

June 3, 2018 - Corpus Christi



*MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!*

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Sacrament of Reconciliation



I had been ordained less than two weeks, when I was asked to help celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a Catholic grade school. I honestly do not know who was more nervous the children or me. I remember sitting in the confessional waiting for the first little penitent to come in and thinking that I was prepared as I was ever going to be. After all these were going to be children's confessions how bad could they be. About halfway through a group of second graders, a young boy came in and sat down and confessed his sins like all his classmates had done before him. I gave the boy a small penance to do and then I asked him to recite the Act of Contrition. The boy's little face lit up and you could just see how proud he was that he had memorized the Act of Contrition. He then proceeded to put his hand over his heart and instead of the words to the Act of Contrition coming out of his mouth, the words to the Pledge of Allegiance came out instead. It took every ounce of strength I had not to start laughing not so much at the boy but just that the Pledge of Allegiance

was the last thing I had expected to come out of the little boy's mouth. Instead of laughing, I composed myself and congratulated the boy for his beautiful recitation of Pledge of Allegiance and then I invited him to pray with me the Act of Contrition that was on a sheet of paper in the confessional. After we finished I prayed the prayer of absolution and sent him on his way. I could not help but think of the beautiful lesson that God had just taught me about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament was not about "making God forgive me" by perfectly reciting words but rather it was about receiving God's love and mercy in a way that I knew I was forgiven.

1. **We need the Sacraments not God.**

One of the biggest hang-ups that people have with the Sacrament of Reconciliation is that they think the Catholic Church is somehow trying to limit God's mercy or the way God dispenses it. This way of thinking shows a complete misunderstanding of the Sacraments.

God is not bound and controlled by the rites contained within the Sacraments. God can forgive anyone anywhere He desires. God does not need the Sacraments. It is we human beings who need the Sacraments so that God can communicate to us the invisible realities through visible signs.

I can ask God for forgiveness outside the Sacrament of Reconciliation and

assume that I have received God's mercy or I can go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be certain of it. The priest as the instrument of God affirms my forgiveness through the prayer of absolution. I do not have to spend my life worrying whether or not I was contrite enough to be forgiven. I hear God through the priest tell me that I was forgiven.

2. **Penance is Medicinal not Restorative**

The penance a person receives in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not meant to make up for the sins that we have committed in the past but rather it is medicinal. Like medicine, penance does not take us back into time to prevent an illness but rather as medicine assists us in overcoming that illness, penances are meant to assist us in avoiding that same sin in the future.

For example, people will sometimes confess a sin of unchastity and I will assign them a penance of praying a certain number of Hail Mary's. I do this because I found in my own life that when I feel tempted to be unchaste, I can avoid that sin of unchastity by praying a Hail Mary or three. This helps me redirecting my thoughts towards something good instead of giving into temptation.

A priest cannot give a penitent a penance that would disclose the penitent sin, for example if a person confesses stealing a candy bar from a grocery store the priest cannot ask the penitent to pay for the candy bar as a

penance. A priest cannot also give a penitent a penance that he or she cannot complete. For example, I cannot assign a person a penance that he or she is unable of carrying out. For example, I cannot assign a penance of

praying the "Prayer to St. Michael" if he or she does not know the prayer of St. Michael or cannot find it. Jesus paid the price for our sins once and for all.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

June 3, 2018 The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Lectionary: 168 Gospel MK 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



Spiritual Reflection:

Just as Jesus invites others to help Him prepare for the Last Supper. He invites us to prepare for each Mass. We do not come to the Mass to be entertained we come to participate and thus be transformed.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What is God calling you do when He calls you to Mass?
2. How do liturgical ministers help people celebrate the Mass?
3. Would the Last Supper have been the same if Jesus did all the work himself?
4. How do you prepare for the Eucharist?
5. Have you thanked someone for their ministry in the Eucharist?

PRO-LIFE

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD TO ABORTION
BY FR. FRANK PAVONE

Lord of all Life, You have entrusted us to the care of one another, and called us to be one Body in Christ. You call us to rejoice with those who rejoice, And to weep with those who weep. Hear our prayer today for our brothers and sisters who have lost children to abortion. Help us to understand the pain that is in their hearts, And to be a living sign to them of your welcome, your mercy, and your healing. Help them to undergo with courage the process of grief and the journey

TRIVIA

This Week's Trivia

1. Which apostle was killed on a crucifix in the shape of an "X"?
2. Which apostle was given poison to drink but emerged unharmed?
3. Which apostle was killed by Herod?
4. This apostle died in India?



Last Week's Answer

1. Pater Noster = D
 2. Veni, Creator Spiritu = B
 3. Tantum Ergo = C
 4. Ave Maria = A.
- A. Hail Mary
B. Come Holy Spirit
C. Down in Adoration Falling
D. Our Father



of healing. Never allow them to feel alone; always refresh them with the presence of Your Spirit And of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Console them with the sure hope that you love and care for their children. Give them new strength that even while they grieve what they have lost, they may look forward to all the good that you still have in store for them. Lord of healing and hope, Give us all the forgiveness of our sins, and the joy of your salvation. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith. The following prayer is a prayer from St. Thomas Aquinas with a petition for fallen away Catholics attached.

Grant Me

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen. May the life I live lead my brothers and sisters who have fallen away the faith back to you.



PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

LITANY FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Lord, have mercy on us. **R.** Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us. **R.** Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us. **R.**
Christ, graciously hear us. **R:** Have Mercy On Us
God the Father of Heaven, **R.**
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **R.**
God the Holy Spirit, **R.**
Holy Trinity, One God, **R.**
Jesus, living Bread which came down from Heaven. **R.**
Jesus, Bread from Heaven giving life to the world, **R.**
Jesus, hidden God and Savior, **R.**
Jesus, Who has loved us with an everlasting love, **R.**
Jesus, Whose delights are to be with the children of men, **R.**
Jesus, Who has given Thy Flesh for the life of the world, **R.**
Jesus, Who invites all to come to Thee, **R.**
Jesus, Who promises eternal life to those who receive Thee, **R.**
Jesus, Who with desire desires to eat this Pasch with us, **R.**
Jesus, ever ready to receive and welcome us, **R.**
Jesus, Who stands at our door knocking, **R.**
Jesus, Who has said that if we will open to Thee the door, Thou wilt come in and sup with us, **R.**
Jesus, Who receives us into Thy arms and blesses us with the little children, **R.**
Jesus, Who suffers us to sit at Thy feet with Magdalen, **R.**
Jesus, Who invites us to lean on Thy bosom with the beloved disciple, **R.**
Jesus, Who has not left us orphans, **R.**
Most dear Sacrament, **R.**
Sacrament of love, **R.**

Quotes of the Week

There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.- John Vianney

From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others - Pope John Paul II

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life - Pope John Paul II

If Christ did not want to dismiss the Jews without food in the desert for fear that they would collapse on the way, it was to teach us that it is dangerous to try to get to heaven without the Bread of Heaven. - St. Jerome

The thought of the presence of God and the spirit of worship will in all my actions have as their immediate object Jesus, God and man, really present in the most holy Eucharist. The spirit of sacrifice, of humiliation, of scorn for self in the eyes of men, will be illuminated, supported and strengthened by the constant thought of Jesus, humiliated and despised in the Blessed Sacrament - Pope John XXIII



Sacrament of sweetness, **R.**

Life-giving Sacrament, **R.**

Sacrament of strength, **R.**

My God and my all, **R.**

R. = we beseech Thee, hear us.

That our hearts may pant after Thee as the hart after the fountains of water, **R.**

That Thou wouldst manifest Thyself to us as to the two disciples in the breaking of bread, **R.**

That we may know Thy voice like Magdalen, **R.**

That with a lively faith we may confess with the beloved disciple, "It is the Lord," **R.**

That Thou wouldst bless us who have not seen and yet have believed, **R.**

That we may love Thee in the Blessed Sacrament with our whole heart, with our whole soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength, **R.**

That the fruit of each Communion may be fresh love, **R.**

That our one desire may be to love Thee and to do Thy will, **R.**

That we may ever remain in Thy love, **R.**

That Thou wouldst teach us how to receive and welcome Thee, **R.**

That Thou wouldst teach us to pray, and Thyself pray within us, **R.**

That with Thee every virtue may come into our souls, **R.**

That throughout this day Thou wouldst keep us closely united to Thee, **R.**

That Thou wouldst give us grace to persevere to the end, **R.**

That Thou wouldst then be our support and Viaticum, **R.**

That with Thee and leaning on Thee we may safely pass through all dangers, **R.**

That our last act may be one of perfect love and our last breath a long deep sigh to be in Our Father's house, **R.**

That Thy sweet face may smile upon us when we appear before Thee, **R.**

That our banishment from Thee, dearest Lord, may not be very long, **R.**

That when the time is come, we may fly up from our prison to Thee, and in Thy Sacred Heart find our rest forever, **R.**

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.** Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.** Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **R.** Have mercy on us.

Stay with us, Lord, because it is toward evening, **R.** And the day is now far spent.

Let Us Pray we come to Thee, dear Lord, with the Apostles, saying, "Increase our faith." Give us a strong and lively faith in the mystery of Thy Real Presence in the midst of us. Give us the splendid faith of the centurion, which drew from Thee such praise. Give us the faith of the beloved disciple to know Thee in the dark and say, "It is the Lord!" Give us the faith of Martha to confess, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Give us the faith of Magdalen to fall at Thy feet crying, "Rabboni, Master." Give us the faith of all Thy saints, to whom the Blessed Sacrament has been Heaven begun on earth. In every Communion increase our faith; for with faith, love and humility and reverence and all good will come into our souls. Dearest Lord, increase our faith. Amen.



Catholic Humor

1. What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? - It gets toad away.
 2. I submitted 10 puns to a joke-writing competition to see if any of them made the finals. - Sadly, no pun in ten did.
 3. What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? - One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.
 4. Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building? - Of course! The Empire State Building can't jump.
 5. If you ever get cold, stand in the corner of a room for a while. - They're usually 90 degrees.
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