

Hello!

A little more than a year ago I made a terrible mistake. I published my defense of the Catholic Church independently—through Amazon’s CreateSpace. Sales have been terrible; just take a look at my rank on [Amazon](#).

**Yet the reviews were outstanding:**

- “A bold defense of Christianity against its most ardent critics, the New Atheists.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)
- “The entire study is painstakingly researched and meticulously documented as well as carefully argued. Gravino presents his case in the spirit of the natural law teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas, eschewing a facile reliance upon scriptural authority in favor of an appeal to rational demonstration.”—*Kirkus Reviews*
- “[A] clear and principled defense of the church that is arguably superior to anything the institution has offered on its own behalf. A worthy read for anyone interested in the modern relevance of Christian teaching.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*
- “[A] gripping read and a valuable contribution to contemporary Christian apologetics. Gravino confronts professional atheists head-on, addresses the “priest scandal” intelligently, and leverages current research to cast new light on scriptural wisdom. His dense little paperback deserves a wide audience.” —Patrick O’Hannigan, [The American Spectator](#)

In *The Immoral Landscape of the New Atheism*, I defend the Church’s teachings on sexuality and artificial contraception using evidence from neuroscience. I defend the priesthood and celibacy. I show exactly how the Church is indispensable to human growth, development, and well-being. In short, I do exactly what Bishop Robert Barron has been asking us to do.

I am referring to [this article](#) by Bishop Barron. Barron is worried about [the results of a Pew study](#) that show that, for every person entering the Catholic Church, six are leaving (<http://www.onepeterfive.com/a-church-that-repels-instead-of-attracts-the-latest-pew-research-findings/> ). In a [separate study](#), Pew Research looked at the reasons that are motivating this exodus. Bishop Barron mentions a few of them. The “anti-science” complaint was common among respondents. Others invoked Marx’s “opium-of-the-people” critique of religion. The last category mentioned by Barron is perhaps the one that has damaged the Catholic Church the most—*the priest scandal*.

When you boil it all down, it would appear that the New Atheists have been tremendously influential, for all these criticisms come straight from their best-selling books. Barron’s exhortation to all of us—especially the “apologists, catechists, and theologians”—is to “Wake up!!” Barron correctly sees that not enough is being done to defend our Church from the many attacks against Her. Just look at the praise that was heaped on the movie *Spotlight*—praise for a movie *that lied about the priest scandal!* In some instances, that praise came from Catholic writers!

Yes, indeed, we all need to wake up, as Bishop Barron exhorts us. And that includes the Catholic publishing world. Which brings me back to my own book, *The Immoral Landscape of the New Atheism*. I am the only writer whose defense against the New Atheists includes a discussion of the priest scandal. Yes, the scandal was terrible, but it was not the fault of any *teaching* of the Church. It had nothing to do with celibacy, as the New Atheists have charged.

In fact, I show that the Church's teaching on celibacy is part of a larger, Biblical understanding of human nature that has been forgotten, but is now being rediscovered by neuroscience. John Paul actually predicted this convergence of faith and science in *The Theology of the Body*, as I show in my book.

The mistake I made, as I said, was to publish independently. My book never made it into the hands of the people who would appreciate it. The upside of this is that my book is practically brand new. No one has seen or heard of it. This means that it is practically no different from an unpublished book. **I am proposing that you publish my book and that I end my relationship with Amazon.** This way, my book has a real chance of reaching a Catholic audience. It stands a chance of getting reviewed by a Catholic publication—of generating interest and interviews—of winning some culture-war battles for the Catholic Church—of winning souls for Christ.

I will be speaking about my book at [Duke Medical School next month](#). **But I should be speaking at every Catholic college and Newman Center in America!** If you agree to publish my book, this might actually happen. And people will rediscover an important truth about Christianity—that it is indispensable to human health, happiness, and the realization of our fullest potential. If the critics praised my book, if Duke University Medical School is taking it seriously, then shouldn't this groundbreaking defense of the Catholic Church be taken seriously by the Church Herself?

Let me know if you are interested in publishing my book. I am happy to send you a copy. All you have to do is respond to this email. You can also reach me at my cell phone number: 919-518-4965.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Pax Christi,

John Gravino