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## Father Mike Homilies

Father Mike Schmitz  
Diocese of Duluth, MN  
Chaplain at The University of Minnesota-Duluth  
[www.UMDCatholic.org](http://www.UMDCatholic.org)

Name: Samantha Letscher  
Class: 8-1 Date: 9.18.09  
Homily of the Day: St. Joseph of Cupertino  
(Pray for me!)

**EXTRA CREDIT**  
(LOTS of points possible!)

### Instructions:

- Choose 1 of Father Mike's homilies and give it a listen! (Yes, to the whole thing)
  - After listening to the entire homily, respond to the questions below.
  - \*Answers for #3 and #4 should be *good*, thought-out responses that reflect full knowledge of the homily.
  - Follow the saving and dropping instructions at the top of this page.
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### 1. What is the name of the homily you listened to?

The Need for Hell

### 2. How long was the homily that you listened to?

21:35

### 3. What was the homily about? (Please summarize some of the main points Father Mike talked about)

-Father Mike started talking about a woman who he said a funeral for, this woman was his first best friend's mom. He was talking about how we all wished that people we love go to heaven, but you can just be nice to get to heaven.

-He said that getting in to heaven isn't a test. He said that you don't take an entrance exam and get a grade and be 1% away from passing the test. You have to choose heaven over hell. You can't just be nice and hope you get to heaven, you have to choose God.

-He said that it's like being cold in an unheated cabin. You can't just want to be warm, you have to go outside in the snow and get the firewood, then you choose to be warm.

-He said that his father-in-law was telling his dad about a theology book he had just read and liked, because it said that everyone got into heaven. The idea in this book was that in the moments before your death or right after you die, God will reveal Himself to you. This book said that when the person who dies sees God that he will choose God and then get into Heaven.

-Fr. Mike, of course said this was false. He gave 4 reasons why this isn't true and why we need hell:

-If this was true, God would be the ultimate horror of the universe and our life would be meaningless. All of the choices we had made would be over-ruled by God in the end. We would have suffered in this life for nothing.

-If this was true, we are not free. If God, out of love, makes us be with Him forever, than we have no free will. Our freedom would be an illusion.

-If our freedom is an illusion, than our whole lives are an illusion. If this is true our choices aren't real, and then none of this is real. It's like a dream and then like a nightmare.

-If this is true, then God put us in this nightmare. If this is true, God is a monster. God doesn't make us love each other, we are free to love completely, so that means we can hate completely. Lucifer was the best of the angels, he saw God purely, yet he still chose himself over God, he became Satan. Every good thing we do matters, and every bad thing we do matters. Our choices all matter. Each of our sins are the death of God. The love of God is what excepts our freedom where he will even let us say no to Him.

#### **4. How can you relate the homily's message to your own life? What will you do with what you've heard?**

This homily relates directly into every single person's life. We all make good choices in our lives and we all make bad ones. This homily confirms for us that each and every one of these choices matter. It also said that getting into Heaven isn't like a test. This is funny, because I always thought of life as a test, like this is how God decides where to put us forever, based on how we live our lives. Even though this isn't how Fr. Mike put it, I still now know that life isn't a test. Our life is more meaningful than that. I know I should have a whole different veiwpoin on life. I know that all of our choices matter.

I can and will try to do lots of things with what I've heard. I think that I can really use his example about how if you're really cold, you have to choose to be warm by getting firewood and make a fire, not just want to be warm as you sit there shivering. Whenever I'm afraid of something, especially if it is something Jesus-like that I'm ashamed to do, I will think of this and try to make the right descesion. I will live this message by seeking out ways of doing God's will rather than just doing God's will if I happen to come across a time when it was convenient for me to do his will. I can set my eyes on the prize-heaven-and put 110% of my effort into getting there.