

Neocatechumenal Way - An Insider's View

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Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Our Jewish Heritage

This is in response to "A Thoughtful Catholic" who stated the following regarding the "Beginning of the Year Convivence." According to Chuck White:

The Neocatechumenals celebrate their "Convivencia de Inicio de Curso" every year according to the Jewish calendar, without exception.....This adoption of the Jewish new year competes with our own liturgical year and only serves to heighten the sectarian walls the separates "the Way" from the Catholic Church.

http://thoughtfulcatholic.com/?page_id=43090

Christianity came from Judaism, and her roots is also found in Judaism. The first Christians were Jewish, and the Founder of the Catholic Church (Jesus Christ) was also Jewish. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

CCC 839

The relationship of the Church with the Jewish People. When she delves into her own mystery, the Church, the People of God in the New Covenant, discovers her link with the Jewish People, "the first to hear the Word of God." The Jewish faith, unlike other non-Christian religions, is already a response to God's revelation in the Old Covenant. To the Jews "belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ", "for the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable."

What does this means? It means that the Catholic Church is the fulfillment and completion of God's self-revelation that started with Abraham. God continued His revelation through Moses. His revelation is then conveyed across the next twelve centuries of the Old Covenant until they were prepared to receive Christ, who reconciled God with man in the New Covenant. There is a direct line from Moses, who said, "Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you (See Exodus 24:8) to Jesus, who said, "This is My blood of the covenant (See Matthew 26:28). This ancient Jewish priesthood continues today in the person of the Catholic priest. So, how can one separate Judaism from Catholicism when Judaism is part of our roots and our heritage? In fact, Scott Hahn, an apologist, once stated that to understand Catholicism, one needs to understand Judaism.

Jesus Christ, His Apostles, and many of the disciples were Jewish. Jewish law states that a child born to a Jewish mother remains a Jew. Thus, the Early Christians considered themselves completed Jews and continued to pray in the synagogues. As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul considered himself a Jew even after his conversion.

Acts 21:38 [Paul answered, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people."](#)

Later, these Early Christians who viewed themselves as Jews were kicked out of the synagogues. Our Jewish heritage is also found in the liturgy and Mass as Scott Hahn learned during his conversion period. The priests' vestments, for example, have ancient origin. His outer garment, the chasuble, a large cone-shaped cloth with a hole for the head, was often worn in Palestine during the Greek and Roman occupations.

Exodus 28:2, 4 [And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty. And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.](#)

One of the things that converted apologist Stephen Ray into the Catholic Church was our Jewish heritage. The fact that the Neocatechumenal Way has highlighted our Jewish roots does not separate us from the Catholic Church, but serves as a reminder to appreciate where we came from and who our Founder is.....a Jewish man named Jesus Christ.

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Sunday, October 26, 2014

The Transmission Of Faith