

The Devil and Holy Water

by Rosalie Turton

Here are some important and little-known facts and stories about our *treasure* called Holy Water, that need to be told. I was fascinated and inspired by the information.

Did you know that not long ago, in the days of numbering, the time period of indulgences gained by making the *Sign of the Cross* carried a 3 years indulgence, but *if it was made with Holy Water, the indulgence was 7 years!*

What a difference! Therefore, without the numbering of time, it still remains that making the Sign of the Cross *with Holy Water* is more powerful than without it, *because of the Holy Water!*

Purification And Preservation

The priest also uses some salt in the blessing of the water to signify the glorious mission of Holy Water, for *its two-fold purpose is purification and preservation.*

It protects and purifies what it touches by making evil flee from that person, object, or place, and it preserves in a healing way by dispelling temptations, removing punishment, and alleviating negative effects, such as illness. While the devil hates it, the souls on earth and in Purgatory love it!

Interference!

As I am putting this article on the computer, I am spraying and praying frequently. A visiting friend (Linda Munafo) and I just witnessed my computer "go a little crazy." Fr. Edgardo "Bing" Arellano, from EWTN TV, whose priests say our Gregorian and Two Hearts Masses, told me that the devil's face once appeared on his computer screen. A douse of Holy Water cleared the screen. Many of you know Fr. Bing.

Ask him about it, and how the devil has *noticeably interfered* in their Order's various projects.

Distraction In Prayer

You may have noticed that whenever you start to pray, write something about our Good God, or do something good for someone, the devil comes after you in full force with many various distractions.

He is attempting to make the task difficult for us. And if we are not on guard, the task *does* become difficult. It is his "job" to tempt us! However, if we persevere, then we win the victory and earn many graces.

A main tool of the devil is distraction, especially during prayer. You notice that at some Masses and special functions, the priest sprays the congregation with Holy Water before prayers begin, to dispel evils and to dispose us to participate more worthily and attentively in the prayers of the Mass. Think of all the times Holy Water is used in Church ceremonies... high Masses, weddings, baptisms, funerals, etc. *The Church knows its value.*

It is always wise to begin any holy effort, household task, project, business, or work by blessing yourself with Holy Water, and praying a short prayer. *It could save you a lot of problems.* Therefore, before doing these things, use the weapon of Holy Water in advance to thwart the devil's efforts.

If you would truly appreciate the power of Holy Water, you would never want to be without it. You would not even drive your car out of the driveway without spraying the passengers and the dashboard first! Find the right size bottle and put it in your car today! Using it, results in *protection for everyone.*

For many reasons, the value of Holy Water is tremendous. The following are five great reasons to use *more* of it in order to obtain some of its marvelous effects, and to make *your* life happier:

1 — Punishment For Venial Sins

The Church teaches that one motive for using Holy Water frequently is to shorten your Purgatory *before* you die. That is because the temporal punishment due to venial sin is *eliminated* each time we use Holy Water. *Isn't this reason enough to make us want to use it more...* but, read on... it still has many other salutary effects.

2 — For The Souls in Purgatory

If you pray and sprinkle Holy Water for the souls in Purgatory, they pray *for you* in return. *Wow!*

3 — The Devil

Most of us know that the devil is real. When Fr. Ken Roberts took some youths to Medjugorje, he was called to go to where some of the boys were staying. A very frightened young man ran over to beg him, "Father, come with me quickly! The devil is there! The devil is there!"

On that hot summer evening, when Fr. Ken entered the room where the boys were, he noticed that the room was *extremely cold.* One frail writhing boy seemed to need an exorcism. He was throwing off three or four boys who were trying to hold him down, *all* of whom were bigger than he was. Fr. Ken did not know what to do or how to do it. Till then, he was *not sure* that he even believed in the devil!

He started saying some prayers, and put his hands above and upon the boy. Then he remembered seeing Jimmy Swaggart on TV rebuking satan, so Fr. Ken did that. Nothing happened.

Finally, one kid yelled, "Father, sprinkle him with Holy Water." Fr. Ken yelled back, "I don't have any!" Another one yelled, "Well, you're a priest. Make some!" So that is what Father did, and after he sprinkled the boy with Holy Water, *the boy recovered.*

It scared the devil out of the other kids as well, and the next day they attended the 10 o'clock.

the 11 o'clock, and the 12 o'clock Masses! Before then, they *hadn't gone into the church at all!*

The Devil Must Flee

Another incident on one of our pilgrimages to Ireland, a group of our pilgrims had just registered into a hotel, and visionary Mark Treanor, who was with us, came running down the stairs, yelling, "I need some Holy Water; *who has Holy Water!* I have to sprinkle the room with it before I can sleep there. The devil (sin) is in there!"

Whether he saw the devil or felt the sin, I do not know, but I do remember vividly his *imperative demand* for Holy Water. He *knew* the solution to the problem of encountering evil.

In our travels, some pilgrims partially witnessed at least 3 exorcism attacks from the devil, who were dispelled respectively by Fr. Peter Mary Rookey in New Jersey on Richard S., Fr. Jozo in Bosnia, and Fr. James Mataliano in Ireland.

Almost all Bishops appoint an exorcist to serve their diocese, but in simple demonic attacks, a holy priest or lay person can alleviate the problem, partially or fully, by the use of Holy Water.

I once was told that an official exorcist needs to be "transparently holy," as the devil knows a great deal about the person's state of grace. Saints have been known to dispel the devil numerous times. One exorcist recently told me that *most of us* are attacked by the devil much more than we think, and more simple exorcisms would profit the world greatly.

The Church teaches that Holy Water expels devils. The devil hates it because of the power it has over him. *He cannot remain long in a place or near a person who is often sprinkled with this blessed water.*

Read that again! The more you use Holy Water, the *less you will be bothered* by satan and his cohorts. If you use a lot of it, "Old Nick" (the devil) will have to stay farther away from you,

which suits us fine... and if you use it mentioning a loved one's name, that person, too, will be protected from evil.

Great! What an easy way to help someone with a problem, whether it be known or unknown. What an easy and wonderful way to protect ourselves, our family members, and our friends... and this includes *dangers of which we may be totally unaware!*

Would you like that? Then go for it. Ask God to give you the grace not to go *directly past* any Holy Water font without using it. What a special gift that will be from God to You! Ask for this great grace, because it is certain that you cannot do it on your own. To accomplish this, you *need God's grace...* but He *will* give it to you, if you keep on asking Him for it.

The Devil's Tools

Add a "d" to the word evil, and you get the word devil. Add a "dis" to some words, and you discover the devil's instruments: distraction, despair, discouragement, disgust, distrust, discourtesy, disenchantment, displeasure, disrepute, and more. These instruments destroy traction, pairing with God, courage, gusto, trust, courtesy, enchantment, pleasure, reputation, and more. Reject the former!

House Blessing

I have heard said that anytime a person in sin enters your home, you should spray Holy Water in every room in which that person has been. It is also very wise to get your house blessed by a priest with Holy Water at least once a year, and perhaps even more often if you have television or internet in your home, which can often bring in the devil.

Get it fixed in your mind that *the devil hates Holy Water*, and therefore, the Church advises you well when they make it available to you and recommends that you use it. Most of us bless ourselves with Holy Water when we walk into a Roman Catholic Church, but

few of us do so when we enter our homes or work places. It should be no different, if we want homes and work places to be holy places.

I use it a lot, but the Lord put it into my heart that if I want this article to influence you to use Holy Water more, because of its great power and benefit to you, both spiritually and physically, then I must use Holy Water fonts and bottles *even more* frequently and fervently than I am.

It seems that He is telling me that that will be the measure of my success, and *I encourage you to do that as well*, both for yourself, and also for all the people who enter your home and your life.

Is it not wonderful to know that *you* can help your friends and loved ones against the devil simply by blessing yourself with Holy Water to make *yourself, the area, and them* holy? *It is a promise of the Church!* Do it.

4 - Washing Away Venial Sins

Ah, but how to do it well? Just making the Sign of the Cross with it is sufficient... but for even greater graces, memorize this short indulgenced prayer, and each time you use Holy Water, drop one drop of it on the ground, and say:

**By this Holy Water
and by Thy Precious Blood,
wash away my sins, Oh Lord.**

Do not pass by a Holy Water font without using it and thus partaking of its glorious treasures and benefits. It is an elixir of spiritual health! Enjoy its many benefits, and feel yourself being filled with the intoxication of God's love and protection!

Sometimes, when you use Holy Water, sending a drop to the floor and saying this prayer, you may feel a joy, as if you can actually feel its extending power.

5— Healing Value

Holy Water heals both physically and spiritually. Try it. It is a God-given protection and remedy. +++