

9.12.2015

PERSONAL REFORM

Don't Judge A Man Too Hard

Are you submerged in your job? Your life, hobbies, sports teams, yard work, watching TV, politics, travel, restaurants, etc., etc. Are you so underwater that you fail to make plans on how you can improve yourself, let alone conduct an examination of conscience in preparation for the Sacrament of Confession?

Compare this to the last vacation you made. You probably spent weeks researching hotels, flights, points of interests, attractions, restaurants, and so forth.

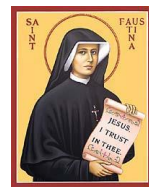
The Holy Fathers of the Church remind us that we need to think about how we might better ourselves more purposely in order to use the blessings God has given to us; so that we might be an enhanced blessing for Him to others. This is not an easy task. In order to do this, we each must create a quiet place in our minds and hearts in order to listen to the very faint voice of God. We must deliberately, knowingly and intentionally still ourselves.

This is hard to do in today's world of non-stop electronic interruptions, 24 x 7 shopping and constant disturbances. It is not an instinctive or intuitive process. It somewhat unnatural and does not come easy to us.

More so, we are a people who need Community. The question becomes how does building relationships and the act of judging others interact? Our faith tells us that Judgment rest with God. More so, when judging another, you do not define them, you define yourself. This concept has a deep impact upon relationships of all types and natures.

Some thoughts to ponder from two saints:

"For there are three ways of performing an act of mercy: the merciful word, by forgiving and by comforting; secondly, if you can offer no word, then pray - that too is mercy; and thirdly, deeds of mercy. And when the Last Day comes, we shall be judged from this, and on this basis we shall receive the eternal verdict." St Faustina



"And it is the Lord; it is Jesus, Who is my judge. Therefore I will try always to think leniently of others, that He may judge me leniently, or rather not at all, since He says: "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged." St. Thérèse de Lisieux

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus really is our Savior? More so, what are the consequences in our lives when we invite Jesus into our heart of hearts?

Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

Matthew 7:1-5

"Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.

Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove that splinter from your eye,' while the wooden beam is in your eye? You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.

John 8:3-11

Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

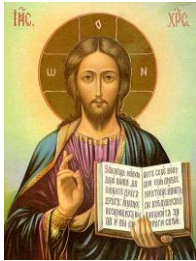
Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him.

Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."



The Word of the Lord



Catechism

1970 - The Law of the Gospel

The Law of the Gospel requires us to make the decisive choice between "the two ways" -The way of Christ "leads to life"; the opposite way "leads to destruction." We are to put into practice the words of the Lord. It is summed up in the Golden Rule, "Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; this is the law and the prophets."

The entire Law of the Gospel is contained in the "new commandment" of Jesus, to love one another as he has loved us.

Modern Comment – Don't Judge A Man Too Hard

Pray don't find fault with the man who limps
Or stumbles along the road
Unless you have worn the shoes that hurt
Or struggled beneath his load
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,
Though hidden away from view
Or the burden he bears, placed on your back,
Might cause you to stumble, too.



Don't sneer at the man who's down today

Unless you have felt the blow
That caused his fall, or felt the same
That only the fallen know.
You may be strong, but still the blows
That were his, if dealt to you
In the self same way at the self same time,
Might cause you to stagger, too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins
Or pelt him with words or stones,
Unless you are sure, yea, doubly sure,
That you have no sins of your own.
For you know perhaps, if the tempters voice
Should whisper as soft to you
As it did to him when he went astray,
'Twould cause you to falter, too.

there but for
the grace of
God go I

Unknown Author

Questions to Focus on:

1 Take a look at your weak points. How do you plan to do better? Can you share with your small group?

2 Review and identify your good points too. How can you make them stronger? Explain your answer.

3 The sickness of backbiting, murmuring and gossip as well as indifference to others is cured in the Sacrament of Confession. Any thoughts on how the Physician of Life and the Fountain of Mercy might be an assist?

A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

Men's Group Calendar

9/26/2015	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
10/10/2015	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
10/24/2015	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
11/14/2015	Men's Group	7 AM Mass





Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

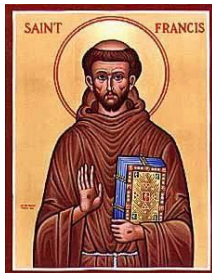
Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

May our Lord, God and Savior help us to not fall into the sin of being Judgemental.

May God Bless You.

St. Hilary Men's Group.



"Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words." St. Francis of Assisi

Grace Gift
unlimited Favor
abundant Free Mercy
Forgiving



Give Samples of Jesus away Daily:

✝ Mercy ✝ Kindness ✝ Justice ✝ Joy

✝ Forgiveness ✝ Compassion ✝ Peace

...and most of all ✝ Love

Examination of Conscience Before Communion

Almighty and Eternal God, behold I come to the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. As one sick I come to the Physician of life; unclean, to the Fountain of mercy; blind, to the Light of eternal splendor; poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore, I beg of You, through Your infinite mercy and generosity, heal my weakness, wash my uncleanness, give light to my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness.

May I thus receive the Bread of Angels, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, with such reverence and humility, contrition and devotion, purity and faith, purpose and intention, as shall aid my soul's salvation.

Grant, I beg of You, that I may receive not only the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord, but also its full grace and power. Give me the grace, most merciful God, to receive the Body of your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, in such a manner that I may deserve to be intimately united with His mystical Body and to be numbered among His members.

Most loving Father, grant that I may behold for all eternity face to face Your beloved Son, whom now, on my pilgrimage, I am about to receive under the sacramental veil, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas

Examination of Conscience After Communion

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, Thou hast given me: I surrender it all to Thee to be disposed of according to Thy will.

Give me only Thy love and Thy grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.

St. Ignatius
