

Antichrist:

Having copulated with casuists and begotten bastards for the lake of fire, do you also now seek to confound me with games of the mind or tempt me with that whore Reason? Perhaps the monks who abase themselves before your throne, seeking merits but earning only divine judgment, have proved sufficiently susceptible to your conjuror's tricks.

But I have rid myself of the fetid friar's cowl in order to finally bask in the light of His Glorious Presence and am no longer subject to your seductions.

Luther

Luther:

Having taken the time to review in depth the issues at stake, I must say it has been the proximate cause of a spiritual renewal I thought impossible given my habits of mind and advanced age. Your madness has issued in my awakening, your dissemination of heresies in my embrace of orthodoxy. The Lord truly works in mysterious ways.

Peter

Pontificator:

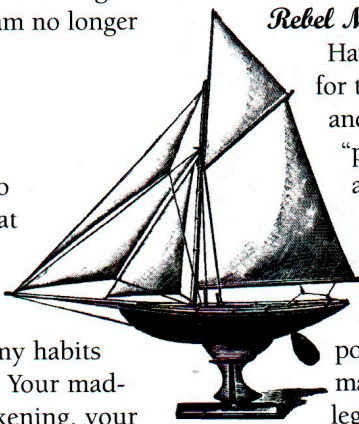
Do you finally agree to argue the merits of my cause, debate the truth—or rather, the lies—of your false sacraments, magical indulgences and toy relics, which promise remission of sins, release from purgatory and—miracle of miracles—joy unspeakable? I alone will do battle with you and all the scholastic bombasts at your disposal!

Luther

Rebel Monk:

Having taken the sacraments for the first time in decades and found the peace that “passeth understanding,” I am better equipped, thanks be to God, or should I say enlightened, to see your vituperations for what they really are: a cheap power play. You are a megalomaniac, unable to submit to legitimate authority, and so you seek to destroy it and raise yourself up as sole arbiter of truth.

Was this not man's first sin, from which all other sins stem? Whatever the deep-seated genesis of your complaint, you are a man under obedience. Your



denunciations are symptomatic of either satanic possession or a dissident, obstreperous heart.

I command you, in the name of Our Lord and Savior, to repudiate your views, confess your perfidy and do penance.


In short: Renounce your views or burn!
Petros

Dear Mr. Julius:

I am writing to offer an apology for the verbal abuse you have endured from one of our patients. It seems that we at the home have been a little lax in screening the residents' mail and what ordinarily would have circulated “in house” or remained between a resident and his doctor “escaped” to the outside world.

But, to be fair, you are not blameless in this. The first letter was precipitated by a genuine crisis with which I—and many others—have some familiarity. It seems Mr. Luder was given, anonymously, a gift at Christmas manufactured by your company.

The instructions proved a labyrinth from which only our most gifted technician was able to extricate himself.

Also, you forgot to include batteries.
Sincerely,
David Erasmus, M.S.W. 

Parable of the Highly Effective Neighbor

By Blaine McCormick

(Adapted from Luke 11)

Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me and I have nothing to set before him.”

Then the one inside answers, “Midnight is not the

time nor is my home the place to properly respond to such a need, friend. Go to my church building tomorrow and tell your needs to someone there—better yet,

ask for the pastor. He'll have plenty of time because he only works on Sunday.

“He and I and a few other people at church will teleconference before the day is


out and put together a plan to ensure that you will never have to ask another for bread again. And if we play our cards right, we can completely eliminate your dependence upon anybody but yourself.

“You see, I've learned that if you give a man a loaf of bread you feed him for a day. But if you teach a man to

grow his own wheat and bake his own bread then you feed him for a lifetime. This is my hope and my vision for you, dear friend—be warmed and filled! Yea, verily, your simple request is but a beginning of a vast global ministry against breadlessness. I'm certain that God will bless this magnificent program and He will be glorified by our effectiveness.

“And after we tackle this bread issue, I'll teach you how to keep your friends from dropping by unannounced in the middle of the night.

“Aren't you glad you asked for my help?

“Hello? Hello?” 

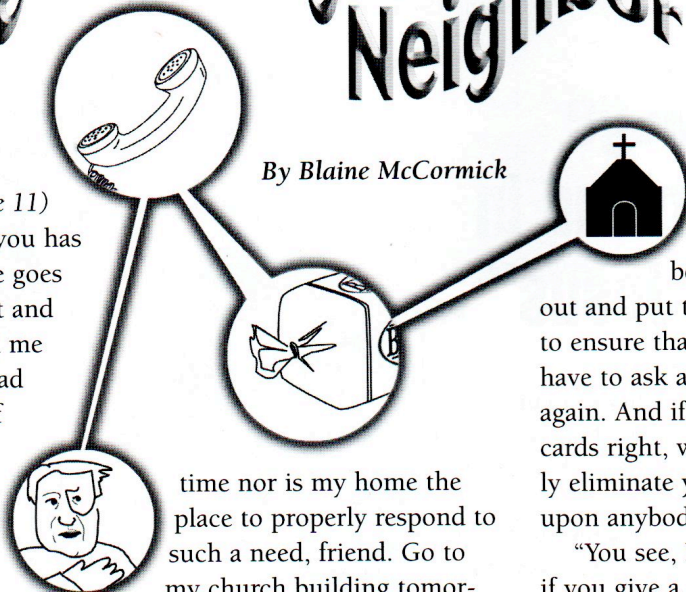


Illustration: Johnny Rutledge