

## **Top Ten Responses to a Mormon Missionary at the Door**

drawn from Craig Harline's experience in overwhelmingly Catholic\* Belgium, recounted in his new memoir, *Way Below the Angels* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, August 15, 2014)

1. "No interest" (closes door quickly, eyes down, no smile).
2. "No time" (same door and facial actions).
3. "No thank you, I have my own religion" (implied Catholicism, closes door at regular or slow speed, eyes looking at you, no smile).
4. "You have your religion, I have mine" (closes door slowly with a tight smile, stops briefly when you say more, closes a little more while repeating original answer with same tight smile, stops again while you try rejoinder, closes further and further with tight smile still in place, meanwhile you keep talking until the last click).
5. "I respect your religion, I ask you to respect mine" (same door and facial action as #4).
6. "I admire you for your courage and that you came to a strange land and have tried to learn our language, because it is not every day that you hear that from an American. But I was born Catholic and will die Catholic" (same door and facial action as for 3, 4 or 5, with maybe a bigger smile).
7. "I am baptized Catholic but never go to church, in the end all religion comes down to the same thing."
8. "No thank you, I am Catholic."
9. "No thank you, I am Roman." (Catholic)
10. "No thank you, I am Christian." (Catholic)

\* in other parts of the world where there is a predominant religion, substitute "Reformed" or "Lutheran" or "Baptist" or "Buddhist," etc., for "Catholic."

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