

Diocese of Rockville Centre New Evangelization

"... the Church needs genuine witnesses for the new evangelization: men and women whose lives have been transformed by meeting with Jesus, men and women who are capable of communicating this experience to others. The Church needs saints. All are called to holiness, and holy people alone can renew humanity."

*Pope John Paul II
August 2004*

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Theme: REPENTANCE

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ENCOUNTER: With The Lord Jesus

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Mark 1: 14-15

For your reflection:

- I. Jesus' public ministry begins with a definite and clear message to all who would listen. "...repent, and believe...". Are you open to encounter Jesus on His terms and not your own?
- II. Jesus speaks of His time as the Time of fulfillment. In other words, it is a time of grace; of God's presence in our midst. In our recognition of God's presence, are we quick to repent of our sins?
- III. In meeting Jesus and recognizing His presence, He calls from us both a dying and rising. We are to die to our sins (in our repentance) and to rise to live a new Way (in our belief). Do these two responses characterize your reactions to encountering Him in life and in the Sacraments of the Church?

CONVERSION: To The Way Of The Lord

Therefore, you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment. For by the standard by which you judge another you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, do the very same things. We know that the judgment of God on those who do such things is true. Do you suppose, then, you who judge those who engage in such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance?

Romans 2: 1-4

For your reflection:

- I. Do you judge others often? Are you very critical of those around you yet dismiss or rationalize your own faults and failings?
- II. Do you presume God's forgiveness and neglect repentance for your sins?
- III. How might you communicate to others the patience and kindness of God?

EUCCHARIST: "I Am Not Worthy To Receive You"

Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And we shall do this, if only God permits. For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened and tasted the heavenly gift and shared in the holy Spirit and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

Hebrews 6: 1-5

For your reflection:

- I. Receiving Holy Communion should bring us to a whole new level of intimacy and love of Christ. Does your receiving of the Eucharist lead you to this level? What may be preventing you from entering this life more deeply and profoundly?
- II. "...tasted the heavenly gift, ..." This is a beautiful way to describe our participation in the Eucharist. Does our outward demeanor and gestures correspond to this reality when at Mass?
- III. These verses imply that not only the elements of bread and wine are changed at Mass but it is an opportunity for the believer to be changed as well. We approach the altar as repentant sinners and we leave the altar as redeemed sons and daughters. Are you able to appreciate the difference?



HOLINESS: "So Be Perfect As Your Heavenly Father Is Perfect"

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought (you) to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

2 Peter 3:8-14

For your reflection:

- I. The Lord gives a person many opportunities to repent. Do you take them as they are provided for you? When was the last time you made a sacramental confession of your sins?
- II. Do your Lenten resolutions include a life of holiness that is borne of true repentance and sorrow for one's sins?
- III. We work hard for material things that will perish or are of little consequence or meaning? Do we make a similar effort and investment in our spiritual lives?

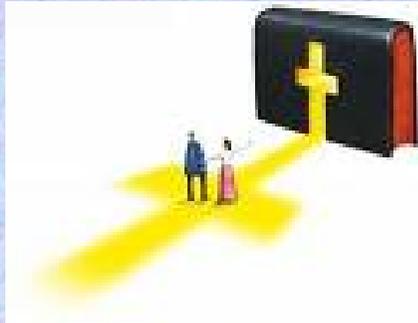
MISSION: "You Are Witnesses Of These Things"

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Luke 24: 44-47

For your reflection:

- I. The Lord Jesus ends His earthly missions as He begins it—announcing repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Is this aspect of the Lord's mission emphasized enough today?
- II. In what ways are we, as missionaries of Christ, able to communicate to others this message that He wants preached "to all nations"?
- III. The apostles' minds were opened to understand all these things and they, in fact, became missionaries. Have you understood the Scriptures to the point that now you also have become a missionary of this message of repentance?



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