

Recovery from Mormonism (RfM) discussion forum.

Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Gentle George ()**

Date: April 12, 2017 08:07AM

I first want to thank everyone for their contributions to my "RM Arrogance" thread. Your insight has been both welcome and revealing! I now want to try another topic to see if I can get some further assistance and insight from you. I was born and raised in Utah, still living here. Being Catholic here hasn't been the easiest thing, to be sure. Being made by my mother to go to Catholic school, and therefore having to wear the uniform was a dead giveaway to my faith which everyone could see in public. I've had everything from being called names to, and I kid you not, having kids on public school buses throw rocks at my head while yelling anti-Catholic sentiments. These of course are just two examples of many that I've personally experienced.

Of course as I've grown older, having many conversations with people, many of which almost invariably turn to religion, the same amount of vitriol which I received in my youth seems to be continued to be given as an adult. Of course I have many respectable LDS friends, to be sure. Yet I know that the Mormon church considers itself to be the "only true and living" church on the planet. However what I'm wondering is where, even within such a belief, does this downright hatred come from?

One other thing that I've noticed is how the Mormon church seems to love to target Catholic countries for evangelization. Am I wrong in this matter? After reading other articles and things before from other ex-Mormons, they've written about how the Catholic faith is mocked outright in Mormonism, including directly mocking the Nicene Creed at General Conference (forgot where I read that).

Have any of you been on the Mormon side of this at one time, including anti-Christian/anti-Catholic talk during Conference, or in general by a church authority? I bet many of you will recall the news story from about 2008 where pictures of missionaries in Colorado, taken and posted by themselves no less, were shown desecrating a Catholic parish by beheading one statue, one missionary pretending to sacrifice another on the altar, as well as one pretending to preach from the BoM as he was standing behind the altar. Not only was this virulently anti-Catholic in particular, it was grossly disrespectful in general.

Sorry for the many questions and long post, however this is my opportunity to get some insight into the mindset from former Mormons who may have seen/experienced/participated in things like this on the Mormon end. Once more,

thank you very much, and the more info I receive, the more rounded my education into how Mormonism works is improved. You guys are the best!

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **angela** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 09:57AM

This is why you experienced what you did.....

"The major characteristics of the great and abominable church described in the Book of Mormon's First Book of Nephi are:[3]

It persecutes, tortures, and slays the saints of God (see 1 Ne. 13:5);

It seeks wealth and luxury (see 1 Ne. 13:7-8);

It is characterized by sexual immorality (see 1 Ne. 13:7);

It has excised plain and precious things from the scriptures (see 1 Ne. 13:26-29);

It has dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people (see 1 Ne. 14:11); and

Its fate is to be consumed by a world war, when the nations that it incites against the Saints wage war among themselves until the great and abominable church itself is destroyed (see 1 Ne. 22:13-14).

"The first edition of LDS Church general authority Bruce R. McConkie's Mormon Doctrine stated: "It is also to the Book of Mormon to which we turn for the plainest description of the Catholic Church as the great and abominable church." [6] As McConkie's book became popular, the belief that the great and abominable church was the Catholic Church "became embedded in popular [Mormon] belief, despite the fact that this idea was never sanctioned or preached over the pulpit." [6]"

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **StillAnon** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 10:23AM

Growing up anything BUT mormon in Utah is different. My kid goes to a Catholic High School, but we're not Catholic. She's always been in private school (Challenger, Grace Lutheran, then Catholic HS) because Utah public education is so lacking. 15% of the kids at her HS are LDS. Mostly, mormon parents from other States that moved to Utah and don't their kids going to Utah public schools.

The kids wear their uniforms as a badge of honor. My kid's friends all think mormons are petty and silly.

Mormon kids have been brainwashed since birth that they are better than all others.

About the only time I see any hostilities is when we travel for sports to heavy mormon enclaves like Brigham City, Morgan, Cedar, Provo, etc. Hostile looks from garment wearing parents with 6 kids. But, we usually leave with a win, so that shuts them up. The kids have a little extra motivation to beat the mormon schools.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **bona dea** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 05:31PM

Did you like Challenger School? I used to work there and really had issues with some of their policies. It had good points too, but I wondered what it was like from a parent or student perspective.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 04/12/2017 07:05PM by bona dea.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **StillAnon** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 08:40PM

Challenger school was a roller coaster. My kid went there from pre-school to 4th grade. Great academics. Great teachers. Then, they got management top heavy. They hired no-nothing administrators that had no clue. They ran off dedicated, common sense teachers, that dared question stupid policies. Teachers that were left were meek and weak. They also ran off parents that paid attention to the inane changes. That's how we ended up at Grace.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **bona dea** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 08:49PM

Exactly. I also thought they were too controlling of teachers and mostly concerned with profit. Everyone taught the same things the same way and teachers were not certified. Not that certified teachers are always better but at least they have training in what they are teaching. Dont get me started on the right wing political pressure on employees and kids. I wouldnt want my kids olitically indoctrinated. Overall, if I were doing private school, I would go somewhere else. It was eye opening. Thanks for your reply.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 04/12/2017 08:52PM by bona dea.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **StillAnon** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 09:07PM

Sure. Thanks for your dedication. My kid left in about 2008–2009. She attended Sandy on 8600 South and then at the 1000 east location. When she went to Grace, she was about 2 levels higher in reading and math. About 3 levels higher than public school. Plus, there were no athletics or social programs at Challenger. I gave the "managers" above the Principals, an opportunity to correct things– all we got were BS, corporate PR answers. Ms. Trinn in Sandy was an awesome Principal. Challenger lost a lot of good students in Sandy & Draper due to their poor changes and unresponsive attitude.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **bona dea** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 09:14PM

I was in Salt Lake and there were many similar problems. I hated that there were no foreign language classes. The Cathedral Choir School where I subbed teaches Spanish, French and Latin and has a great music and sports program and is cheaper to boot. The kids at Challenger were great, but then it is easy to have top students when you only accept those who test well. BTW, I taught in the public schools for 30 years in Utah and there are both good and bad schools.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Done & Done** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 10:41AM

When I was a teen in the sixties, our seminary teacher could hardly keep from repeating non-stop that the "Great and Abominable Whore of all the Earth" mentioned in the Book of Mormon was the Catholic church. I don't even remember if the word "whore" was part of that in the BoM or if he added that. We were indoctrinated to see the Catholics as pawns of Satan who had no way to know better. The result was that we were condescending and made fun of their rituals, prayers, rosaries, whatever.

I was raised in a pretty much 100% Mormon area and we had one Catholic kid move

into our school. He might as well have been from Mars the way we looked at him. This was sixth grade. Luckily for him his family soon moved although I don't think anyone was overtly mean to him. We were just stand-offish.

The best part of leaving Mormonism was finally getting to know Catholics and finding out they are far nicer to be around than Mormons. When I went on my mission to a predominantly Catholic country, I noticed right away that they were for the most part really happy people who cared deeply for their families and lacked the arrogance of the Mormons. I couldn't find a good reason to look down on them. That gave me some major cog-dis since my whole farewell talk had been based on my surety that only Mormons knew true happiness and had the real truth--weren't fooled.

That is my limited experience if it answers any of your questions. I left so long ago that I don't know what it is like now.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Kentucky Crimson ()**

Date: April 16, 2017 08:31PM

I know what you mean about Catholics. I was a "Gentile" who grew up Protestant in the Louisville area (my birthplace,) so I knew a number of Catholics.

I joined MORMON, INC. when I was 19 years old and didn't know any better. Moved to Utah in 1979, went on my two-year mission to Austria in 1985. Resigned from MORMON, INC. in 2006 at age 48. When I was younger, I considered becoming Catholic because the girl I loved (still love, in fact; she's remarried, so she's off limits) was. I joined the Catholic Church in 2009. Technically, I'm still Catholic, but consider myself to be more of a non-denominational Christian today.

I'll never forget some of the good Austrian folks I met. I went when I was 28 years old (had permission to go,) and the older or more mature folks there treated me with great kindness.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **logged out this AM ()**

Date: April 12, 2017 11:51AM

This thread from last November will give you further information and insight.

<http://exmormon.org/phorum/read.php?2,1909033>

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Amyjo** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 12:28PM

Growing up (mostly) in the Idaho Morridor there wasn't that same emphasis on Catholicism being the whore of the earth.

If anything it was emphasized in my Primary and Sunday School classes that the Catholic church was the closest in beliefs and teachings to the Mormon church than any other churches on the planet.

Knowing what I know about being a Catholic today, Mormonism doesn't even come close. As a child we accepted what we were taught by our church teachers as the "gospel truth."

I think you were better off in Catholic school

Posted by: **cl2** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 12:36PM

My Catholic friends moved back to Utah when they had a son in high school. He became suicidal going to Weber High School because of how the kids treated him. He did much better at the Catholic high school.

I remember back when they opened the Catholic high school in SLC many years ago as I was still married and still going to church. The mormons were complaining that they taught Catholicism in their high school and they wanted to be able to send their kids there rather than public school and then were upset when they taught religion. As an active mormon, I thought that was horrible of mormons to think that.

I didn't have any nonmormon friends up through school, but when I went to work at the big bad company Thiokol, I met many nonmormons. Most of them were much better to me than any mormon ever had been. There were mormons I worked for out there that were great to me, too, but there were those mormons who made my life hell out there because their opinion was that good mormon girls didn't work at Thiokol.

We were taught in the 1960s and maybe into the 1970s that the Catholic church was the great and abominable whore of the earth and that they didn't believe in an afterlife, dust to dust. I remember someone a few blocks away whose little boy drowned in the creek and they were Catholic. I was very young and I was so

concerned for them as they supposedly didn't believe that they would see their child again.

Re: I think you were better off in Catholic school

Posted by: **sbg** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 02:11PM

This part cracks me up

"I remember back when they opened the Catholic high school in SLC many years ago as I was still married and still going to church. The mormons were complaining that they taught Catholicism in their high school and they wanted to be able to send their kids there rather than public school and then were upset when they taught religion. As an active mormon, I thought that was horrible of mormons to think that."

What did they think a Catholic school would teach, Buddhism?

My brother sent his Jewish step daughter to Catholic high school. He told her to suck it up and study it as if it were history not religion. When she complained she needed a Bible, he handed her his.

Re: I think you were better off in Catholic school

Posted by: **bona dea** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 05:34PM

I think non Catholics can opt out anyway. Besides, learning about other religions, if there isnt a lot of pressure, is a good thing.

Re: I think you were better off in Catholic school

Posted by: **summer** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 07:34PM

I would expect that a Catholic school would teach Catholic doctrine.

I spoke to a Catholic school teacher some years ago. She was rather relaxed in describing her job. Her take was that the parents wanted a standard education combined with "a little bit of Catholic doctrine."

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **StillAnon** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 01:03PM

"I remember back when they opened the Catholic high school in SLC many years ago as I was still married and still going to church. The mormons were complaining that they taught Catholicism in their high school and they wanted to be able to send their kids there rather than public school and then were upset when they taught religion. As an active mormon, I thought that was horrible of mormons to think that."

When you go to a private, religious school (even BYU) you have to play by their rules. All the kids at my kid's Catholic school have to take Theology class. However, as I stated earlier, mormons make up 15+% of students. They too, have to take Theology but the Catholic school also provides them a room and allow mormon teachers to come in and teach seminary. Pretty mature attitude, I'd say.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **pollythinks** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 01:09PM

I don't know about growing up a Catholic in Utah, but I do know something about being taken to live in Montpelier (solid Mormon town) Idaho, after being married to one.

My husband's cousin met and married an L.A. area Catholic, and then took her home to Montpelier. (He was a dentist, and not an active Mormon.)

Poor thing, she was plopped in the middle of a small Mormon community.

Her solution was to become an alcoholic, and take several showers every day. (Unhappily, what she suffered from could never be washed off.)

My brilliant mother-in-law used to brag to me about how "clean" the woman was (taking all those showers).

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Amyjo** ()

Date: April 13, 2017 08:44AM

How did you like living in Montpelier?

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Southern ExMo** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 01:15PM

I had a roommate once who was Catholic, until she fell into the spell of one of the most handsome Elders I have ever seen in my entire life.

He singlehandedly baptized her (only later did I meet her, and take her in as a roommate). He was TBM – or at least played that part quite convincingly while on his mission – and to help convert her, he gave her a copy of the book *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder* by LeGrand Richards.

As I recall, somewhere in the book (seems like it was the first chapter), Richards tells of an experience he had meeting with some highly placed Roman Catholic Bishop or Archbishop. I think this guy was the Catholic head-honcho in the United States at the time that the encounter between the two men took place.

Anyway, these two guys have a respectful, adult kind of discussion, the end result of which is that they both walk away from the conversation convinced of one thing:

The true priesthood HAS TO lie in EITHER the LD\$ church OR ELSE the Catholic church.

IF the true priesthood authority lies in the Catholic church, it would descend from Peter, the first pope of the Catholic church and disciple of Christ (presumably via the laying of the hands from one generation of church leaders to another).

IF the true priesthood authority lies in the LD\$ church, it would be because it was restored to the church through Horny Joe, and passed down via the laying of the hands from one male to another male unto the present day.

Then, if I recall, the rest of the book went into arguing why Horny Joe's claim to this true priesthood was more valid than the Catholic church's claim, although no further mention of the Catholic church was made after Richards talked about his meeting with the Catholic bishop.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Chicken N. Backpacks** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 02:00PM

When I was a kid in the '70's, I heard the SLC had more Catholics than Mormons.

Things that make you go "Hmmmmm....."

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **canary21** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 02:33PM

30% of SLC is Mormon now.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **severedpuppetstrings** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 03:00PM

Excluding the Fundamentalists, I'm sure.

Hypocritical

Posted by: **canary21** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 02:32PM

That is hypocritical of them because people attack their faith and call it a work of charlatan, a false religion, a cult, you name it. But not all Mormons are like this, of course. I guess it depends on where you live. I don't live in a Mormon state, so the Mormons I meet are more open-minded. I went to high school with two Mormons whose bffs were no-mos. One of my Mormon friends resigned and one of his reasons was that he didn't like bashing on other people's faiths. Sure, I've heard ignorant comments before from Mormons, but they're not bad in general. It depends on the people, not the faith.

Don't worry too much about it. TSCC membership is significantly decreasing.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **anagrammy** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 03:11PM

Did you know that the temple ceremony used a segment in the Garden of Eden in which a "preacher" is brought out and described as a "hireling of Satan."

He was dressed as a Catholic priest.

As a convert from Catholicism, I was shocked to my core. I had no idea.

Later, I would marry an RM and when visiting a Catholic church, he had no hesitation

in remarking to me how he could feel the presence of Satan inside the church.

Wonder where he got that idea....

Kathleen

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **StillAnon** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 03:52PM

"Later, I would marry an RM and when visiting a Catholic church, he had no hesitation in remarking to me how he could feel the presence of Satan inside the church."

Well, YOU were with him inside the church. Right? :)

Good point

Posted by: **anagrammy** ()

Date: April 14, 2017 04:48PM

Now that I'm a hireling of Satan myself (under his influence) the first thing I did was get all the children away from the cult, so yes, I am very powerful.

Maybe it's because I am supporting Jesus' plan for Free Agency. I mean, I did Choose the Right (as I saw it), I did Just Do It (when I finally resigned), and I did teach my children to go with Truth and never sign up with people who call their organization "The Iron Rod."

Kathleen

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Justin** ()

Date: April 18, 2017 01:56PM

I always thought of him as a typical mainline Protestant preacher.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Justin** ()

Date: April 18, 2017 02:11PM

I am a convert from Mormonism to Catholicism who lives in a non-Mormon area. The Mormons could never get away here with the kind of stuff you mention happens in Utah. If anything the LDS leaders work with other religious leaders of all denominations to get things done. They don't have a choice. And I'm still friends with the LDS I know. Several members are actually employed by various Catholic institutions.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Drew90** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 03:28PM

I grew up mormon in Utah. The local tv stations show high school basketball and football games. I always cheer for Judge and Juan Diego.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **tumwater** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 03:42PM

This might lighten up the discuss a little.

If you've never been under the control of the nuns you might not appreciate the lines about them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7yYHwG5i4>

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **want2bx** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 04:00PM

A few posters mentioned that they were taught in the 60s and 70s that the Catholic Church was the great and abominable church and the whore of the earth. I was taught the same thing in seminary in the late 80s and also had a religion class that taught this at BYU in the early 90s.

I grew up outside of Utah. Every year during my four years of seminary, my teacher devoted a week long unit to the great and abominable church, the Catholic church. I remember being taught that either the Catholic church was the one true church or the Mormon church was the one true church. It was one or the other and it had to do with which church had the correct priesthood keys. We learned how the Catholic church couldn't possible be true, so that made the Mormon church the one true church. And it made the Catholic church the direct opposite of the Mormon Church, the most false church that was led by "the adversary."

Edited to add:

My kids who are now young adults never learned what I learned about the Catholic church. My guess is that the Mormon church quit teaching this about the time they changed the temple ceremony to exclude the preacher in 1990.

Edited 2 time(s). Last edit at 04/12/2017 04:19PM by want2bx.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **pollythinks** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 04:05PM

I highly recommend this book: "Nun", written by an ex-nun who left the church, "A Memoir" [written by] Mary Gilligan Wong.

This was also made into a very good movie. (Just got to watch it again a couple weeks ago on TV; and have been re-reading the book (about the third time). Both show a lot of "control" methods in training women to be nuns, while priests got away with what they wanted, and still demanded respect from nuns. (Sound familiar?)

One can't help but compare the Mormon church system of operating.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **summer** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 07:32PM

I like a scholarly work, "Ex Nuns: Women Who Have Left the Convent" by Gerelyn Hollingsworth. It was written in 1985 and is thus rather dated, but it still gives a fascinating view into the lifestyle of a variety of nuns. Some who left their religious vocation were treated well, some not so much.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Anon370H55V** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 04:45AM

I read "Nun" when it first came out, in about 1983. I thought it was great. I'm so glad to meet someone who has also read it! I lost my copy in a flood about 20 years ago. Maybe I can find another at Abe Books.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **summer** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 07:45PM

It must have been tough growing up Catholic in Utah. As others have explained there is a historic animosity on the part of Mormon authorities toward both the Catholic and Protestant churches (Catholics seemingly more so, i.e. the "Great and Abominable Whore of all the Earth.") My take is that the Mormon church has tried to back off of this view in recent years, but such changes in viewpoint take a very long time to filter down to the masses.

I've seen tales shared of Mormon missionaries who tried to proselytize in St. Peter's Square, Rome. Can you imagine Catholics trying to recruit in Temple Square?

I've read that Mormons who go through the temple for the first time are often surprised by the sort of pomp and ritual that they have long associated with Catholicism, and have been taught to despise.

I'm not convinced that Mormons target Catholics specifically, but it is certainly easier for them to convert someone who was raised in a Christian framework. Historically the church did very well in Protestant Scandinavia, although such is not the case at present.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 04/12/2017 07:46PM by summer.

Subjected myself to 2 yrs at BYU as a Catholic...married a TBM RM from Rome

Posted by: **notmonotloggedin** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 08:08PM

Well DH was from northern UT not FROM Rome—he just spent his mission in Rome.

I can't believe I put up with all the crap I did. As a Catholic from NY I wasn't off the airplane 5 minutes before hearing several Catholic/Pope/Mormon jokes (can't recall any of them now). I was completely gobsmacked because not only could I not believe the sheer arrogance of the idiots who repeated these jokes upon hearing that I was Catholic and not LDS but because I NEVER heard ANY reciprocal jokes in all my 18 years of life spent among Catholics.

The fun never stopped the whole time I was at BYU and after marrying DH living in a

small town in UT. I guess it was a good life lesson because it showed me how incredibly cruel and stupid people can be.

DH and I became Christians, left UT.

I can't imagine living there. Sheer torture. You must be tough.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Southern ExMo** ()

Date: April 12, 2017 09:29PM

You all write about what it is like to be Catholic and live in Utah.

Well, I was just the opposite. LD\$ from birth, and living in the predominantly Catholic city of New Orleans.

And I guarantee you, I NEVER heard anybody here utter any mumbo jumbo about the Catholic church being the great and abomable church, or a representative of Satan, or whatever other garbage you folks were subjected to out in Utah!

Nor did I ever encounter anti-Mormon prejudice among the Catholics of New Orleans. (Now, among the Baptists in north Louisiana, that is another story....)

Some people were curious about my religion, but most just accepted me as a worthwhile human being, and let it end at that.

When I read threads like this, I am reminded of why I am so fortunate to NEVER have lived out west.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Kentucky Crimson** ()

Date: April 16, 2017 08:42PM

When I was a member of MORMON, INC. and being from Kentucky, I used to feel so inferior because I wasn't "born in the West."

I love the West, but after some years there, knew I would never totally fit in there. I

learned much and grew some inside there, but know it isn't always the best place for me.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **severedpuppetstrings** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 08:56AM

Interesting to hear about you feeling inferior for having not been born out west. It's interesting how in Mormonism, feelings of inferiority/being made to feel inferior goes a lot further than being a "non-member."

I felt inferior being a woman of colour.

I've learned that there were quite a few that felt inferior because they weren't married, or didn't have a shitload of children.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Mason** ()

Date: April 14, 2017 06:50PM

I'm now an atheist, but I hate the catholic church far more now than I did as a mormon. For the disgusting child abuse, and the popes that helped cover it up. Not to mention the immoral things that all Christianity has, such as the idea of bearing no responsibility for our actions, because God had his son tortured and murdered for us all to be clean.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Lethbridge Reprobate** ()

Date: April 14, 2017 09:53PM

My sweet Catholic wife grew up in Raymond, Alberta...which may be as bad as growing up Catholic in Utah. It was hell. Shunning and backbiting and false friends was the story of her childhood. It was a self righteous shithole back then. Still is.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **MOI** ()

Date: April 16, 2017 09:20PM

I went through a time when my Mormon classmates started calling me nasty names and doing rotten crap to me like picking up my books and throwing them out of the windows, etc. One time I even opened my locker to find horse shit had been thrown in.

Then I'd go to church on Sundays surrounded by these maggotine bastards with their righteous little heads all bowed in humble prayer! LOL! Fuck 'em all. The

great and REAL 'god' of Raymond is the horse, so I should have felt proud to have had him shit in my locker.

But before new sidewalks, I'd walk home from school on the edge of the street only to get spit on by the fuckers in the Catholic school bus as the driver slowed down for them to do so. I always had daydreams of the fuckers fatally choking on their damn communion wafers, or slipping and breaking their necks when they went to genuflect. No doubt some of them were righteous little altar boys too.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Lethbridge Reprobate** ()

Date: April 16, 2017 09:55PM

Probably. My wife's only friends were other Catholic, Buddhist and United Church kids.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **pollythinks** ()

Date: April 14, 2017 10:12PM

Posted by: Amyjo (): How did you like living in Montpelier?

I never lived in Montpelier. My husband did, throughout his high-school years. (I am a Calif gal, being brought here from Arizona at around 6 months old.)

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **pollythinks** ()

Date: April 14, 2017 10:29PM

PS: I was the only "Mormon" in my grade-school and Jr. high class, and 1 of around 6 in my 500-plus high school class. (At the time, I wasn't active, and so didn't hang-out with the strange little Mormon group--besides, they weren't "cool".)

Sometime, I will tell you something about my best friend from 3rd grade, to today. She lived in the zoo (as her step-father was chief zoo keeper, and had a gratis house in the trees and bushes above the zoo office). She loved to come and stay overnight at my "regular" house, and I loved to stay overnight at the zoo---where we had free reign after the zoo closed for the night.

Top that.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Lethbridge Reprobate** ()

Date: April 14, 2017 11:03PM

I was the only Mormon kid in my class from grade 1 to 11. It was great.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **LutheranChild** ()

Date: April 15, 2017 12:42AM

I had a coworker whose Dad was a mainstream Lutheran pastor assigned for a few years to a congregation in St. George UT.

He told me that Lutheran synod actually considered this to be a mission, because they had so few other congregations nearby. He did not have happy memories of his school years there.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Gentle George** ()

Date: April 16, 2017 11:04PM

Guys and gals, THANK YOU for all of your wonderful comments! It's been pretty eye opening, and I appreciate all of your input and insight. I'm also sorry for what some of you went through in your own struggles both inside and outside of Mormonism. I was also familiar with the Catholic/Protestant minister thing that was in the temple ceremony for quite a long time. Research is a good tool for education about things such as this. And you're right, being pretty much anything except LDS in Utah is pretty different. However it's definitely changing for the better though as the state becomes more diversified over time. I'm still waiting for the day when alcohol sales become privatized here. You're all the best, and I hope to talk with you all much more as time goes on.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **poopstone** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 08:13PM

"where does this downright hatred come from?"

It comes from what the Catholic church was like in the early 19th century. Are you aware of what was going on in Catholic America?

We don't talk about these things today because it's politically incorrect to do it and it's really really horrible, but these things really need to be taught to young people. So they can know what an awful church the catholics are and know to stay away.

When the BOM says "great and abominable whore of all the Earth" that's not an exaggeration. Just read what happened when Cortez and his catholic church came.

The CC took over 1/2 of the country and turned all the people into slaves, literally. They stole all the gold, most of the wealth, rivers, land. they RAPED the Indians and created the half breed race (Mexican race).

This went on for two centuries. Until Finally Hidalgo (1810) and Juarez (1860s) came and kicked their asses back to Rome! Freed the Slaves, and redistributed the land back to the Mexicans.

I wish they would teach this in Schools (especially in Mexican Schools) but they don't, because Everyone is Catholic.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **unbelievable2** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 08:54PM

In an Ensign article written a few years ago about the "great and abominable church," the author claimed that it was not the Catholic Church, but any institution that practices and promotes evil.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **unbelievable2** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 08:59PM

Persecution is an art form perfected by hypocritical self-righteous folks who like to put themselves up by stepping on others who think differently from them. Christ described that hypocrisy as the Whited Sepulchre."

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **Gentle George** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 10:15PM

What the Catholic Church was doing in the 19th century? I didn't expect to give a history lesson today, however that's no problem. Let's talk about what the Catholic Church was doing in the 19th century. There were many Catholic immigrants coming into the country who helped it grow by their hard work ethics, and living the American dream of starting their own businesses, thereby employing others.

Don't forget the anti-Irish/anti-Catholic mobs incited by Lyman Beecher and Horace Bushnell. During this time, the beginnings of the Catholic school system were also being laid in the US. This is important because it was part of the long history of education put forth by the Catholic Church. Don't forget that many of the oldest universities in existence were founded by the Catholic Church. These

include: University of Bologna (Spain) founded in 1088, University of Paris (1045), Oxford (1096), Cambridge (1209), and others.

As for slavery which you alluded to, the Church has despised vehemently, and continues to despise incessantly the practice of it. Catholic opposition to slavery really started to be put forth with great fervor in 1435. Even before that, the Mercedarians, for example, began in 1218 for the purpose of ransoming slaves. There were many pronouncements about the unjust nature of slavery by Pope Paul III in 1537.

It's also important to acknowledge that while there were those in the Church who owned slaves, they quickly came to realize the problems and morality of the situation. I won't pretend that many people in the Church over its 2,000 year existence have been without sin, or haven't done evil things. However to hold the entirety of the Church responsible throughout all time because of what some have done is disingenuous, inaccurate, and unjust to say the least.

As for what the Spanish did, it's what the Spanish did. Emphasis on Spanish. The Catholic Church didn't do those things. As for what Cortes and his people did, only they can answer for their actions, and only they should be held accountable for their actions. The Catholic Church shouldn't be blamed for the personal actions of either Cortes, anybody who was with him, nor any Catholic throughout time for their own personal faults, either. Of course this can, and should be said for others regardless of what their religion is, and that their personal faults are independent of what their religion is.

Do, and have people used their religion for justification of their personal actions when they know that what they're doing is unconscionable? Of course. Always have been, always will be. Once again though, the person and their actions need to be separated from their religion.

I should also point out that there were numerous popes who condemned the unjust enslavement, and mistreatment of Native Americans by the Spanish. It should be mentioned that this also extended to the Portuguese colonials who were just as guilty as the Spanish. However, both groups, by the availability of their free will, ignored what the popes who wrote these condemnations were trying to prevent them from further perpetuating.

Another thing that needs to be said is that the Catholic missionaries to the New

World, such as the Jesuits, did all they could to alleviate the suffering endured by the Native population.

Pope Benedict XIV on December 22, 1741 wrote a papal bull called *Immensa Pastorum Principis*. In it, he made an outright condemnation against the enslavement of Native Americans as the Spanish did, or any other indigenous groups in the world by anybody. It wasn't a new thing to condemn slavery in Catholicism by 1741. It was the continuing proclamation of a strong opposition to slavery.

Didn't mean to go on for so long, however I have a hard time when I see/hear/read half-truth, or blatantly inaccurate historical charges.

[Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah](#)

Posted by: **bona dea** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 10:16PM

Exactly. Thank you.

[Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah](#)

Posted by: **logged out this PM** ()

Date: April 17, 2017 11:11PM

Ah, but what you don't realize is that you're responding to Poopstone, our resident idiot. He has a long history of making ignorant and bigoted posts against practically any and every segment of society that he personally isn't part of. Really, he doesn't know a damn thing, but that never seems to stop him.

When he posts something patently stupid, the rest of us generally roll our eyes and ignore it, unless it's supremely offensive. Then we rip him up, but in a few months he'll post the same crapola all over again. He's kind of like a cartoon version of Archie Bunker.

[Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah](#)

Posted by: **Gentle George** ()

Date: April 18, 2017 02:46AM

Eh, I figured as much. However I thought it'd at least be enough to give a long and intelligent response to either rile him, or silence him. :D

[Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah](#)

Posted by: **bona dea** ()

I dont generally read him, but he really needed to check some facts and use some logic on that

Date: April 18, 2017 03:04AM

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **cinda** ()

Date: April 18, 2017 03:17AM

Thank you, Gentle George, I enjoyed your interesting and very informative post. Speaking of poopstone, this is a portion of his post:

"The CC took over 1 /2 of the country and turned all the people into slaves, literally. They stole all the gold, most of the wealth, rivers, land. they RAPED the Indians and created the half breed race (Mexican race)."

Really? I have great difficulty believing such a racist, ignorant story about the history of the Mexican race, as well as the derisive remarks about the Catholic church.

To address the OP, I am a nevermo. We moved to Utah when my daughter was just entering the second grade. She attended public school from second through the ninth grade in small town Utah. She then decided she did not wish to attend the high school there. A representative from Judge Memorial Catholic high school in SLC had made a presentation to her ninth grade class and she decided on the spot that she wished to go there for high school. So....we commuted the thirty miles each way for her four years there.

I did begin substitute teaching there as well, which afforded us a (very) small discount on her tuition. In retrospect, we are very glad that we made the sacrifice to send her to Judge. Having substitute taught previously at the public high school in the town where we lived, we knew that the education she received at Judge far superior than that she would have received at the public high school, not to mention the much greater diversity among both faculty and students. it was well worth it. She did get some chiding from her friends for her decision but I don't recall any of it being directed at the fact that she was attending a Catholic school or at Catholics, in general. Much of it was directed at the fact that she was, of course, required to wear a uniform, which she loved :). Her (Mormon) friends made many unkind comments about how ugly it was and that they would never wear something like that to school. Of course, there could very well have been disparaging remarks directed at the Catholics, in general, that I was unaware of.

Edited 2 time(s). Last edit at 04/18/2017 03:31AM by cinda.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **roomwithaview** ()

Date: April 18, 2017 11:14AM

Why do I read this forum? I grew up Catholic in UT. I recently returned from a trip there--only my third visit to the state since I escaped to So-Cal in the mid-80s. Living among The Saints did something to me. I still can't shake it. I'm a super nice, kind, considerate person with a lot of diverse friends; however, when the topic of Mormonism comes up, I can't stop spewing facts and sheer hatred of the religion and Utah due to its association with Mormons. I really feel for all of you who grew up Mormon when it has this kind of impact on me, a nevermo.

As a 12-yr old, I was told I belonged to the Church of the Abominable. Told the same thing by college roommates. Some friends are still believers, others have left, and others attend but don't believe. I read this forum to learn and share info.

Thanks for letting me be here.

Re: Growing Up Catholic in Utah

Posted by: **StillAnon** ()

Date: April 18, 2017 02:48PM

There's a huge difference between Utah mormons and the rest of the world, where they're a small minority. Two of my good friends in high school were mormons (in Texas). One was on my football team, the other one was on our water ski team. Didn't know they were mormon until about a year after we became friends. They never pushed their religion (plus nobody asked) and the only reason the one kid told us he was LDS was because he couldn't ski on Sunday. Utah mormons are emboldened by their numbers. In the rest of the world, they behave.