

June 10, 2018 – Tenth Sunday Ordinary Time



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

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Some more reflections on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

3. God desires to Forgive You

There are many Catholics who sadly do not celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation because they are afraid of somehow messing up the ritual. This is truly sad because the ritual itself is really meant only as a guide and a tool to help us confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness. A person does not have to "Bless me Father, for I have sinned..." in order to have their sins forgiven. More times than not when I celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with a person we begin by making the Sign of the Cross so that we call to mind that what we are doing at this moment is holy. I then ask the person to tell me his or her sins. The person can then confess all the sins they can remember. It is not important that they recall all the sins they have committed since their last confession but it is important not to hold anything back out of fear. Following the confessions of sins, the priest normally offers some advice on how to avoid

those sins in the future and asks the penitent to perform a penance.

To make sure the person is truly sorry for his or her sins, the priest asks the penitent to pray an Act of Contrition. This can be a prayer that is memorized, read off a sheet of paper, repeated after the priest, or simple made up. The importance of the prayer is not so much the words but rather the taking ownership of the sins and admitting that one is sorry for having committed them. Finally, the priest prays the prayer of absolution and dismisses the person.

A person who is afraid of going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation should think of it not so much as a legal proceeding where every word is measured and might be used against you later but rather as a doctor's visit where the more information the doctor has the more the doctor can assist the person in getting better. Remember God desires to forgive you and His forgiveness like His love is unconditional. There is no jumping through hoops to earn God's love. This made most evident to us in the story of the Prodigal Son:

And He said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he

squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."' So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has

come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:11-24)

Note that the younger son cannot even get his practice speech out to his father because his father has already forgiven him and just wants to love him. There are no thoughts of punishments on the Father's mind. No hoops for the son to jump through.

4.. It is alright to repeat

Human beings must admit that we are unique creatures in that we are not angels (morally pure and innocent) and at the same time we are not demons (morally deprived and evil). We, human beings, are stuck somewhere in the middle. St. Thomas Aquinas stated in his philosophy that "no one ever did

evil for the sake of evil." In other words anyone who has done evil has done so out of choosing the wrong thing as the good.

Every time we mess up and sin, we need to return to God and ask for forgiveness.

The only way to grow in the moral life is to develop virtues and they are only developed over time and with great repetition. There are very few things that human beings do well right off the bat. We do get better with practice and experience. A baseball player would never advance if he only focused on the number of swings and misses. He keeps practicing shooting to get better. This should be our attitude when it comes to sin. God is a coach who will never give up on us.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

June 10, 2018 Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 89

Gospel MK 3:20-35 Jesus came home with his disciples. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons." Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder the house. Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin." For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Spiritual Reflection: "I say this with all due reverence, but *humanly* speaking, Jesus' earthly life was a complete failure. He didn't overthrow the Roman government and usher in a glorious earthly kingdom as so many had hoped. He didn't make friends with the powerful and influential. He didn't win many to the truth of the Gospel. Quite the opposite. He was despised and rejected almost everywhere he went.

TRIVIA

This Week's Trivia

Match the Following Item with the Biblical Character.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Apple | 2. Golden Calf |
| 3. Lion's Den | 3. Ladder |
| A. Jacob ____ | B. Aaron ____ |
| C. Daniel ____ | D. Adam ____ |



Last Week's Answer

1. Which apostle was killed on a crucifix in the shape of an "x"? ANSWER: Andrew
2. Which apostle was given poison to drink but emerged unharmed? ANSWER: John
3. Which apostle was killed by Herod? ANSWER: James
4. This apostle died in India? ANSWER: Thomas



The once adoring crowds that followed him later turned away from him because his teaching was too hard to hear. Those in his hometown sneered at him and tried to throw him off a cliff. The religious leaders hated him and considered him a demon possessed blasphemer. One of his closest friends betrayed him for money, and the rest of his friends disowned and abandoned him. He was mocked, laughed at, and considered a madman. And the zenith of his life? It was being unjustly condemned to death, stripped naked, humiliated, nailed to a cross with common criminals, and buried in a grave that wasn't even his own." Sam Guzman – The Catholic Gentleman Blog

Spiritual Questions:

1. What does it mean to follow a failure?
2. How do you measure success?
3. Why do you follow Jesus?
4. What prevents the Pharisees from accepting Jesus?
5. What prevents you from accepting Jesus?



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 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.

Quotes of the Week

Where your talents and the needs of the world cross; there lies your vocation. - Aristotle
Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus. - Mother Teresa

"What does it cost us to say, 'My God help me! Have mercy on me!' Is there anything easier than this? And this little will suffice to save us if we be diligent in doing it." – St. Alphonsus Liguori

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see the misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." – St. Augustine

"O sinner, be not discouraged, but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities. Call her to your assistance, for such is the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity." – St. Basil the Great





PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

This week we have two prayers for vocations.

LITANY FOR VOCATIONS

R: HAVE MERCY ON US

God, our Father, Creator who calls us to life: **R.**

God the Son, Faithful Servant: **R.**

God the Holy Spirit, Life-Force of Courage: **R.**

R: PRAY FOR US

Mary, Mother of Jesus, our High Priest: **R.**

St. Joseph, her spouse: **R.**

St. Peter and St. Paul, First Apostles: **R.**

St. Benedict and St. Scholastica: **R.**

St. Dominic, St. Francis, St. Ignatius: **R.**

St. John Vianney: **R.**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: **R.**

All holy men and women of God: **R.**

Lord, give the gift of a generous heart to parents and those called to the priesthood and religious life. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MY VOCATION

Almighty Father, You send the gift of Your Holy Spirit for the building of Your Kingdom. With the help of this Spirit, give me the grace to listen to Your call in my life. Give me strength and courage to do Your will. Grant me wisdom and humility to choose Your way even when I find it most difficult. Lord, bless all the faithful in Your Church who are seeking holiness. But in a special way, watch over priests, brothers, and sisters. Help them to give their lives in joyful service that they may be signs of Your presence among us. We beg you, Father, to fill our hearts with a burning desire to follow Jesus. May there be many, who offer their lives for the service of Your Church, that all may come to know and love You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Catholic Humor

