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Christ IS Born! Glorify Him! Christos Razdietsia! Slavite Yeho!

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William & Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smoly nec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John

Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszcuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne &

Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double[COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Linda Snow, Zack Blair [Pani Gina's nephew], Greg & Mary Lou Sheakley [Pani Gina's cousins—COVID], the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert & Eleanor Rodrigues & family, Don Menagon [COVID-19], and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

From the end of Nativity Vespers till the end of Theophany Vespers, we greet each other with the traditional "Christ IS Born!" "Glorify Him!" or "Christos Rozdietsia!" "Slavite Yeho!"—signifying our wander and joy that God has given us His Only-Begotten Son to open the Gates of Heaven to us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be SAFE!!! God Bless!

**29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY;
HOLY RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, &
JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD; HOLY PROTOMARTYR &
ARCHDEACON STEPHEN; VENERABLE THEODORE GRAPTUS OF
PALESTINE & BITHYNIA-CONFESSOR; SAINT THEODORE-
ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

TROPARION—TONE 4

When the women disciples of the Lord
Learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection;
They cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:
Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,
Granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 4

My Savior and Redeemer,
As God rose from the tomb
And delivered the earthborn from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of Hell,
And as Master, He has risen on the third day!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 4

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

PEOPLE: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

READER: O Lord, how manifold are thy works!

PEOPLE: In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 4

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

It doesn't matter when we celebrate Christ's birth, but **how** we celebrate. The calendar was made for man, and not man for the calendar.

Do we offer Him glory, honor, and worship, or do we lose ourselves in temporal things, that eventually leave us wanting? It's all very basic and the choice is ours to make. Today the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, for Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Fr Dave Urban submits this interesting blurb:

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Not so long ago, everyone was following the Julian Calendar. It was in 1582 that Pope Gregory XIII decreed that October 4 would be followed by October 15. Not everyone followed along at first. For example, the Gregorian Calendar did not begin to be used in England and the American Colonies until 1752; Sweden in 1823; and Russia in 1918 (for the civil government).

We see the calendar difference as 13 days, but the Julian Calendar continues to become further away from the Gregorian Calendar. If George Washington were Orthodox, in 1776 Christmas would have been on January 5. Interestingly, in the year 2100, the "Old Calendar" Christmas will be moved to January 8. Churches that continue to follow the Julian Calendar are Jerusalem, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Georgia, Poland, Mount Athos, 60% of our diocese [Carpatho-Russian], and a few other "Old Calendarists" churches.

The Revised Julian Calendar was established in 1923. Some of the churches following this calendar today are Constantinople, Greece, Romania, and the OCA (Orthodox Church of America).

Another interesting note about the 2 calendars used in the Orthodox Churches is that they both use the Julian Calendar to calculate when Pascha (Easter) will be.

+ + +

Recover

Two Kings 20:7- They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (KJV)

Recovery is the hope and interest of the sick, the addicted and the alcoholic. The Lord God determines the degree of recovery that will occur for each person. The individual believer's hope, faith and effort contribute to the recovery process. External support through the Church, family and friends makes a difference. Hunger in the soul to abide by the will of God guides believers toward recovery. Determination to move forward in ways pleasing to the Lord facilitates recovery. The Lord makes recovery possible even in extreme forms of addiction and illness.

Psalms 39:13- O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more. (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures provide a frame of reference for believers seeking recovery. Circumstances vary among individuals as to the degree of illness and afflictions. The Lord knows the heart, mind and soul of each person and each person's goals. God's Holy Church provides the necessary support for recovery to take place. The final assessment of recovery rests with the Lord God and merits acceptance. The Lord's actions in the recovery process are not always immediately understood. Sinners benefit by trusting the Lord during difficult times of illness and addiction.

Isaiah 38:16- O LORD, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live. (KJV)

Illnesses and addictions test the strength of the believer's commitment to recovery. Hope and support are important but the believer's commitment makes a difference. Setbacks, relapses, and unanticipated complications lead to challenging frustrations. The believer's resolute patience is necessary in every stage of the recovery process. Professional guidance provides the attentive believer with a degree of reassurance. Personal habits and practices require evaluation so as not to deter recovery efforts. Joy arises in the ill and addicted when recovery occurs and continues unabated.

Mark 16:18- They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (KJV)

Recovery has a place in each life as every believer suffers from the illness of sin. The Church's fasting periods offer opportunities for assessment and reflection. Recovery is the believer's move from illness and addiction to sobriety and health. Recognizing the need for help from the Lord God is essential for any recovery. The believer's efforts are in vain if they run contrary to the ways of the Lord God. God's Holy Church has innumerable records of recoveries through the centuries. Continuous gratitude to the Lord God is appropriate when believers recover,
Venerable Patapius; Holy Sosthenes, Apollos and Others. December 8/21, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

God's Presence

Psalm 16:11- Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

(KJV)

God is present for believers everywhere for those with strong faith and eyes to see. Putting forth the effort to verify God's presence is worthwhile each day of life. Joy arises within the attentive believer as God's presence is verified in daily life. Believers cast aside doubt when the verifiable evidence of God's presence appears. Attentive believers will discover from the Lord God the path leading to eternal life.

Psalm 50/51:11- Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. (KJV)

Ardent believers seek to remain throughout life in the presence of the Lord God. The Holy Spirit constantly captivates the desire and interest of serious believers. Serious believers do not ever want to relinquish the unity with God's presence. The heart, mind and soul are capable of remaining united with God's presence. Rejecting sin and praying makes the unification with God's presence possible.

Psalm 94/95:2- Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. (KJV)

Conscious effort within the believer is necessary to be united with the Lord God. The world offers paths of sin and temptations to draw the believer away from God. Firmness of faith and resoluteness of mind are necessary to cling to the Lord God. Love of God is expressed and demonstrated in the believer's daily efforts of faith. The Psalms offer a proven and established pathway leading to unity with God.

Psalm 138/139:7- Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (KJV)

The Lord God is everywhere present waiting to be revealed to attentive believers. Believers cannot hide from the Lord God as God is all seeing and all-knowing. Only the foolish seek to run and attempt to hide

from the all-knowing Lord God. Attempting to remain pure, sober and honest in the sight of the Lord is most wise. Help from the Lord is available for those seeking to remain firmly united in faith.

Psalm 139/140:13- Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence. (KJV)

Giving thanks to the Lord God has a place among believers all the days of life. God's blessings, love and mercy abound without measure through the centuries. Always being in the presence of God is the immeasurable ultimate life experience. Being with God is a timeless experience to be cherished and always appreciated. God's presence is the blessing to seek each moment of life all the days of life.

*Holy Prophet Haggai; St. Theophania the Empress. December 16/29, 2021.
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic*

Patty Martinovich:

To all the wives, moms, working, homemaking, juggling a million balls in the air, praying for their families, boosting up their husbands, staying positive in the face of adversity, just like Mary, the behind-the-scenes heroine in George's life. What a beautiful, profoundly insightful piece written by a smart and appreciative man. ❤️ MUST-READ 😊

Tim Clark is with Yvonne Clark.


I realized something while watching "It's a Wonderful Life" recently. It was something I missed the first 326 times I watched it. That is, I think the hero of the story isn't George, it's Mary. The movie starts off with Mary praying for God to be with George. Her prayer (and others) is the catalyst for the angel, Clarence, being sent to George. Mary is the one who sees the beauty of the old broken down house. "It's full of romance, that old place." George sees empty space; Mary sees a space that can be filled with a family's love. That's why George kisses the broken banister knob in the end; he finally sees what Mary always saw in that house. Mary saw it on the day of their wedding. She was the one who transformed the house into "honeymoon suite." Of course, that happened after she had the idea to offer her \$2000 honeymoon money to the people of the town during the bank run. When George is depressed by his friends moving onward and upward in the world and think he's a disappointment to his wife because of it, Mary makes it clear that she "didn't want to marry anybody else in town." Never complaining, she worked "day after day remaking the old Granville house into a home." This while having 4 children and running the USO. Finally, Mary is the one who goes all over town to ask for help for her husband. Uncle Billy remarks, "Mary did it, George! Mary did it!" I had never noticed her expression before when Uncle Billy says this. She's in the

background as he says it, and she mouths "No..." while she shakes her head and moves further into the background. It's an incredibly subtle but important feature of her character: do good for others, but let others receive the credit. She moves fully into the background so that everyone giving money to George can come front and center. This was all orchestrated by Mary, but she fades into the background.

Now look at the picture below where Mary is again in the background. Note where she's positioned: over George's shoulder. The one watching over George all these years was Mary. She was as much a guardian angel to George as Clarence was.

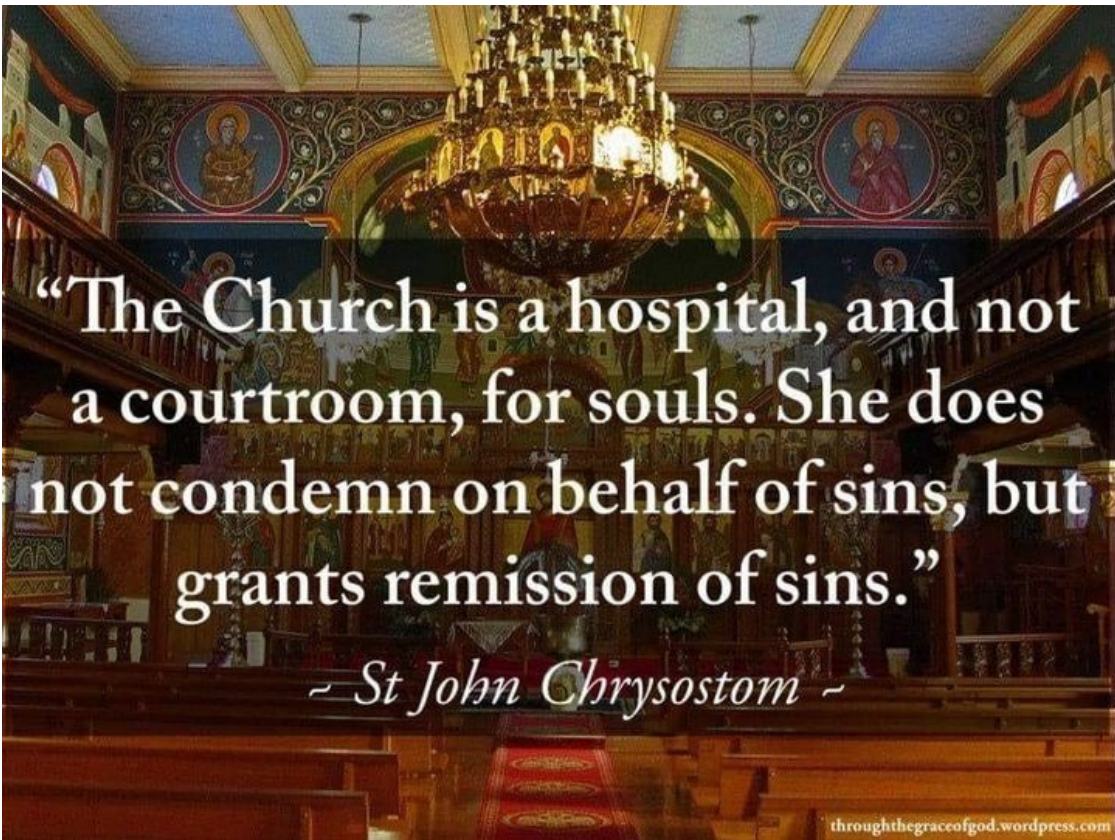
In the end, George was a good man; even a great one. He was after all, "The richest man in town." But would he have accomplished all he did, and been the man he was without Mary? I think the answer is definitely not. And there are many such Marys in this world who quietly go about, offering their prayers, works, and sufferings; raising their children; praying for their husbands and making them 10x the men they would have been without them. I know. I'm married to one. Most of their deeds won't be known this side of heaven. Until they're known, we, the Georges of this world, offer to you Marys our profound thank you. And we promise to keep trying to lasso the moon for you. You deserve nothing less.





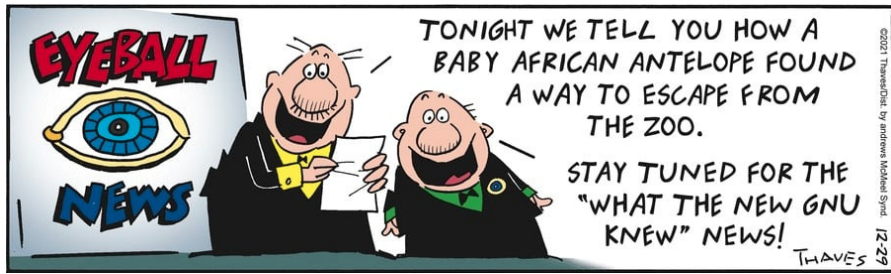
“People cannot ‘pull themselves up by their own bootstraps’ if they cannot afford to buy a pair of boots, or if someone else’s boots are on their neck.”

—Vladika Lazar Puhalo



“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins.”

~St John Chrysostom~



From Father Steve Repa:

Orthodox Priests

What Catholic Clergy Think I Do	What Protestant Clergy Think I <i>Think</i> I Do	What Converts Think I Do	What Converts' Parents Think I Do
What The Media Think I Do	What My Mom Is Afraid I'll Do	What I Think I Do	What I Really Do

