

When I was in the Navy, a colleague of mine and I were sitting around on a Saturday morning; and he asked me how it was that I still believed in all that “stuff” that was Catholicism. He went on to say that his father believed all of that, but that unlike his father, he had gone to college. And he said that since I had gone to college, that I should know better than to believe, since Science had long ago disproven that God even existed.

I was a bit stunned at his question; and not really caring how delicately I handled it — seminary has since taught me to be more pastoral on such matters — I asked him how much Science he had studied to get his degree. His response was, a couple of classes in the first two years of study.

Then I asked him if he had any idea how much Science it took to have a Graduate Degree in Engineering. He said he didn't know; and I told him — at least two classes per semester, and sometimes three or four.

I told him that he had no knowledge of Science, but instead was exhibiting Faith in Science — which to him was a great unknown ... and that perhaps at some point in the future, if he applied himself he might gain knowledge of Science, and Faith in God.

I have to admit, that isn't the best way to make friends — and from that day, he told people that I was stuck up and thought I was smarter than him.

The Easter Sacraments — Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist — impart the Supernatural Virtues of FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE. These are free gifts of grace given to us by God ... gifts that we can foster, or gifts that we can work against.

In the Gospel, we hear the familiar story of doubting Thomas. But Jesus doesn't confront Thomas' doubt when he finally appears with Thomas in the room. Rather, Jesus confronts Thomas' FAITHLESSNESS. As a follower of Jesus, Thomas had at his disposal FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE ... but Thomas tells the other Apostles, "I will not believe." That is, Thomas is working against the supernatural virtue of FAITH.

It is important that through our life of PRAYER we foster the graces poured out upon us in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. If we receive these sacraments, but then spend the rest of our lives working against them — what good is there in that?

Let us pray as we approach this altar to receive the sacred Body, and Blood; Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ — for a richer outpouring of the graces of the Easter Sacraments. And where we have perhaps been working against God's grace, let us confess that fault — and seek reconciliation with the Holy Trinity ... for we are children of God the Father, redeemed in the Risen Christ, and filled with the graces of the Holy Spirit.