MORAL THEOLOGY AND CATHOLIC DECISION MAKING

Part I: Why Does the Church Teach?
“THE” INTERVIEW

A Big Heart Open to God

An interview with fellow Jesuit and editor of the Italian Jesuit Publication

Sunday, October 13, 2013
Pope Francis said the Roman Catholic Church must shake off an obsession with teachings on abortion, contraception and homosexuality and become more merciful, or risk the collapse of its entire moral edifice “like a house of cards.”

In a dramatically blunt interview with an Italian Jesuit journal, the Pope said the church had “locked itself up in small things, in small-minded rules” and should not be so prone to condemn.

Its priests should be more welcoming and not cold, dogmatic bureaucrats. The confessional, he said, “is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the Lord’s
“We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods. This is not possible...But when we speak about these issues, we have to talk about them in a context. The teaching of the Church, for that matter, is clear and I am a son of the Church, but it is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time...The proclamation of the saving love of God comes before moral and religious imperatives...The message of the Gospel, therefore, is not to be reduced to some aspects that, although relevant, on their own do not show the heart of the message of Jesus Christ.”
“The Gospel reduced to morality casts a shadow of sadness upon the pages of the New Testament”- Cardinal Martini
WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH?

“All that matters is that in any and every way, whether from specious motives or genuine ones, Christ is being proclaimed! This is what brings me joy.” (Phil. 1:18)
THE CHURCH AS A MORAL VOICE

Morality Models Discipleship

Sunday, October 13, 2013
THE CHURCH AS TEACHER

- Magisterium
- Authority
- Maternity
- Letting her teach us and loving her teachings
First Vatican Council: “... Further, all those things are to be believed with divine and Catholic faith which are contained in the Word of God, written or handed down, and which the Church, either by a solemn judgment or by her ordinary and universal teaching [magisterium], proposes for belief as having been divinely revealed.”
“He who hears you, hears me; he who rejects your rejects me, he who rejects me, rejects Him who sent me” (Luke 10:16).

“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16: 17-19)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)
The Church is not an ‘it’

The Church is ‘she’ because she is our mother.

Sunday, October 13, 2013
BEING TAUGHT-
AND LIKING IT!

WILLING TO BE TAUGHT
TUNE IN NEXT WEEK:
10 OCTOBER @ 7PM

“Friendship with Christ”
The fundamental basis for discipleship and Catholic action.