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His Holiness, Pope John Paul II
Apostolic Palace
00120
Vatican City
Europe

Dear Pope:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. It has recently become apparent to me that I have been leading a wicked life, and that I may, if I continue my ways, end up going to Hell when I die. I play drums in a wild rock and roll band... I drink, curse, smoke, and have as much premarital sex as possible. Despite this behavior, nobody has ever been hurt by what I have done and other than the threat of eternal damnation, I have few worries or second thoughts regarding my life.

What I want to ask you is... why should I stop doing what I do, and why should I become a Catholic? I know I don't want to go to Hell, but how can I be sure that Hell even exists? How am I to know that it's not just some marketing ploy created by the Church to bolster sales? And why should I be Catholic? What if I became Anglican or Greek Orthodox, instead? I don't want to choose the wrong Religion, but really, the differences between all of you seem fairly small.   I suppose they must be significant to you, but to me it's just a bunch of arguing over how many angels can dance on the head of a pin (but I guess you take that pretty seriously too). Also, it seems to me that a lot of the other Religions have pretty good ideas as well. Buddhism, for one, seems pretty appealing, and as far as I can tell, they don't even threaten you with going to Hell.

Anyhow, I want to be saved by someone, I guess. If you can convince me that Catholicism is the way to go, I suppose I'll have to go that way.

Respectfully yours,

Garth Johnson

P.S. Could you please send me an autographed picture? It might help.

Cc: Dalai Lama, Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev. Moon, the Pope of Islam, Anton LaVey