

"Everyone's a critic!"

Maybe it's just me but this cliché seems truer than ever before. It could be that since I have been a Pastor for over 35 years - I have been able to witness more changes than I am prepared to accept. Early on in my years of service what I had to say and do was usually accepted from the point of view of respect or at least good Canadian manners. These days, it seems that I, and others like me, have lost all credibility. Even when we quote the Word of God directly some people question our veracity. This is true especially when the Words we are using go against the accepted norm (or politically correct thought) of the day. From the day He first spoke them, to this very day the sweet Words of our Holy Jesus come across as sour and unpalatable.

More and more Christian Pastor's, and indeed all Christians, are restrained by public opinion or standard from doing anything in the open that might show them to be a follower of Jesus. In recent years I have been asked to pray at various functions with the organizers intimating that I not use the name of Jesus. At times I have been requested specifically to refrain from calling on the Name of Jesus. Brothers in the Holy Ministry have related the same type of happenings. More often than not we are just not asked to do that which we do.

What is one to do? Many have just given up and "gone with the flow." It seems to me that more and more in these times as always what God has to say is of the utmost. It has become obvious to me that of importance we must hold highly and closely the holy sacraments. God's Words, promises, and signs are all contained in these wonderful gifts that sustain us. Scepticism over/against the Holy Word has surely taken many of us in

the wrong direction. We need to have no doubts about the sacraments or the things of

which they are certain signs. For if we doubt these we lose everything.

The Devil and his demons want us to disbelieve and marginalize the blessed and useful habits as the foe knows these are very effective against him. The demons are ever around us and they lie in wait to bring us into sin and shame, disaster and trouble. They and the people in their pocket hate to hear God's name and cannot remain long where it is spoken and called upon from the heart.

More and more we need to confound the Devil and his demons with His holy name in our mouth no matter the human consequences.

Many the Lord God who is "our Captain in the well fought fight!" sustain and keep you strong. May you daily have the courage to speak His Holy name where ever and when ever you are granted the opportunity.

Rejoicing in His days
Pastor Krestick

