

I was first introduced to the work of John O'Brien when former Roman Catholic priest Richard Bennett gave a lecture on the Mass and quoted a small sample of O'Brien's blasphemies as found in *The Faith of Millions*.^[1] Since that time I have come across similar quotes attributed to O'Brien along with some folks arguing that the quotes are not legitimate. Surely, the degree of blasphemy spewing forth from this servant of antichrist is so great that it is quite understandable why one would want to pretend that his blasphemies have been exaggerated, or worse, that they are the invention of sinister "Catholic bashing" Protestants.

The assertion that the O'Brien quotes are exaggerated prompted me to obtain a copy of O'Brien's book in order to verify them for accuracy. Sickeningly, but not surprisingly (since the statements are in accordance with Trent's teaching on the "sacrifice of the Mass"), this book bearing the *Imprimatur*^[2] does indeed contain the blasphemous statements as cited by Bennett and others. I will reprint a few brief passages here pertaining to the Mass, that most idolatrous of all Rome's satanic sorceries.

For those who continue to insist that Protestants are being dishonest when we accuse Romanists of re-sacrificing Christ, the following is excerpted from chapter 22 titled, "**The Mass: A reenactment of Calvary (Christ is sacrificed again)**":

"The Mass is the unbloody reenactment of the sacrifice of Calvary. Through the consecration of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, the Mass perpetuates the sacrifice of the Cross by offering to God the same Victim that was immolated on Calvary for the redemption of man. In the Mass the priest speaks not in his own name, but as the ambassador of Jesus Christ, speaking the very words which Christ uttered at the Last Supper. Thus Jesus Christ is both the High Priest and the Victim in the sacrifice of the Mass and in the sacrifice of the Cross, and the ends for which both sacrifices were offered are identical."^[3]

"The sacrifice of the Mass is offered up for the same ends for which Christ died on the Cross, namely, to propitiate Almighty God for the sins of man, to render homage, praise and thanksgiving for His benefits, and to supplicate Him for graces and blessings. We should therefore assist at Mass with the same devotion with which we would have knelt at the foot of the Cross and have offered up the dying Christ as the Victim for the sins of the world; for Christ is offered up on the altar as truly as He was on Calvary's Cross."^[4]

From chapter 17, **“The Priesthood: A Divine Institution (The Priest is Christ’s Ambassador to Men)”**:

“The supreme power of the priestly office is the power of consecrating. “No act is greater,” says St. Thomas, “than the consecration of the body of Christ.” In this essential phase of the sacred ministry, the power of the priest is not surpassed by that of the bishop, the archbishop, the cardinal or the pope. Indeed it is equal to that of Jesus Christ. For in this role the priest speaks with the voice and the authority of God Himself.

When the priest pronounces the tremendous words of consecration, he reaches up into the heavens, brings Christ down from His throne, and places Him upon our altar to be offered up again as the Victim for the sins of man. It is a power greater than that of monarchs and emperors: it is greater than that of saints and angels, greater than that of Seraphim and Cherubim.

Indeed it is greater even than the power of the Virgin Mary. While the Blessed Virgin was the human agency by which Christ became incarnate a single time, the priest brings Christ down from heaven, and renders Him present on our altar as the eternal Victim for the sins of man—not once but a thousand times! The priest speaks and lo! Christ, the eternal and omnipotent God, bows his head in humble obedience to the priest’s command.

*Of what sublime dignity is the office of the Christian priest who is thus privileged to act as the ambassador and the vicegerent of Christ on earth! He continues the essential ministry of Christ: he teaches the faithful with the authority of Christ, he pardons the penitent sinner with the power of Christ, he offers up again the same sacrifice of adoration and atonement which Christ offered on Calvary. **No wonder that the name which spiritual writers are especially fond of applying to the priest is that of ‘alter Christus.’ For the priest is and should be another Christ.**”[5]*

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false

christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand" (Matthew 24:23-24).

[1] O'Brien, J.A., *The Faith of Millions: The Credentials of the Catholic Religion* (new and revised edition), Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington, Indiana, 1974.

[2] As the copyright page reads: "The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is *free of doctrinal or moral error*. No implication is contained therein that those who have granted the Nihil Obstat or Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions or statements expressed" [emphasis added].

[3] p. 304.

[4] p. 306.

[5] pp. 255—256.

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