

CONTENDING WITH MARVEL COMICS

The July edition of the Marvel Comics series, "The X-Men," tells the tale of good and evil by using Catholicism as a backdrop to the story. Along the way, many teachings of the Catholic Church are ridiculed. Among them are the Church's pro-life position and its belief in the Eucharist as the Body and Blood of Christ. At one point, the pope is revealed as the Antichrist; at another, a former Catholic nun who was raped by a priest is cast as the pope.

Interestingly, Marvel Comics previously reworked Captain America as black. That's right, this red-blooded American killer of the Nazis is now an African American. Another hero, known as 'The Thing,' resurfaces as a Jew. Gays are nicely represented as well—they can now claim the Rawhide Kid, a good-ole American cowboy. And there's Catholics. They always seem to make exceptions for us.