

Catholic Voices



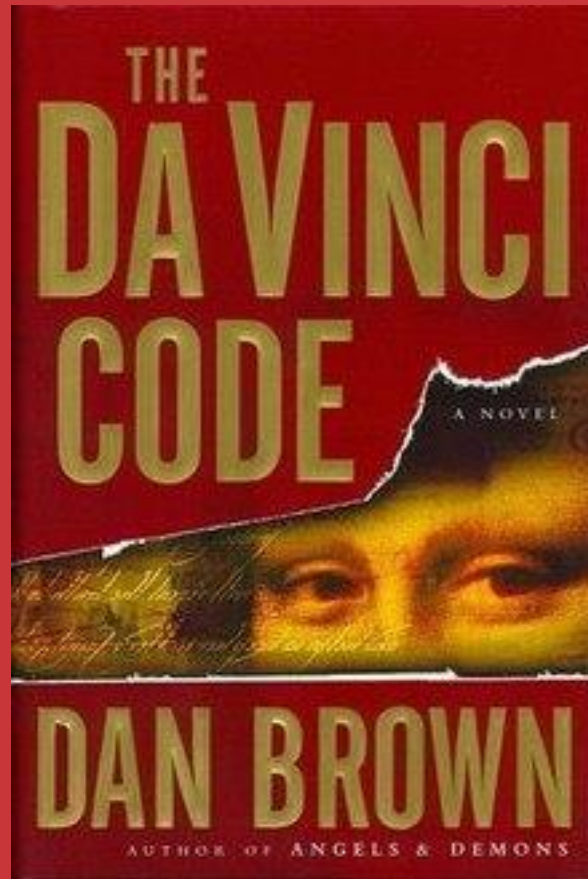
The History of

Catholic  **Voices**



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Motion: The Catholic church is a force for good in the world.

THE
*intelligence*²
DEBATE

	BEFORE	AFTER	CHANGE
For:	678	268	- 410
Against:	1102	1876	+774
Undecided:	346		

BBC WORLD NEWS



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It is commonly said that if rational argument is so seldom the cause of conviction, philosophical apologists must largely be wasting their shot...

The premise is true, but the conclusion does not follow. For though *argument does not create conviction, the lack of it destroys belief.*

What seems to be proved may not be embraced; but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned.

Rational argument does not create belief, but it maintains a climate in which belief may flourish.

– Austin Farrer



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GETTY IMAGES

Introduction to CatholicVoices



HEART
speaks unto
HEART

- Train ordinary lay Catholics to speak on radio and TV
- Understand how communication works and lose the fear of controversial conversations
- “Like one beggar telling another beggar where they found some bread” - St Augustine



I want an
intelligent, well-instructed laity - I wish...to
enlarge [their] **knowledge**, to cultivate [their] **reason**,
to get an insight into the relation of truth to truth, to
learn to view things as they are, to understand how faith
and reason stand to each other,
what are the bases and principles of Catholicism...'

– St. John Henry Newman



...in the Media

Created to improve the representation of the Church in the Media. Since 2010 our speakers have made over 1,200 TV & Radio appearances.

CV in the Media



CHARITY VERSUS CLARITY?



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Meet them where **they're at**
but lead them to
where God
wants them to be



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CHARITY
SEEKING
CLARITY



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How to defend the faith without
raising your voice

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The
REFRAMING
Method



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The REFRAMING Method



What are they saying?



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“

There are not 100 people who
hate the Catholic Church ...
but there are millions who hate what
they think the
Catholic Church is

– Fulton Sheen



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The REFRAMING Method

POSITIVE INTENTION

*What value do THEY hold?
What value do I hold?*



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When we want to correct
someone usefully and show him *he is wrong*, we
must **SEE** from *what point of view* he is
approaching the matter, for it is usually **right** from
that point of view, and we must admit this, but
show him the point of view from which it is
wrong. This will please him, because he will see that *he*
was not wrong but merely fail to see every aspect of the
question

– Blaise Pascal, *Pensées* (701/9)

The REFRAMING Method



*What do I need to know?
What do I want to communicate?*



How to defend the faith without
raising your voice

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The REFRAMING Method



1. What are they saying?

POSITIVE
INTENTION

2. What value do THEY hold?

3. What value do I hold?



4. What do I need to know?

5. What do I want to communicate?



How to defend the faith without
raising your voice

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The Principles

Principles of
CIVIL COMMUNICATION

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Don't get mad, Reframe

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Shed light, not heat

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Think in threes

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People often don't remember
what you said as how you
made them feel

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The **heart** is *commonly reached*,
not through the reason,
but through the imagination...

Persons influence us,
voices melt us,
looks subdue us,
deeds inflame us

– St. John Henry Newman

Show, don't tell

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Storytelling in a digital era



Remember to say YES

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Compassion counts

Avoid robotics

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It's about witnessing,
not winning

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It's not about you

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Principles of CIVIL Communication

1. Don't get mad, reframe
2. Shed light, not heat
3. Think in threes
4. People won't remember what you said but how you made them feel
5. Show, don't tell
6. Remember to say YES
7. Compassion counts
8. Avoid robotics
9. Its about witnessing, not winning
10. It's not about you



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I'm a Catholic teenager who wanted to know what my friends thought about the church. Here's what they said.

Stigmas and Suffering

The tone and emphasis of catechesis, especially in preparation for the sacraments, can have a real impact on how young people perceive the church as a whole. One of my friends, Jo, talked about an abstinence and pro-life lecture she was required to attend in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, a lecture she found deeply uncomfortable. She felt the presenters left no room for genuine questions from those who doubted the church's teachings and focused too much on shame. Jo told me she became concerned that people would assume that she would be similarly closed to discussion around her politics or personal beliefs based on her religious affiliation. "I would just [tell people] I'm a Christian, but I wouldn't say Catholic," she said.

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The idea that somebody can be turned off by the church *because* of the church can be tough to grasp.

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We tell the Church's story



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Thank you