

## *Are You Crazy?*

There is a lot of talk about *The DaVinci Code*, and its supposed revelations about the Catholic Church and all of its conspiracies.

That someone has written a book of fiction about the Church setting her and her leaders in a scandalous light is nothing new. That someone has told lies about the Church for whatever reason is nothing new. But what is new, and what is so shocking is that people seem so gullible and ready to entertain doubts about the content of our holy Catholic Faith. Mind you, often enough these are people who have been Catholic all their lives, and have trusted the Holy Spirit to guide the Church in all matters of faith and morals. This is our Faith!

Back in New York, my parish secretary told me of a visit to the office by a woman who was very active in the parish. She had just finished reading *TDC*, and wanted to discuss it with her. My former secretary is a hard nosed, New York Irish Catholic very compassionate and kind, but not willing to put up with much nonsense. She was astonished that a person like this woman could actually have been confused by the book, and would consider seriously as possibly true, the errors contained in it. Just so happens that in the parish office hung a print of DaVinci's Last Supper. There is a young, beardless, sweet looking St. John! The visitor exclaimed, "My gosh! Look! It *does* look like a woman! It *could* be Mary Magdalene." At this, my former secretary wanted to say, "Are you crazy?" But, charity and patience prevailed, and she held her tongue and entered into a discussion with the woman.

When it comes to the painting, we have to understand it in the art style of the times. I recently viewed a very informative program on EWTN, which featured Sandra Miesel and Carl Olsen, co-authors of the excellent book, *The DaVinci Hoax*. Ms. Miesel

explained that in the artistic style of the times, it was customary to depict young, virginal and innocent men with an almost effeminate look. Whether that's the best way to express such virtue is a matter of debate. It certainly wouldn't fly today, or with me personally, but I wasn't around then, and no one has asked my opinion. The scene in DaVinci's painting depicts the moment in which John leans over to Peter who asks him to find out who Jesus means after he said that one of them would betray him. Besides, the painting is like all art of ancient times, an artist's concept of what might have been.

There are many other errors in the book. The Church organization, Opus Dei, is portrayed as a secret, murderous society in the Church. It is neither. Our late Holy Father, John Paul II, canonized the founder of Opus Dei, Fr. Jose Maria Escriversa. I think it highly unlikely that he would recognize as a saint the founder of an organization which assassinates people.

We could go on and on. But the whole point of this article is to warn you not to be gullible. If *TDC* were a used car, it wouldn't make it off the lot, and you wouldn't buy it. *Don't buy the nonsense. Don't patronize the movie. Don't pay for the book. Don't let them profit a penny from you.* Learn more about our Church, the Church that Jesus gave us. Learn what he teaches through her, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then believe that and don't get confused.

Read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, or a shorter catechism that lays out clearly and concisely what we as Catholics have believed since Jesus gave us the Church. Read good Catholic books. Watch EWTN. Get *The DaVinci Hoax*, the DVD, or the book, *The DaVinci Deception*. Call EWTN catalogue to order them (1-800-854-6316). If you don't do *anything* else, read the short booklet we give you *free* in this bulletin.

Don't be gullible, stupid or crazy!