

An Apologist's Creed

a poem by Rose Jermusyk

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Characters

APOLOGIST, a Roman Catholic who takes being catholic very seriously

ANGEL, Apologist reciting prayer with primordial conviction

JESUS, Apologist "quoting" the Lamb of God

Scene

ANGEL (*palms up throughout*): I believe in God

the Father Almighty,

Creator of Heaven and Earth,

of All Things

Seen and Unseen;

APOLOGIST (*hands used with expression throughout*): people of various colors,

people of various genders,

people of various perspectives;

with various

always meaning

more than

two.

ANGEL: I believe in Jesus Christ,

God's Son

APOLOGIST: with His XY chromosomes;

ANGEL: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

APOLOGIST: without sex,

without masturbating,

without so much as an "impure" thought about hand-holding

ANGEL: and born of the

APOLOGIST: pubescent

ANGEL: Virgin Mary

APOLOGIST: with her

not one

but two

X chromosomes.

ANGEL: He suffered under Pontius Pilate

APOLOGIST: even though Pontius

totally

wanted to hang with Him

because JC had a wicked sense of humor

what with some five thousand people

listening to Him

shout wisdom at them

from a hilltop

without a megaphone.

ANGEL: He was crucified

APOLOGIST: for being a socialist rebel

who taught peace over power,

ANGEL: died

APOLOGIST: from hanging off a piece of wood

by his stab wounds,

ANGEL: and was laid in a tomb

APOLOGIST: with a big ol' hunk o' rock

blocking the entrance.

Three days later?

My boy Jesus-fucking-Christ

ANGEL: descended to the dead

APOLOGIST: is all

JESUS: Pfff, you call this death?

APOLOGIST: and then

gets His lazy bones
up out of bed
and the big ol' hunk o' rock
gets the hell out of his way
because JC's got to get to heaven
but not before telling folks
He's not
the kind of undead thing
that has to eat people to survive
but
the kind whose flesh must be eaten
and whose blood must be drunk
to keep others alive
because
sweet-zombie-Jesus-on-a-cracker
is my boy a giver
and the only one
allowed to pass judgment.

Though

ANGEL (*striking breast three times, once on each "my"*): I confess

to Almighty God
and to you my brothers and sisters
that I have greatly sinned
through my fault
through my fault
through my most grievous fault

APOLOGIST: for Christ said

JESUS: Do not judge.

APOLOGIST: and I do judge,

I pass judgement all the time:
on those Christians
who don't know what that word means;

on those Atheists
who think having faith
makes me a naive little (bleating) sheeeep;
on those ex-Catholics
who call themselves
Recovering Catholics
as though my faith
were some sort of disease
Capable
Only
of harm;
and,
on myself
for keeping silent
when I want to defend my faith
or else
for losing my patience
and simply reciprocating
the anger being thrown my way.

ANGEL: I believe in the Holy Spirit

Who

APOLOGIST: with the Blessed Virgin Mother

and the Book of Wisdom

gives my faith

that sense of the Divine Feminine.

ANGEL: I believe in the holy catholic Church

APOLOGIST: who may be

a bit

behind the times,

but we just got this new pope in

and he's pulled this Church

out of the Dark Ages

and into modern times;
or, at least,
1972
with interracial marriages
being legal
and abortions
still not yet allowed;
but I don't want to hear shit
about how he hasn't gone far enough
because the See of Rome
wasn't built in a day
and because Jesus said

JESUS: Do not judge.

APOLOGIST: and I don't want to judge you
but I will.
(*apologetic*) Sorry.

ANGEL: I believe in the communion of saints

APOLOGIST: because all good people
go to heaven
and are saints
regardless of the official canonization process.

ANGEL: I believe in the forgiveness of sins

APOLOGIST: because everyone screws up, people,
it's called being human.

ANGEL: I believe in the resurrection of the body

because energy
can neither be created nor destroyed
only converted.

I believe in the life everlasting
because energy

can neither be created nor destroyed
only converted.

I believe.

All things are possible.

We might all be wrong.

We might all be right.

We might all of us

Be psalms.