

My oldest brother was divorced after having been married in the Roman Catholic Church in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. He came to my parents and said he expected them and all of us to be at his wedding to another woman he met. My mother and father said, "Joe, we will not be at this wedding because you are still married to your first wife in the eyes of the Church and Almighty God. So don't try to make us feel guilty. We love you enough to say, get your annulment and then we can attend your wedding in the Roman Catholic Church." My brother was furious but, you know, he never married that woman (thank the good Lord!!!!) and my parents witnessed the Truth to him, to me and to everyone in our family. My brother wanted my parents to tickle his ears. Instead they gave him a lesson in the truth of living out the Faith.

It is either the Truth or it is not. Trust me, our Faith is the absolute Truth and it guides me and all of us if we will not sell out to the world, which is full of political correctness and full of people who say, "If you do not accept my untruth and my immorality, then you don't love me and you are judgmental." So be it.

I was sitting in a Denny's lobby a few years back in Scottsdale, Arizona. I was waiting for my to-go order. I was in my clerics but it was quite chilly so I had on my black coat. A young man sat down beside me and said, "Hey, man, have you been down to the strip club down that way? Wow! Those women are hot!" I was, obviously, startled. I said, "No, I have not been to the strip club. I opened my coat and he instantly saw my Roman collar.

I thought he was going to faint. "Hey, Father, I am so sorry. I am SO sorry. This must be a sign."

He began to weep quietly. "I've been lost so long. I was raised a Catholic and I love my Faith, but look how far I've fallen. I am talking to a priest about a strip club."

I patted him on the shoulder. "It was meant to be. Stop going to strip clubs and start going to Church again. But be sure and go to Confession and stop living the sinful life and start living the life Christ means for you to live. You won't be happy otherwise, I promise you."

He looked at me through his tears. "I will, Father. I will." And he left, his head hanging low in his shame.

You see, its OK to say to loved ones and friends, "That is wrong." Will their feelings be hurt? Of course they will. But feelings aren't nearly as important as the salvation of a soul. And we need to be able to say that to ourselves as well. Let's get over the political correctness. Let's get over the silly anger over a righteous judgment. Of course I and you must make judgments. We aren't imbeciles. If the light is red, we stop. That is a judgment. We make those all the time and it is good and right. False judgment is another thing, so don't do that. But good, moral judgment is a necessity for ourselves and for our families and friends.

My role as a priest and pastor is to not tickle ears but to make those ears hear the Truth. My concern is not if someone is "uncomfortable" with the truth. That young man in the Denny's needed to hear the "uncomfortable" truth, but he heard and I think he listened. My brother needed to hear the "uncomfortable" truth and he heard and listened. He never did remarry and told me later that, as angry as he was at my parents, their statement stayed with him all the rest of his life and he came to terms with his own wrong-headedness and became a much stronger Catholic.

So that is who I am as a Roman Catholic priest. I only preach the Gospel and the Truth of Jesus Christ and His Church. Choose wisely. Free will is yours and it is mine. But it can be very problematic if free will becomes "whatever I want God to be, whatever I want Truth to be." That is a tragic mistake which leads to hellish results. Choose wisely.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Tim Farrell,
Pastor



The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

- **Feast Day:** August 29th

The Church celebrates the passion of St. John the Baptist who died approximately A.D. 30. The Bible states that he was the cousin of Jesus, the son of St. Elizabeth, and also the nephew of our Lady. King Herod knew that John was a holy man, and he liked to hear John's words, although he didn't take them to heart. He knew that he had to get control of him because of the crowds he was starting to build. He was afraid to kill him, so instead he had him imprisoned.

According to the Gospels, Herod had arrested John because he spoke out about Herod divorcing his wife, and unlawfully taking the wife of his brother. On Herod's birthday, his new wife's daughter danced before the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased Herod so much that in his drunkenness he promised to give her anything she asked for, up to half of his kingdom. When the daughter asked her mother what she should ask for, her mother said to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod was appalled by the request but reluctantly agreed and had John the Baptist executed in prison. St. John the Baptist was beheaded, and his head was placed on a platter and given to Herod's daughter.

St. John the Baptist spoke the truth with great courage in calling others to a true change of heart, and to embrace the ways of God. He did this not only by preaching, but also by example. He fasted in the desert, and prepared the way for Jesus. He had such a great courage, that he wasn't fearful of speaking out about the immoral activities of his day. This was the reason that led to his death, but he continued. We can learn a lot from his life. We too, can embrace the ways of God and speak out of the immorality of our day, and with the help of St. John the Baptist, we can prepare the way for Jesus to those around us.

<http://newmanconnection.com/faith/saint/the-passion-of-saint-john-the-baptist#:~:text=The%20Passion%20of%20Saint%20John%20the%20Baptist.%20The,Elizabeth%2C%20and%20also%20the%20nephew%20of%20our%20Lady.>