

Dear Friends,
Happy Easter!!

Reports in conventional media and social media indicate that in this Easter Season 2026 a surprising number of folks, especially young college age folks, will be joining the Catholic Church or completing their sacraments of initiation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Under ordinary circumstances this could be cause for celebration and rejoicing but I am skeptical because I do not find these times ordinary in any sense of the word.

My skepticism raises two questions.

First, why?

Why are untypical numbers of persons finding the Catholic Church attractive now? What need or needs in their lives appear to be met by affiliating with the Catholic Church that they experience now?

The second question, Which Catholic Church are they joining and affiliating with? The Roman Catholic Church or the American Catholic Church?

I observe with few notable exceptions very little evidence that Catholics as a group, clergy and laity, are engaged with or even aware of the complicated and complex moral/political universe that has presented itself in our lives in these deeply disturbed and disturbing times.

These “conversions” occur while very wealthy and powerful men, some already in government service, have marshalled their enormous resources in a variety of efforts to carefully define their versions of Catholicism in efforts to develop a uniquely “American Catholicism.”

This new American version of the Catholic Church emphasizes racial and ethnic “values” that categorize people as, more, or less, desirable, a type of “christian” eugenics that dismisses the intrinsic values of human personhood that authentic Catholic teaching holds as universal and God-given and not negotiable by any persons, systems, or political/religious ideologies.

Very well-resourced presences on social media and conventional media in extremely creative postings and podcasts, often using Artificial Intelligence and photoshopped images, in subtle and not so subtle, ways seek to discredit Pope Francis and Pope Leo by driving a wedge of suspicion as to their legitimacy between the popes and the Catholic people of the United States.

There are, also, intentional and deliberate efforts to give the United States a monotheistic biblical origin and dismiss traditional concepts of separation of church and state.

Some very wealthy and very powerful men (almost always men) who identify as Catholic, who have a creepy interest in the ideas of the “antichrist” and “Armageddon, and the Apocalypse and they organize conferences and seminars, publish books and podcasts, commercial films and television to teach people about their ideas of the antichrist, Armageddon, and the Apocalypse which while not overtly explicit but certainly implicitly raise questions about the credibility of Pope Francis and Pope Leo and the theology of Roman Catholicism since the mid-1960’s.

Millions of dollars have been used to establish institutes, colleges, universities, and projects that, again not explicitly but implicitly seem to understand themselves as valid alternatives to the teachings and the teaching authority of the pope and the magisterium.

Additionally, small fortunes have been donated to traditional Catholic institutions of higher learning to enable these wealthy men to exercise a kind of oversight on curricula, course content, and academic staffing to ensure that their versions of Catholicism are influential long after graduation.

I love being a Roman Catholic priest, I have done my homework for over 60 years to be a good and competent and intelligent Roman Catholic priest, and I am deeply saddened at the demise of Roman Catholic Tradition in the United States.

I am skeptical of the motive for this Easter season of untypical conversions because the evangelism offered by the institutional Catholic Church in the current time using all kinds of social media seems to me to be infantile, emotionally codependent, and performative.

The presence of Christ in this new American Catholicism is largely confined to the tabernacle and monstrance and not sought nor found in the Gospels and texts of the New Testament, and demonstrably not in our neighbor.

There is a blindness in not “seeing” Christ in the abject suffering of the “great deportation,” in the countless deaths of innocent persons caught up in our various military “excursions,” in the continued degradation of our fellow creatures-air, water, soil, plants and animals-and that is why I am skeptical about the large numbers of people allegedly becoming Catholics this Easter.

I have no doubt that we all have hungers and desires for stability, meaning, and purpose in our lives in this country and I think wisdom and mature pastoral ministry would seek to discern what those hungers and desires are and carefully try to name what is it that these, apparently, enthusiastic converts are finding in their lives and which Catholic Church are they finding fulfillment, the Roman Catholic or the American Catholic?

Pope Leo in his homily for Laetare Sunday at a parish in Rome was perfectly clear in teaching authentic Roman Catholicism when he said:

“Many of our brothers and sisters today suffer because of violent conflicts, caused by the absurd claim that problems and differences can be resolved with war,” he said. “Instead, we must tirelessly pursue dialogue for peace.”


“Some even claim to involve the name of God in these choices of death,” the pope continued. “But God cannot be enlisted by darkness. Rather, he always comes to give light, hope, and peace to humanity — and it is peace that those who invoke him must seek.”

If I were an active pastor and I encountered unusual numbers of people interested in becoming Catholics, I would have long, relaxed, and careful conversations with them because “any American Catholic who wants their faith to be a shelter from the world, a justification for political domination or an avoidance of fearful uncertainty” is looking for another false God (*The Afternoon of Christianity: The Courage to Change* by Thomas Halik).

Peace,
Father Niblick




St. Maria Goretti Bus Trip






"I Love Lucy"

I Love Lucy!
**& Chocolate
Factory Tour**




Join us for a fun day featuring chocolate, lunch, and a hilarious presentation celebrating one of television's most beloved shows!

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

-  Bus departs at 8:30 AM
-  Depart from Goretti Hall - Dyer, IN
-  Check-in by 8:15 AM


\$125 per person

 **Long Grove Confectionary Factory Tour**
Arrive at the Long Grove Confectionary Factory & Outlet Store for a guided tour and a sweet chocolate sample.

Lunch at First Draft Restaurant - Grayslake
Grilled Chicken on Yellow Rice, Roasted Vegetables, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls with Butter, Vanilla Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce.

"I Love Lucy" Presentation
Enjoy a lively presentation by humorist Todd Hunt celebrating the legendary comedy of *I Love Lucy* at the University Center at the College of Lake County.

Call 219-865-5482
for reservations!



50/50
CLUB

*Due To The Easter
Bulletin Publishing Deadlines*

The Number Drawn On
Tuesday, March 31, 2026

*Will Be Reported In The
April 11-12, 2026 Bulletin*

The Next Club Drawing
Is Scheduled For
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Please visit the parish website for the
50/50 Club rules and information.