates of hell shall not prevail
- Peter alone was given the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 16:18-20)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

25

Apostolic Succession (Cont.)



- Apostolic Succession was first demonstrated in Acts 1:20-26 when Matthias was chosen to replace Judas
- Every validly ordained bishop in the Catholic Church can trace his priesthood authority back through history to one of the Twelve Apostles
- This authority has been passed on in an unbroken chain of ordinations by the laying-on of hands from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops, and to their successors, other bishops

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

26

Apostolic Succession (Cont.)



- The bishops of the Catholic Church are the successors to the Apostles in a continuous line of apostolic succession
- The Catholic Church has existed continuously since the time of the Apostles
- The Catholic Church was founded as a divinely inspired earthly organization by Christ upon Peter, the rock
- No other Christian church can trace its authority unbroken back to the original apostolic source

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

27

Catholic Church Apostles and Prophets




- Jesus called the Twelve to become His Apostles, chosen witnesses of His Resurrection and the foundation on which the Church is built (Eph. 2:20, Rev. 21:14)
- The bishops receive their office as successors of the Apostles through the Sacrament of Holy Orders
- The age for new, publicly binding revelation is over (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- There will always be false prophets (Lam 2:14, Ezek 22:28, Mt. 7:15, Mt. 24:11, Mt. 24:24, Mk. 13:22, Lk. 6:26, 2 Pet 2:1, 1 John 4:1)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

28


The Catholic Church



- Four marks (qualities or characteristics) which help to identify the true Church of Jesus Christ:
 - The Church is One (CCC 866)
 - The Church is Holy (CCC 867)
 - The Church is Catholic (CCC 868)
 - The Church is Apostolic (CCC 869)
- Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 in response to the Arian heresy: “We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church” (Nicene Creed)

March 24, 2006
Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries
29

The Church is One



- Unity in belief
 - Same teachings and traditions that were given to the Twelve Apostles (John 10:11-16, John 21:15-17)
- Unity in worship
 - Christ prayed “that they may be one” (John 17:11, John 17:22-23)
- Unity in government or leadership
 - One visible head of government and leadership, the Apostolic College with Peter and his successors as its head (CCC 813)

March 24, 2006
Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries
30

The Church is Holy



- Holiness in its founder
 - Jesus Christ
- Holiness in its principles
 - Jesus prayed for the holiness of His Church, to “Sanctify them” (John 17:17), “consecrated in truth” (John 17:19)
- Holiness in its members
 - Consisting of His own sheep who have been purified for Him as an acceptable people (Titus 2:14)
 - There will be both holy and unholy people until the end
- Holiness in its miracles
 - (Healings, Eucharistic miracles, the Incorruptibles, etc.)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

31

The Church is Catholic



- From the Greek word *katholikos* meaning general or universal
 - St. Ignatius of Antioch to the Smyrnaeans around A.D. 110: “Wheresoever the bishop shall appear, there let the people be, even as where Jesus is, there is the Catholic Church”
- The Catholic Church consists of a universality in time and in place
 - The gospel will continue to be preached throughout the whole world until the end of time (Mt. 24:14), to the whole creation throughout all the world (Mk. 16:15), and by the power of the Holy Spirit to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

32

The Church is Apostolic



- The true church must always teach the identical doctrines that were originally delivered to it by Peter and the Apostles (Mt. 28:18-20)
- Her ministers must derive their powers from the Apostles by an uninterrupted chain of succession
- Peter is the rock upon which Christ built His Church (Mt. 16:18) (the successor of Peter is the Bishop of Rome)
- Any church claiming to be Christ's own must be able to trace its lineage in unbroken continuity back to the apostles (only the Catholic Church can make this claim)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

33

Catholic Priesthood Authority



- Priesthood of the faithful (CCC 784, 1119, 1546)
 - Christ gives the faithful a share in His priesthood through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation
- Ministerial priesthood (CCC 1547)
 - The priesthood of Christ is made present in a special way in the Church through the ministerial priesthood, conferred through the Sacrament of Holy Orders (CCC 1539, 1544, 1547, 1554)
- True priesthood offers sacrifice (Heb. 5:1, 8:3)
 - Catholic priests offer the sacrifice of the Mass for the salvation of souls and for the glory of God

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

34

Catholic Church Holy Sacrifice of the Mass



- All gather together
 - Eucharistic assembly presided invisibly by Christ
 - Bishop or priest acting in the person of Christ the head (all present participate in some way)
- Liturgy of the Word
 - Readings from OT/NT and Gospels, homily, prayers
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - Transubstantiation: The substance of bread and wine change into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ under the appearances or “species” of bread and wine

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

35

Catholic Response to LDS Families are Forever



- Jesus explicitly taught that marriages do not continue into the next life
 - “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” (Luke 20:34-36)
- The primary function of marriage is the procreation of the human race (no longer needed in heaven)
 - All the saved rejoice forever in perfect love & communion in heaven

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

36

Catholic Fasting



- Expression of interior penance in imitation of the fast of Jesus for forty days in the desert (Matt. 4:2)
- Ascetical practice recommended in Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers
- Sometimes prescribed by a precept of the Church, especially during the liturgical season of Lent (CCC 538, 1434, 2043)
- Interior penance of the Christian is expressed through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

37

Catholic Fasting (Cont.)



- Fourth Precept of the Church
 - “You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church”
 - Ensures times of asceticism (self-discipline) and penance
 - Prepares us for the liturgical feasts and helps us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

38

Catholic Tithing



- Fifth Precept of the Church
 - “You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church”
 - The faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities
- Jesus warns us about observing the minutiae of the law (of tithing), while neglecting its weightier precepts (Matt. 23:23; Lk. 18:12)
 - Justice
 - Mercy
 - Faith

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

39

Catholic Sacrifice



- A ritual offering made to God by a priest on behalf of the people, as a sign of adoration, gratitude, supplication, and communion (CCC 2099)
- The perfect sacrifice was Christ's death on the cross; by this sacrifice, Christ accomplished our redemption as high priest of the new and eternal covenant (CCC 616)
- The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is commemorated and mysteriously made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church (CCC 1357, 1544)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

40

Catholic Blessings (Grace)



- Prayer invoking God's power and care upon some person, place, thing, or undertaking
- Prayer of benediction acknowledges God as the source of all blessing
- Some blessings confer a permanent status
 - Consecration of persons to God
 - Setting things apart for liturgical usage
- CCC 1671, 2626

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

41

Catholic Blessings (Grace) (Cont.)



- Grace is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become His adopted children
- Sanctifying Grace
 - God shares His divine life and friendship with us in a habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that enables the soul to live with God, to act by his love
- Actual Grace
 - God gives us the help to conform our lives to His will

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

42

Catholic Blessings (Grace) (Cont.)



- Sacramental Grace
 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our Christian vocation
- Special Graces
 - Charisms
 - The grace of one's state of life
- CCC 1996, 2000
- Death and Resurrection of Christ opens the way to a new life (justification) that reinstates us in God's grace (CCC 654)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

43

Catholic Obedience



- Submission to the authority of God which requires everyone to obey the divine law
- Obedience to the Church is required in those things which pertain to our salvation
- Obedience is due to legitimate civil authority, which has its origin in God for the sake of the common good and the order of society (CCC 1897)
- The fourth commandment obliges children to obey their parents (CCC 2216)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

44

Catholic Obedience (Cont.)



- Obedience of faith
 - To listen and freely submit to the word of God (CCC 144)
- Obedience of Christ to the will of the Father
 - Christ died for the disobedience of sin, to bring us the grace of justification, and to satisfy for our sins (CCC 615)
- Vow of obedience
 - A public vow of obedience, accepted by Church authority
 - One element that characterizes the consecrated life (CCC 915)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

45

Catholic Service to Others



- A way to follow Christ (CCC 852)
- The fundamental task of marriage and family is to be at the service of life (CCC 1653)
- “Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other” (CCC 340)
- Laity cooperate with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for the sake of its growth and life (CCC 910)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

46

Catholic Service to Others (Cont.)



- Liturgy as a service of God
 - Participation of the People of God in “the work of God”
 - Through the liturgy Christ, our redeemer and high priest, continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through His Church
- Service of the common good require citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community (CCC 2239)
- Public authorities have the right and duty to impose on citizens the obligations necessary for national defense (CCC 2310)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

47

Catholic Service to Others (Cont.)



- The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel (CCC 2242)
 - “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Mt. 22:21)
 - “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

48

Catholic Missionary Work



- Trinitarian Missions
 - To accomplish the divine plan of the triune God for the redemption of humanity, the Son and the Holy Spirit were “sent” into the world (CCC 257, 689)
- Apostolic Mission
 - Just as He was sent by the Father, Jesus sent His Apostles into the world to continue His own saving mission (CCC 858)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

49

Catholic Missionary Work (Cont.)



- Church as Mission
 - The Church is missionary by its very nature, continuing the mission or work of Christ through the Holy Spirit, according to the plan of God
 - This apostolic mission of the Church is fulfilled according to their different states of life by the clergy, laity, and religious (CCC 849, 863, 913)
- Missionary activity is sometimes given in a more specific sense as the work of initial evangelization and establishment of the Church in non-Christian lands

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

50

Summary



- There is only ONE God (3 persons - 1 nature)
 - Book of Mormon agrees
- Who do you say Jesus is? (Matthew 16:13-19)
- “I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by [the] grace [of Christ] for a different gospel (not that there is another).” (Galatians 1:6)
- “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach [to you] a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed!” (Galatians 1:8)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

51

Summary (Cont.)



- What must I do to be saved?
- Baptism is the “door” which gives access to the other Sacraments of the Catholic Church
- God, in His mercy, offers forgiveness of sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation to those baptized into Christ
- LDS Ordinances are not the same as Catholic Sacraments
- LDS “godhead” versus Christian Holy Trinity

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

52

Summary (Cont.)



- Jesus Christ is True God and True Man - the second person of the Blessed Trinity
- The age for new, publicly binding revelation is over (Hebrews 1:1-2)
- Missionary work
 - Trinitarian Missions
 - Apostolic Mission
 - Church as Mission
- Avoid stupid controversies and genealogies (Titus 3:9)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

53

Summary (Cont.)



- No Christian scriptural or historical evidence to support the concept of baptism for the dead or three degrees of glory
 - Read 1 Cor. 15:29;40-42 in the proper context – Paul is defending the general resurrection
- LDS exaltation deifies man and humanizes God (see Genesis 3:4-5)
- The Catholic Church contains the fullness of truth
- The Church is the Pillar and bulwark (foundation) of the truth (see 1 Tim. 3:15)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

54

Summary (Cont.)



- There is no need for continuous revelation – God has said everything in His Word
- There has always been individual apostasy from the Church but never an apostasy of the Church
- The bishops of the Catholic Church are the successors to the Apostles in a continuous line of apostolic succession
- There will always be false prophets
- Four marks (qualities or characteristics) which help to identify the true Church of Jesus Christ

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

55

Summary (Cont.)



- No evidence of two levels of priesthood (Aaronic and Melchizedek) in the early Church
- True priesthood offers sacrifice
 - Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (2,000 years of the Catholic Church)
- The Bible is a Catholic Book – rely on the Catholic Church for correct interpretation
- No other earthly organization has a right to add or take away anything from the Bible (Rev. 22:18-19)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

56

Summary (Cont.)



- Being pro-life means NO exceptions
- No divorce and remarriage (Mk. 10:10-12)
- Marriages do not continue into the next life (Lk. 20:34-36)
- No scriptural or historical evidence to support temple work (no mention in the Book of Mormon)
- There is only 1 heaven and 1 hell (4 last things)

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

57

Summary (Cont.)



- Fasting is an expression of interior penance in imitation of the fast of Jesus for forty days in the desert (Matt. 4:2)
- The faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities
- The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is commemorated and mysteriously made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church
- Grace is the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become His adopted children

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

58

Summary (Cont.)



- Obedience is submission to the authority of God which requires everyone to obey the divine law
- Obedience to the Church is required in those things which pertain to our salvation
- Service to others is a way to follow Christ (CCC 852)
- The fundamental task of marriage and family is to be at the service of life (CCC 1653)
- The four last things

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

59

Summary (Cont.)



- Know, love, and practice your own faith
- Use good Catholic Christian charity when speaking to the Mormon missionaries
- Be prepared to respond with your own "testimony" of the fullness of truth contained only in the Catholic Church
- No "Total Apostasy" means no need for Restoration

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

60

Question and Answer



Steve Clifford

<mailto:stevec@transporter.com>

<http://www.transporter.com>

March 24, 2006

Catholic Response to the LDS Missionaries

61