

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - THE HOW PART
March 6, 2018

Irene Haefele
fleatoo@cox.net

MT 16: 16-19 (NT 41) Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

John 20: 20-23 (NT 174) The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Dogmatic Constitution on Revelation (Dei Verbum) Ch 2; The tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit...Through the same tradition the Church’s full canon of the sacred books is known...sacred tradition, sacred Scripture and the teaching authority of the Church, in accord with God’s most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls.

SACRAMENTS of the Church

2 Cor 5: 19 (NT 266) God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

CCC 1441 Only God forgives sins. Since he is the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, “The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” and exercises this divine power: “Your sins are forgiven.” (MK 2:5, 10; Lk 7:48) Further, by virtue of his divine authority he gives this power to men to exercise in his name (JN 20: 21-23).

1442 Christ has willed that in her prayer and life and action his whole Church should be the sign and instrument of the forgiveness and reconciliation that he acquired for us at the price of his blood. But he entrusted the exercise of the power of absolution to the apostolic ministry which he charged with the “ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Cor 5:18) The apostle is sent out “on behalf of Christ” with “God making his appeal” through him and pleading: “Be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor 5:20)

1465 The priest is the sign and instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner.

"In persona Christi"

CCC 1548 Christ is the source of all priesthood: the priest of the old law was the figure of Christ, and the priest of the new law acts in the person of Christ.

Examination of Conscience - consider your relationship with God (upward), with others (outward), and with yourself (inward).

DISCUSSION

What is the value of taking time to reflect on your relationship with God, yourself, and others? Do you take the time?

Contrition - How do you feel when you are truly sorry about something? How does it affect your thinking? Your demeanor?

Review the Examination of Conscience from Word Among Us.
Card from OKC Archdiocese on Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Introduction - Sign of the Cross, Bless me Father...It has been ___ since my last confession.

Confession - What's on your heart. Ask for guidance. End with saying you're sorry.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever known someone for whom it was hard to say the words "I'm sorry"? How does that impact the relationship? What is so hard about saying "I'm sorry"? Do you ever need to hear the words "I'm sorry"?

Penance - Positive action for you to do in response to God's mercy and positive step away from sin. Name sometimes given to this Sacrament. Often it is to do a kind act, read a scripture, say a prayer.

Act of Contrition

Absolution

DISCUSSION

Do you ever anguish over a problem in a relationship for years?

Is it hard to let go of some anger? Especially if you were the victim of a wrongdoing?

What benefit is there from hearing the words of forgiveness?

Conclusion - “Thanks be to God.”

And “Thank you, Father.”

<https://bustedhalo.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Guide-to-Confession-Handout-color.pdf>

formed.org Click Study, then Faith Formation

Symbolon: Living the Faith, Session 4, Penance and Anointing Part I.

Why Should I Confess My Sins to a Priest:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/sacramental-forgiveness/parish-resource-bozant.cfm>

Confession: Is it Biblical?

<http://matt1618.freeyellow.com/confess.html>