

THE
DEVIL
IN THE CITY
OF ANGELS

MY ENCOUNTERS WITH THE DIABOLICAL

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Jesse Romero

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FOREWORD

Today we are witnessing an unprecedented rise in the occult all over the world, even inside the Church; the evidence for which is overwhelming. Scripture tells us that at the end of the ages, there will be an acceleration of evil such as has never been seen before. Unfortunately, the devil has lulled the majority of people in the world to sleep, comfortable in the erroneous belief that he doesn't exist. In writing this book, Jesse Romero has done Holy Mother Church a great service because most Catholics get their information about spirits, angels, and demons from Hollywood movies and TV series.

Many people have had encounters with evil spirits and the diabolical, but because we have become more secular and less faithful, we are led to believe that demonic possession or simply an awareness of the devil is just a type of "mental illness" that can be cured with a pill or medication. Most people never talk about their personal encounters with evil spirits or demons because they are just too embarrassed to share these experiences for fear of being called "nuts" or "crazy." This subject is taboo, and most people that experience the diabolical whisper it to a confidant. Jesse Romero, a well-known bilingual Catholic lay evangelist, has dared to speak up, and in the pages that follow, he shares in detail his encounters with evil spirits and witches. His stories follow

St. Paul's exhortation to expose the darkness (see Eph 5:11) because "the days are evil" (Eph 5:16).

Read this book, inform yourself, stay close to Our Lord and Our Lady; they will be your first responders when you call upon them. We serve Mary, a twelve-star general (see Rv 12:1–5). Your "sword of the Spirit" (Eph 6:17) must be soaked in the blood of demons and dragons. Let's unite our souls and prayers to the heel of Our Blessed Mother, the Sword of St. Michael, and the Precious Powerful blood of Jesus so that we can deliver a powerful blow to Satan and his kingdom and send them reeling back to hell on judgment day.

Bishop Eduardo Nevares,
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix

INTRODUCTION

Why Did I Write This Book?

“**B**ecause one out of three (Catholic) theologians does not believe in the existence of Satan; almost two out of three believe in his existence but not in his practical actions and refuse to take it into account in pastoral activity. This leaves very little room for those who believe and try to act accordingly. The few exceptions are forced to act against the tide, and often are ridiculed and ostracized by the rest of the clergy. These statistics were gathered in West Germany in 1974 and were published in the *Concilium*.”¹ Those who don’t preach the truth from the pulpit about the reality of the devil and hell are guilty of “ecclesiastical malpractice.” Those teachers who are cowardly preachers in this life, if they don’t repent, will experience “climate change” in the next life.

It is not surprising that our clergy’s failings and weaknesses have been laid bare for all to see in extreme fashion in recent months and years. Our Lady of Akita, Japan, said to Sr. Sasagawa in 1973 regarding the intensity of demons against our clergy:

¹ Gabriele Amorth, *An Exorcist—More Stories* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002).

The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres . . . churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many *priests and consecrated souls* to leave the service of the Lord. . . .The demon will be especially implacable against souls consecrated to God. The thought of the loss of so many souls is the cause of my sadness. If sins increase in number and gravity, there will be no longer pardon for them.²

Here is another reason I wrote this book: *Catholics don't believe in the devil!*

A recent study reveals that Catholics are among the least likely to agree that Satan is a “living being.” That finding was published by the Center for Research on the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. A recent survey of 1,495 US adults who believe in God reveals that Evangelical Christians are nearly three times more likely than Catholics to believe that Satan is a “living being.” Fifty-five percent of Evangelical Christians interviewed view Satan as an active and “cunning adversary” as described in the New Testament while only 17 percent of all Catholics polled indicated that they viewed Satan as a living presence in the world. Rather, Catholics are more likely to view Satan as a symbol of evil

² “The Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Akita, Japan, to Sr. Agnes Sasagawa,” EWTN, November 2011, <https://www.ewtn.com/library/mary/akita.htm>.

rather than a “real” living being.³ Contrast that with Catholic teaching as found within the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which describes Satan as a real being, specifically a fallen angel who rebelled against God (CCC 391–95).

Venerable Fulton Sheen observed more than fifty years ago that the Church’s real problem was that “our theologians have neglected the demonic. . . . The demonic is always most powerful when he is denied. It is almost impossible today to find a theologian writing about the demonic, unless it be to deny it.”⁴ The problem is worse today . . . much worse.

In 2017, Cardinal Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia wrote the following of the Polish intellectual and convert Leszek Kolakowski:

Exactly 30 years ago, Kolakowski gave a lecture at Harvard entitled ‘The Devil in History.’ . . . Kolakowski saw that we can’t fully understand our culture unless we take the devil seriously. The devil and evil are constants at work in human history and in the struggles of every human soul. And note that Kolakowski (unlike some of our own Catholic leaders who should know better) was not using the word ‘devil’ as a symbol of the darkness in our own hearts, or a metaphor for the bad things that happen in the world. He was talking about the spiritual being Jesus called ‘the evil

³ Anne Hendershott, “What, the Devil?” *Catholic World Report*, September 8, 2017, www.catholicworldreport.com/2017/09/08/what-the-devil/.

⁴ Fulton J. Sheen and Henry Dieterich, *Through the Year with Fulton Sheen: Inspirational Selections for Each Day of the Year* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2003).

one' and 'the father of lies' — the fallen angel who works tirelessly to thwart God's mission and Christ's work of salvation. This is why the evangelization of culture is *always*, in some sense, a call to spiritual warfare. We're in a struggle for souls. Our adversary is the devil. And while Satan is not God's equal and doomed to final defeat, he can do bitter harm in human affairs. The first Christians knew this. We find their awareness written on nearly every page of the New Testament. The modern world makes it hard to believe in the devil. But it treats Jesus Christ the same way. And that's the point. Medieval theologians understood this quite well. They had an expression in Latin: *Nullus diabolus, nullus redemptor*. No devil, no Redeemer. Without the devil, it's very hard to explain why Jesus needed to come into the world to suffer and die for us. What exactly did he redeem us *from*? The devil, more than anyone, appreciates this irony, i.e., that we can't fully understand the mission of Jesus without him. And he exploits this to his full advantage. He knows that consigning him to myth inevitably sets in motion our same treatment of God.⁵

C. S. Lewis wrote a masterpiece on the diabolical that you should read if you have not already. In letter VII of his book *The Screwtape Letters*, the senior demon, who is named Screwtape, tells his young protégé, Wormwood, that the

⁵ Charles Chaput, "Sympathy for the Devil," *Catholic Philly*, June 5, 2017, catholicphilly.com/2017/06/think-tank/archbishop-chaput-column/sympathy-for-the-devil/.

most effective thing he can do to bring souls to hell is to convince people that Satan does not even exist.⁶ According to the above surveys, the devil's tactic, as imagined by one of the great Christian writers, is certainly working.

Fr. Gabriel Amorth, a Vatican Exorcist for thirty-three years, wrote, "Theology will be unfinished and incomprehensible until it focuses on the world of the angels. A Christology that ignores Satan is crippled and will never understand the magnitude of redemption."⁷

Saint John Paul II stated, "He who does not believe in the devil does not believe in the Gospel."⁸

Fr. Pedro Mendoza Pantoja, a leading exorcist in Mexico, commented, "What the devil is interested in is to confuse us, either by making us believe that he doesn't exist and that, since he doesn't exist, neither do hell and heaven."⁹

Fr. Gary Thomas, an exorcist, said, "The clash of forces between good and evil in society causes confusion."¹⁰ Clearly many Catholics today are confused, so confused that they don't even believe in the devil anymore!

⁶ Clive Staples Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters* (CrossReach Publications, 2016).

⁷ Gabriele Amorth and Nicoletta V. MacKenzie, *An Exorcist Tells His Story* (Ignatius Press, 1999).

⁸ Sd, "Famous Exorcist On How 'Smoke' Of Devil Entered Church," *Spirit Daily Blog*, May 27, 2017, spiritdaily.org/blog/uncategorized/famous-exorcist-on-how-smoke-of-devil-entered-church.

⁹ "Satan's Strategy of Confusion (Part 2)," *ZENIT - English*, January, 1 2016, zenit.org/articles/satan-s-strategy-of-confusion-part-2/.

¹⁰ Gary Thomas, lecture at St. Joseph's Church, Meadows, Diocese of San Jose, November 11, 2017.

Father Candido Amantini, a Passionist priest and Rome's chief exorcist for more than thirty years, asked a demon during an exorcism, "How many are you?" The demon responded, "We are so many that, if we were visible, we would darken the sun."¹¹

If you are Catholic, you must know that the existence of demons is "de fide," defined dogma. The Fourth Lateran Council declared that "Satan and the other devils are (1) by nature spirits . . . (2) created by God, (3) and so originally good, (4) but fell into sin (5) of their own free will" and that they are (6) "eternally damned."

What about those people—perhaps most Catholics in fact—that do believe in the existence of the devil but still choose to live a faith which is lukewarm, tepid, and indifferent? Here is an anecdotal story for them.

The Devil was being advised by his demons on how to steal souls to hell. The demons told the Devil, "Let's tell them there is no God." The Devil said, "They will never believe us; the knowledge of God is written in every human heart." The demons said, "Let's tell them there is no heaven or hell." The Devil said, "They will never believe that, they all know in the heart of hearts that there is a place outside of earth called heaven and hell." The demons said, "(We) know what to tell them, lets convince them that there is no hurry to convert, yeah, lets tell them there is no hurry, that they have

¹¹ Gabriele Amorth, et al, *An Exorcist Explains the Demonic: the Antics of Satan and His Army of Fallen Angels* (Sophia Institute Press, 2016), 17.

a long life to live so they should just eat, drink and indulge in the world.”

And for two thousand years, he has been lying to people by this great strategy concocted from hell, demons telling people there is no hurry to convert. And people have been listening. But let's stop listening to the devil and start listening to God! God tells us not to delay! It is right there in Scripture! Do we trust God's word?

“Do not delay to turn to the Lord, nor postpone it from day to day; for suddenly the wrath of the Lord will go forth, and at the time of punishment you will perish” (Sir 5:7).

“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’” (Lk 12:20).

“Just as it is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27 NABRE).

THE DEVIL

Who Is the Devil?

The devil is one of the legion of evil spirits who were originally good angels created by God but who made themselves evil by refusing to obey the will of God.

The devil (from *diabolus*, meaning slanderer) and demons are fallen angels whose leader is Satan (adversary). In both the Old and the New Testaments, Satan is the enemy of God, who brings about evil and tempts human beings to defy God's laws. Even Jesus allowed himself to be tempted by Satan in the desert. *Why? To give us an example of how to resist him and how to fight back.*

References to the devil are frequent in the Scriptures. Their prominent feature is that a personal, malicious force is active in the world. It is deliberately bent on preventing the designs of God.

Why Is the Devil Allowed to Tempt Us?

The final explanation of why Satan is allowed to tempt us is a mystery. But divine revelation gives us several profound reasons why God allows this.

- By our resistance of the evil spirit, we prove our loyalty to God. There is such a thing as being tested in order to more deeply and clearly understand God's providence in our lives.
- The devil's purpose is, of course, malicious. But God allows the evil spirit to tempt us so that we may grow in our love for God.

The following is my synopsis of Venerable Mary of Ágreda's account of the fall of Lucifer from her book *The Mystical City of God*.

This information on Lucifer comes from Sacred Tradition, Holy Scripture, and from the writings of Venerable Maria de Jesus of Ágreda, Spain (1602–1665). The Blessed Virgin Mary dictated to this Spanish nun the entire story of her (the Blessed Mother's) life which the nun wrote down in a very comprehensive volume titled *The Mystical City of God*. This mystical city is actually the body of the Virgin Mary in which God the Son lived for nine months. And wherever God the Son lives, there too is God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. In only a few short months after you and I die, our bodies will rot in the grave. The body of this Spanish nun can be seen incorrupt in her convent in Ágreda, Spain. Sister Maria de Jesus died almost 350 years ago, and her body lies and looks exactly the same today as on the day she died without any help from modern science. This miracle of God lends credibility to all that she wrote.

Lucifer was the most beautiful of all the creatures created by God. The name "Lucifer" (Is 14:12) means bright star, bright being. Of all the angels created by God as pure spirits

without a body and with a free will, Lucifer was by far the most brilliant, the most intelligent, and the most powerful. Unfortunately, through this gift of free will, Lucifer, like so many of us, chose to become the most prideful, most arrogant, and the most envious creature. Consequently, he chose to become the most horrible creature in all of God's creation. All the angels are spiritual beings created by God with an abundance of knowledge, understanding, and power. All these divine gifts notwithstanding, they are still creatures and *not* God. This is a detail that Lucifer, his minions, and many times we humans choose to forget. We humans often times forget that we are mere creatures that owe everything to our God.

Lucifer and all of the angels were created in that one instant when God said, "Let there be light" (Gn 1:3). In that instant, they were created as bright beings of light. But even though they had been created in God's heaven, they had not yet been allowed to see God. All the angels were, just like all of us here on earth, on a sort of trial. They were being tested and would have to earn the privilege of seeing the Beatific Vision by passing this test of obedience to God. God gave them all the information that they needed in stages and not all at once so that they could make the proper choice of freely choosing to serve God for all eternity. Lucifer and all the other angels were even informed of the consequences of disobedience. They were told that a place of fire and eternal punishment would be created to punish any who chose not to obey and serve God. But it seems that just as so many of us choose to ignore this inevitable consequence of our bad actions we call hell, Lucifer and one third of all the angels

(see Rv 12:4) chose to believe that a God so benevolent would not also be all-just and punish disobedience. In their sin of pride, they created for themselves a false image of the Creator, an image designed to suit *their* selfish desires. Sadly, so many of us humans do this as well.

In the beginning, however, Lucifer was in complete accord with God. But then after Lucifer was “given the blueprints,” so to speak, for the creation of man as an inferior being to the angels with a body, flesh, and a soul, but was told that he, the greatest angel of them all, would have to kneel before and serve God the Son in human form, Lucifer’s love of self, and the sins of pride and envy, got the better of him. The last straw came when Lucifer was told that he and all the angels would have to serve the Queen of Heaven, Mary the mother of Jesus. Lucifer rebelled against God and convinced one third of all the angels to serve, obey, and worship him rather than God. The sad truth is that Lucifer forgot that he was a mere creature when he demanded that God give to him the place that was reserved exclusively for Jesus the Christ.

Lucifer and his unfaithful minions in their act of rebellion went from being the most beautiful to the most horrible creatures in God’s creation: Satan and his malignant devils. But even in their current hideous state, they did not lose their knowledge, cunning, and power. The job of casting all these devils into hell was accorded by God to Saint Michael the Archangel, who, together with all the faithful angels, won the first war that ever took place in heaven. As our Lady of Fatima told us, war is a punishment for sin.

The tremendous hatred and envy that Satan and his demons have for all of humanity has no equal in all of

creation. This hatred stems from the fact that we humans can still reach the heaven that Satan and his devils lost for all eternity. This is why Satan tempts us with the seven capital sins: pride, envy, wrath, sloth, greed, gluttony, and lust. While pride offends God the most, it is lust that sends the most souls to hell. Beware of the sins of lust. This admonition, too, came from our Lady of Fatima in Portugal in 1917.

Satan's greatest victory over all humanity is getting most humans in every generation to believe that he (Satan) and hell do not exist. This lie, when carried to its end rationale, leads humans to the erroneous conclusion that neither do God and heaven exist. Thus, we are free of any punitive consequences for our foul and sinful deeds. This lie is what gives individuals, at least in their own minds, license to embrace and wholeheartedly support the culture of death: artificial birth control (which is the mother that spawned this culture of death), abortion, euthanasia, mercy killing, doctor and pharmacist assisted suicide, drug use, abuse, and trafficking, wanton murders, worldwide terrorism, and homosexuality.¹²

Hispanic Catholics – Will We Be Servants of Christ or Servants of Satan?

Catholics—but most especially Hispanic or Latino Catholics—are being vexed, harassed, annoyed, and targeted by

¹² María de Jesús and Geo J. Blatter, *The Mystical City of God: the Divine History and Life of the Virgin Mother of God, Our Queen and Our Lady, Most Holy Mary, Expiatrix of the Fault of Eve and Mediatrix of Grace ; the Miracle of His Omnipotence and the Abyss of His Grace* (TAN Books, 2013).

Satanism, Santeria, Santa Muerte, and witchcraft. If Hispanic Catholics are going to be used as God's Delta Force in the new evangelization, then we need to be equipped against these dangerous destructive occultic groups who are preying on us. Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, during opening remarks at the October 28, 2017 event held at St. Paul Parish, said, "But in 2017 the largest group in the Catholic Church in America are Hispanics and Latinos."¹³ Hispanic evangelization must include exposing the deceptions of the occult groups which have made such inroads in the Hispanic Catholic community. I speak from personal experience as you will see in the pages that follow.

¹³ Tony Gutierrez, "Millennials seek meaningful relationships, sense of welcoming," *The Catholic Sun*, vol. 33, no.11, November 16, 2017, p. 1.