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Holy Father,

I'm so glad to know that you and Chico enjoy net-surfing together. I have two questions, when you have the time:

1. Does Chico let you surf in peace, or is he one of those mouse-batting, keyboard-walking cats?
2. Are you a member of [Friends of Roman Cats?](#)"

Much love,

Romulus | 08.16.05 - 2:22 pm | <#>

Umm, the "bigger" pics aren't any bigger than the little ones on the blog page.

But then, who needs to see such atrocities of kittykind upclose?

Chris | 08.16.05 - 2:36 pm | <#>

Holy Father,

Thank you for posting those horrific photos. As soon as I had finished LMAO, I began to ponder the depths to which we have sunk in this culture of death. I wonder, your Holiness, if it is appropriate to offer a prayer to unite the sufferings of a creature which does not have a spiritual soul to those of Christ? Surely, the donkey who bore the weight of your expectant Mother can be said to have shared in Her Son's mission to redeem the world. No? Could not the sufferings of a cat, the height of Creation with the exception of man, also further His mission?

As you can see, the world cannot wait for 24 encyclicals to explore this issue.

Marc | 08.16.05 - 4:06 pm | <#>

Romulus,

Thanks for writing. Regarding your questions about Chico letting me surf in peace, the answer is no. He has to be involved in the action one way or another. If that little ball of fur isn't prancing on my keyboard, he's climbing over my shoulder or pawing at my zucchetto.

Until your post I had never heard of the Friends of Roman Cats. It sure sounds like they have a good time, though.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.16.05 - 5:14 pm | #

Chris,

To see the larger images you need to click the 'cheesy links' rather than the image itself. When you click the image itself, the same image displays on a blank page. Fr. Norbert was not pleased with the situation, but he did remark that for Firefox users who have the benefit of tabbed browsing, this wouldn't be that big of a deal.

It is disturbing material, indeed.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.16.05 - 5:15 pm | #

Marc,

I am sorry, but what is LMAO? Learning Marian Antiphons Orally? I am very impressed with your comments; you appear to have a very good mind for such things. Particularly insightful was the consideration of the donkey that Mary rode upon. I once read some *simple person* from Detroit who likened himself to Mary's donkey. Not that he considers himself carrying her or doing her any real service, but he does consider himself to be Mary's favorite ass.

Explore the following and you will find your answer.

When man fell, so did all of creation. When Christ redeemed man...

May God bless you as you explore His Sacred Mysteries.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.16.05 - 5:31 pm | #

Wow! That is horrible, Papa!

inquisitorgeneralis | [Homepage](#) | 08.16.05 - 6:50 pm | #

Holy Father:

I am appalled and sickened by such photos. However, my Golden Retriever caught a glimpse of them and began prancing and dancing around the living room, as if he were *amused* by these horrors. He particularly seemed to enjoy the "Dogfood

Kitty" photo, staring at it with head cocked to one side and wagging his tail frantically. I could almost read his mind: "Hah! I'll have to try that with the calico next door! She just got declawed!"

It grieves me to think that my formerly noble dog, guilty of only venial sins in the past (i.e. knocking over the trash bin, stealing a turkey thigh off the dining room table last Thanksgiving) has now crossed the line into radical evil.

Donna | 08.16.05 - 11:31 pm | <#>

Dear Papa,

After viewing those horrible and demoralizing photos I completely understand the urgent need for your encyclical and urge you to not hold it until you've released 24 other ones. The world needs to know how cats should properly be treated and they need to know now!

In fact, Papa, I humbly suggest that what your flock truly needs is an extensive survey on the Theology of the Cat. It could be the great work of your papacy. How 'bout it? Wednesdays with Chico?

God bless you,

Your faithful daughter.

Jenn | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 12:18 am | <#>

Holy Father, I was so appalled at those evil, sick pictures of suffering furry creatures, that I had a fit of convulsive gasps for air until my belly ached and tears nearly streamed down my cheeks. Very disturbing for those around me, who asked if I was alright, and had serious doubts about my mental sanity once I told them the answer. If you would allow me to, I would suggest that you speak about this kitten horrors at the youth gathered in WYD, so they become aware of this new tactic of the Enemy of mankind, who now seeks to ridicule some of man's most innocent companions.

May God bless you in your endeavours.

Veronica | 08.17.05 - 12:27 am | <#>

Oh my....the last picture may give me night mares. That was just wrong.

For every kind of person on this earth, there's a cat to match it, and a photograph to boot. Love those puddy tats.

Lucy | 08.17.05 - 2:16 am | <#>

Inquisitorgeneralis,

It certainly is horrible. Let us pray for an end to kitty exploitation of every kind.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzi | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 10:17 am | <#>

Donna,

I am sorry to here about your dog. I won't be uncharitable and scold you in public for not having been more careful in preventing such an occurrence. The behavior that you dog is displaying was quite predictable. Fortunately for you, he hasn't 'tasted blood' yet so he can be rehabilitated.

You need to impose some form of severe mortification on your pooch so that he can regain control over his flesh. In this incidence, withholding dog biscuits is hardly enough. You may want to expose the pooch to the hymns of Marty Haugen and David Haas. The pup's central nervous system will react violently to such offensive stimuli, causing him to become uncomfortable in his own skin. To use a modern metaphor, after 10 minutes of Gather Us In, his central nervous system will reboot, and then you will have regained the virtuous puppy you once knew.

Best wishes and God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzi | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 10:17 am | <#>

Jenn,

Thank you for brilliant suggestion. I have considered something like that, but I have to get settled into my new role a little more before I take on any ongoing projects (blogging excluded). I certainly like the sound of *Wednesday's with Chico*. A great idea, indeed.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzi | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 10:20 am | <#>

Veronica,

Nice to hear from you again. I am so sorry to have caused you so much distress, child. I pray for a full recovery for you.

I think it would be a great idea to speak to the youth about the dignity of the cat and how the Culture of Demeaning affects all of creation. Unfortunately, we are still working through the details of what I am to address at WYD. Some of my staff

would like me to speak to the youth on their level and about things directly related to their culture. Others would rather I just do what I do best. I guess we'll just have to see how the Holy Spirit moves us.

Thank you and God bless.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 10:21 am | #

Lucy,

Thank you for writing. It is horrifying material, indeed.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 10:21 am | #

Dear Holy Father,

The kitten atrocities are most horrible indeed. I feel so sorry for the poor things... makes me want to run right out to a Save-A-Pet and salvage one of the furry felines. I have to admit, though, that all of the cats which I have know have been 'psycho kitties'. The kind that claw your ankles to ribbons and attack your neck when you sit in a high backed chair. Horrors. I do not know if I would trust a cat enough to share my room with it... plus, I really hate kitty litter. I had to care for a neighbor's cat a few months ago. I think that he detested my presence, so he took his poop and tracked it all over the carpeting (which I then had to clean). He mowed at me innocently as I came in, not expecting this disaster, and was all cuddy-wuddly (so I had a feeling that something was up). Then when I saw it he alighted to a high perch and screamed at me. I felt like Cinderella. He acted very satisfied with himself. I told him that he was an evil cat and that if he was not nicer, he wasn't going to get any more tuna fish or chicken... canned cat food only. That seemed to change his tune, but Ralph the cat always stayed a little bit nuts.

I would like to meet some friendly cats, where might I find a good one?

Brittany | 08.17.05 - 11:04 am | #

Holy Father, these photos are truly tragic. I'm glad you want to protect them...

But here's a question for you. How do I teach my cat to love my son? He's 17 months old, and every time he goes near her, she hisses and bats at him. I'm sure she's jealous. She's 15 years old and set in her ways. But my little boy has never tried to grab her tale or hit her. I guide his hand to pet her, and she still freaks out...

Any suggestions (besides prayer and fasting, of course...)?

--Ann

Ann(Sparky) | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 12:05 pm | #

Brittany,

I am truly sorry for your unpleasant experience. I can assure you that such feline misbehavior is not of God, but has its roots in the state of fallen creation. Fallen nature coupled with man's general disregard for the dignity of cats can only lead to such unfortunate consequences. So you see, child, your kitty friend is merely a victim of man's contempt.

As far as meeting some friendly cats, perhaps you should try the alley behind the local Unitarian church. I hear that they don't have a problem with anyone or anything.

Thank you for writing and God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 12:11 pm | <#>

Ann,

You present a very difficult problem indeed. The mischievous prankster side of me wants to say, "Obviously, one of them has to go; make sure you pack extra diapers for him." Of course it wouldn't be appropriate for me to joke around like that, so I won't.

I am afraid you are not going to be able to do much to change Whiskers' attitude. It is possible as your boy grows older and more independent the cat will lighten up, but it's doubtful. Don't try to 'force' your child on the cat, or else the cat, who has been corrupted by man, may resist forcefully and take it out on your beautiful baby boy. Then it would have to be time for the cat to go.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.17.05 - 12:24 pm | <#>

Holy Father,

If "Gather Us In" is such a dangerous book, shouldn't it be included on the Index? You are right about the effect that such Jesuit works may have. A few months ago, I went back to my old parish and, sure enough, once I heard the songs of the St. Louis Jesuits, I felt rebooted right out again. At least it beats the Godspell parishes.

Monaghan | 08.17.05 - 3:27 pm | <#>

Holy Father,

I must ask you for your prayers -- I found the photos (gasp!) funny ... Is there any hope of forgiveness for such a depraved spirit as mine?? And, God help me, there are three of these most excellent creatures at my mercy here in our home. They are good animals, & don't deserve such a perverse owner as myself. However, as a Catholic, I believe in redemption for those who are truly penitent. So, Your Holiness, I am requesting your absolution and blessing, and the help of the Lord to return me to the state of grace required in a good cat owner.

Your obedient daughter,

Patricia Gonzalez | 08.18.05 - 12:08 pm | <#>

Holy Father,

Keep your cat away from Bonsai Kittens...

Compared to those, these pics are rather tame.

JonathanR. | 08.18.05 - 12:44 pm | <#>

Holy Father:

Your wise advice worked! I downloaded some Haugen hymns and went for a walk while leaving my sinful mutt to listen and repent of his wickedness. When I came back (I thought 20 minutes of Haugen quite enough, especially since I heard howling and scratching at the door), Baxter crept toward me, whimpering, his heart-rending expression exactly the same as when I haul out the metal tub I use to give him baths. Since then, he has not even tried to stick his head in the trashcan once and totally ignored the insults of the beagle across the street.

However, I feel 20 minutes of Haugen was perhaps too harsh. He still seems listless and sad and shows no interest in playing with his squeaky toys. It could also be the effects of the old rag I found him eating in the backyard. Still, 20 minutes of Haugen is heavy punishment indeed.

Donna | 08.18.05 - 10:46 pm | <#>

Monaghan,

We do not have the Index anymore, so I couldn't add the lyrics to Gather Us In to it. Anyhow, I am not sure if it should be banned altogether, it seems like it might be okay for a Brownie campfire sing-along or something.

Thank you and God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.19.05 - 7:04 am | <#>

Patricia,

I gasped when I read your post. You definitely need help, child, but don't fear for there is ALWAYS hope. You have taken the first step by admitting that you have a problem. I impart on you my blessing and ask that you go to confession, do penance and pray for our Merciful Lord's assistance.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.19.05 - 7:07 am | <#>

JonathanR,

Thank you for your warning. You are correct; what a horrible Godless practice!

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.19.05 - 7:10 am | <#>

Donna,

Your news is both good and bad. It sounds like you did indeed go too far. You are fortunate that you didn't lose him altogether. Remember that the goal is to bring the flesh under control, not to cause harm.

I would recommend trying some good Gregorian chant on him. A beautifully done Agnus Dei can go a long way toward healing any soul.

God bless you.

Papa

Papa Ratzl | [Homepage](#) | 08.19.05 - 7:17 am | <#>

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Dan881 | [Homepage](#) | 02.07.07 - 12:07 pm | <#>
