

Dear People Whom God Loves,

### **Why Stay Catholic?**

That is the title of the book by Michael Leach.

In the preface he tells about a story concerning Napoleon and a Cardinal. I quote: "One story has it that Napoleon told a Cardinal that he could destroy the Catholic Church with his fists, in an instant, if he wanted to. The Cardinal laughed and said, 'we clergy have been trying to destroy the church for eighteen hundred years with our sins and stupidity but haven't come close. What makes you think that you can do it better?'"

A good story for me and all clergy.

In the first chapter he writes about sacramental imagination. We don't really know what it means to be Catholic until we see with that inner eye that sees beneath the surface to the wonder that is within what meets the outer eye. For example, when with our outer eye we see a baby does our inner eye see the loving creativity of God?

He quotes from Fr. Greely's book, *The Catholic Imagination*. "Catholics live in an enchanted world, a world of statues and holy water, stained glass and votive candles, saints and religious medals, rosary beads and holy pictures. But these Catholic paraphernalia are mere hints of a deeper and more pervasive religious sensibility which inclines Catholics to see the Holy lurking in creation. As Catholics, we find our houses and our world haunted by a sense that the objects, events, and persons of daily life are revelations of grace. (p.1)"

I believe that if we would look with our inner eye deeper than our liberal and conservative perspective, we would love each other instead of using words as weapons. Without the mystical inner eye our spirit will wither.

Smile, God Loves You,  
Father Clay