

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (10-6-19)

ACT OF CONTRITION

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments,
but most of all because they offend Thee, my God,
Who art all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more
and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

KEYNOTE: THE HOLY SPIRIT OF TRUTH

- I. Truth for us concerns conforming our minds to REALITY, whether visible or invisible, whether material, ethical, or spiritual:

“All men are bound to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and His Church, and to embrace it and hold on to it as they come to know it” (Catechism, Number 2104).

- A. The eternal and ultimate REALITY is the One God in Three Persons—We find Truth in Him, and He desires that we find and know and love this Truth:
 1. God the Father “wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).
 2. Jesus says this in regards to the Truth:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

“For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice” (John 18: 37).

3. Note the importance of the Holy Spirit in regards to truth:

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will glorify Me [Jesus], for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16: 13-14).

“The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. . . Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit” (I Corinthians 2: 10, 12-13).

- B. Sin and Ignorance and Error: Distort, Twist, or Destroy Truth
 1. Satan: “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44)
 2. Those who lie and fail to live according to the truth are Satan’s children
- II. We live in truth by conforming our minds and will to reality:
 - A. Proper use of the intellect (right reason) is directed toward:
 1. Truth about the Laws of Nature—Material science
 2. Fundamental Truth underlying all reality—Natural Law—Philosophy/ Metaphysics
 - a. Principles and axioms necessary to draw true conclusions
 - b. Moral laws that help us discern right from wrong, good from evil
 - B. Theology—Faith seeking understanding of Divine Revelation

- III. True Doctrine to Which we Assent (“I believe”)—One Sacred Deposit of Faith:
 - A. Accepted by the Apostles and passed on through Bishops (**MAGISTERIUM**)
 - B. Essential lived experience and practice of the faith developed in continuity through the centuries (**TRADITION**)
 - C. Written inspired Word of God given to us and interpreted by the Church (**SCRIPTURE**)
- IV. Mass—Formation in the Truth about the Present, Past, and Future:
 - A. The Truth about God—“In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”
 - B. The Truth about Sin, Suffering, and Death in a Fallen World—Sign of the Cross, “I Confess”
 - C. The Truth about Mercy, Grace, and Redemption—“Kyrie Eleison,” “Gloria”
 - D. The Truth as Good News and God’s Revelation—Scripture/Homily/Creed
 - E. The Truth about Communicating with God (Prayer)—Petitions/Eucharistic Prayer
 - F. The Truth about Christ’s Presence with Us until the End of Time—Eucharist
 - G. The Truth about Holy Communion on Earth and in Heaven—Holy Communion
 - H. The Truth about the Responsibility of Mission—“Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.”

TABLE TALK QUESTION

What do you see as the most destructive denial of reality and truth in our culture? How must we in our Church and in our families live and promote this reality and truth, and what must we do to promote this reality and truth in the culture at large?

SACRED SEVEN QUESTIONS

- ___ 1. Catholics understand faith to be “blind” and exclusively concerned with the heart, not the mind.
- ___ 2. We know for certain that what the Bible reveals about creation contradicts what science has proven, so we see that authentic faith and true science may necessarily contradict one another at times.
- ___ 3. God is the source of supernatural truth, whereas man is the source of natural truth.
- ___ 4. According to the Catechism, “The Church teaches that the one true God, our Creator and Lord, can be known with certainty from His works, by the natural light of human reason.”
- ___ 5. All Divine Revelation is found exclusively in Scripture, which provides the authoritative rule and standard of faith.
- ___ 6. Catholics affirm that authentic freedom and love require that I construct my own truth that others must accept even if my truth contradicts theirs.
- ___ 7. Scientific truths can be known with certainty, whereas religious truths cannot.

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: “Renewal of Baptismal Promises,” “Angel of God,” “Glory Be”
- II. Mental Prayer During the Day (15-30 minutes):
 - A. The Rosary
 - B. Journal Meditation:
 - 1. 5-10 Minutes of Scriptural or spiritual reading
 - 2. 5-10 Minutes writing to either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit
 - 3. 5-10 Minutes recording what you believe God is saying to you

- III. Examination of Conscience and Act of Contrition:
- A. Did I call upon the Holy Spirit and my guardian angel to help me see the truth about both my goodness and virtues and about my sinfulness and vices? Did I cooperate with the grace of the Holy Spirit to grow in virtue and to overcome vices?
 - B. Did I cooperate with the movements and actions of the Holy Spirit to speak in truth to others motivated by love for them, especially concerning my family and with those whom I frequently associate?
 - C. Did I ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit in my conscience and lie, cheat, or steal?

