
September 16, 2021

Gaining Life: Sin & Grace

Week 24 of Ordinary Time, Cycle B



**"What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if someone says he has faith but does not have works?
Can that faith save him? "**

-cf. James 2:14-18

"And you, who do YOU say that I AM?"

"The cords of death
encompassed me;
the snares of the netherworld
seized upon me;
I fell into distress and sorrow,
And I called upon the name
of the LORD,
"O LORD, save my life!"
For he has freed my soul from
death, my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

-cf. Psalm 116

Sometimes we fool ourselves,
thinking we have no sin, no
need for forgiveness. Other
times, we understand how
"little", how "poor" we are, how
much we need God's love. It
is a true gift to understand the
mercy of God, which is such an
amazing expression of the
love God has for us. Knowing
the love of God empowers us
to LOVE. Who is God? Who
am I before God?



HOMework & REFLECTION

Homework

Read Chapter 23 of USCCA

Read Paragraph #2 of Patris Corde, "*A Tender & Loving Father,*" by Pope Francis in his letter introducing the year of St. Joseph - and be ready to share next week what this reading means to you .
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

Learn the definitions of these terms from Chapter 23:

Beatitude
Sin - original, mortal & venial
Morally good act
Conscience
Forming Conscience
Contrition
Grace
Freedom
Virtue

Read 1 Corinthians 13 daily this week (a favorite choice for weddings) - OR - read Isaiah 50:5-9 (the first reading this week - about Jesus' suffering for us).
Be silent for three minutes or more after each time reading...

Is God calling you to a greater awareness of His love for you - or for a greater love on your part, for Him or Neighbor?

What do you "hear" in the silence?
Be ready to share next week!



SHARE

How is the Christian notion of freedom different from the "American" notion of freedom?

How is the Judeo-Christian notion of rules/ commandments different than the "American" sentiment towards rules and regulations?

This week's second reading addresses the question of faith and works. What does this reading teach us?
What does "faith" require??

Who is Jesus and how does he save us?
What does he ask of us in the Gospel this week?

How can we begin to trust in the love of God? How can we rely on God's love, in practical ways?
