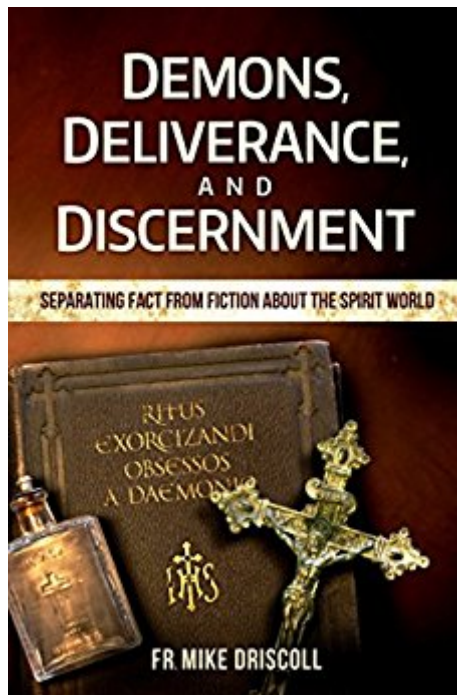


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# Demons, Deliverance, Discernment: Separating Fact From Fiction About The Spirit World



## Synopsis

What are these evil spirits we call demons? How can we recognize when and how they are influencing us? And most importantly, how do we fight back? In *Demons, Deliverance, and Discernment*, Fr. Mike Driscoll answers all these questions and more. Drawing on his experience as a priest and counselor, and on his research with exorcists, Fr. Driscoll clears up many popular misconceptions about demons and the spirit world and offers sound information and pastoral advice rooted in Catholic tradition, including:

- What we know about demons from history, Scripture, and Church teaching
- How to tell whether personal problems come from mental illnesses or demonic attacks
- What exorcists actually do—and don't do—when they help people suffering from possession
- Why homemade "deliverance ministries" are not a truly Catholic way to counter the influence of demons
- Authentic prayers and practices that will make evil spirits flee—and invite God's grace into your heart

The devil has designs on our soul and hosts of wickedness who want to win it for him. Know your enemy—read *Demons, Deliverance, and Discernment* and prepare yourself for the fight.

## Book Information

File Size: 502 KB

Print Length: 199 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Catholic Answers Press (April 30, 2015)

Publication Date: April 30, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00WZU2A1K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #189,718 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #66

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Occult > Satanism #116 in Books >

Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Demonology & Satanism

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## Customer Reviews

This book takes a different focus than other books I have read on the subject. Often even when there is a serious look at the subject there can be more sensationalist elements. Not surprising since elements such as those fictionalized in *The Exorcist* are a draw for many. I found the treatment of the subject in *The Rite* to be rather balanced, but its main focus was just on exorcism and the training of a priest as an exorcist. One of the points regarding exorcism that I have heard stressed multiple times in Catholic circles is that the Exorcist has to be the greatest skeptic. That every possible cause must be investigated first and that many seemingly apparent cases may well have a psychological or material foundation. This is a focus of this book as Fr. Driscoll is a counselor and has a doctorate in the area. He did his doctoral dissertation on the area of possession and exorcism and came to do many interviews with exorcists concerning this. The Church has long made such distinctions throughout history and he points out that even in the Rite of Exorcism published in 1614 distinguished between demon possession and psychological disorders. The book's first chapters investigate possession and exorcism in cultures through the ages and then their history in scripture. This is built on with information on the theology of Demonology and the various classification used as to levels of Demonic attack from temptation, oppression, up to possession. As discernment is a major focus of this there is much information regarding how these diagnosis are made. I actually found this whole process of discernment to be quite fascinating regarding how much rooted in a psychological problem can be taken for possession.

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