

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (1-21-24): CONFESSION

PRAYERS

- I. "Signum Crucis": "In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen."
- II. "Prayer to the Holy Spirit"
- III. Saint and Virtue:
 - A. Saint Padre Pio
 - B. Friendship

TRUE/FALSE

1. Christ wants a penitent to Confess his sins to a priest because, among other things, this humbles that pride which is the root of all sin.
2. Through their Ordination, most priests have the power to read the heart of each penitent.
3. A penitent who deliberately omits to confess a venial sin in Confession still receives the grace of the sacrament, but not as much grace as he would have received if he confessed the venial sin.
4. To conceal knowingly a mortal sin in Confession would be to commit the mortal sin of sacrilege.
5. There is nothing a penitent can do to be reconciled with God after he has made a sacrilegious confession.
6. The seal of Confession binds every priest never to reveal anything that has been confessed to him.
7. Anger, in itself, can never be holy or just.
8. A worthy Confession always takes away both eternal punishment and temporal punishment.
9. A Christian does not need to believe in Hell because Scripture does not indicate that anyone has gone there.
10. A Christian's cross includes everything that happens to him during the day that he does not like.

CONFESSION— "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained" (John 20:23).

- I. Confession: "The telling of our sins to an authorized priest for the purpose of obtaining forgiveness" (408)
 - A. Christ: Could read the hearts of sinful persons

- B. Priests: Cannot read the hearts of penitents
 - C. Confession: Cultivates humility in the penitent, charity and wisdom in the priest
 - D. Integral Confession:
 - 1. Penitent must confess all mortal sins that have not yet been confessed and forgiven
 - a. Humbly—self-accusation and conviction of guilt
 - b. Sincerely—honestly and frankly
 - c. Entirely—mortal sins: kind, number of times, special circumstances
 - 2. Failure to confess a mortal sin:
 - a. Unintentional
 - b. Intentional (Sacrilege)
 - E. If one knowingly concealed a mortal sin in Confession (418):
 - 1. Confess that he made a bad confession
 - 2. Tell the sin he had concealed
 - 3. Mention the Sacraments he has received since that time
 - 4. Confess all mortal sins he has committed since his last good confession
 - F. Sacred Seal of Confession that binds all priests
- II. Penance and Punishment:
- A. The penance a priest gives to a penitent:
 - 1. To make some atonement to God for the sins
 - 2. To receive help to avoid sins in the future
 - 3. To make some satisfaction for the temporal punishment due to sin
 - B. Punishment due to sin:
 - 1. Eternal punishment of Hell in God's just wrath
 - 2. Temporal punishment on earth or in Purgatory for correction, reparation, and purification:
 - a. To satisfy God's justice
 - b. To school us in the great evil of sin
 - c. To warn us not to sin again
 - 3. Worthy reception of Sacrament of Penance:
 - a. Takes away all eternal punishment
 - b. Does not always take away all temporal punishment
 - c. Heals the wounded will but does leave the powers of the soul in need of further healing

- III. Chief means of satisfying the debt of our temporal punishment:
- A. Prayer
 - B. Attending Mass
 - C. Fasting
 - D. Almsgiving
 - E. Works of Mercy
 - F. Patient endurance of sufferings
 - G. Indulgences (Plenary or Partial)

TABLE-TALK QUESTIONS

If a person is afraid to go to Confession, what might you suggest to help reduce or remove this fear? What types of penance do you find easy to do, and what types of penance do you find difficult to do? What types of penance do you believe are most effective?

QUESTIONS FOR FATHER JACK/MISSION/FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING