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Dear Editor,

The Rev. Stechschulte's article on 3-18-16 starts out well with the story of the rich man who cries out from hell to Abraham to send someone to his brother's to tell them to repent so they can escape the torment. But Abraham tells him that if they do not believe Moses and the Prophets neither will they believe if someone comes from the dead. St. Luke who is telling us this is quoting Jesus' words. Moses and the Prophets refers to the scripture of the Old Testament, Jesus was emphasizing the fact that a person must search God's word for the truth in order to come to a saving faith in the Messiah. Scripture shares; Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

But the Rev. doesn't emphasize Jesus' desire for us to study God's word. Instead he focuses on the religiousness and the importance of celebrating these "Holy Days and Events" without sharing what Jesus truly accomplished for mankind's forgiveness. He also writes, "These are the most important days in the Christian year ... Holy Week." The Rev. states how "It is vital that we make Holy Week different from the other weeks of the year. It is a time of particular graces from God for our spiritual well-being."

I am assuming these graces are received through the Catholic Sacraments and Church attendance. The Catholic Church claims that their studies on the scriptures with their traditions and supported commentary compose the only complete truth.

The Rev. speaks about the "Last Supper where Christ gives us His body and blood and asks us to 'do this in memory of Me.' Then we follow Him to Gethsemane ... the Hill of Calvary ... With the Blessed Mother, John and Mary Magdalene, we will stand beneath the cross and offer ourselves with Him for the salvation of the world".

This concept that sinful humans may offer themselves with Jesus "for the salvation of the world" is heresy and receives the anathema of God's word. I wish I had more room to write but you must decide which voice you will follow, the one that tells you "Don't worry about it just keep trusting in the Catholic Church's teachings and traditions, it's just too much hassle to read God's word and search for God on your own; besides you can't understand the bible without the Church." Or you may answer the call of the Holy Spirit and search and read God's word for yourself. God promises you wisdom, knowledge and salvation if you search for Him with all your heart. Try a new perspective this year, starting today, Read God's Word. Escape the torment. Jesus lost His life for you, you must lose your life for Him.

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