

2023-2024 RCIA #20

2/26/24

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 31)

- Confession
 - Telling Our Sins
 - Sin and Punishment

Terms (Review)

- Confession
- Penance
- Reconciliation
- Conscience
- Contrition

Types of sins (Review)

- Original sin
- Venial sin
- Mortal sin

The 10 Commandments (Review)

- I. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me**
- II. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain**
- III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day**
- IV. Honor thy father and thy mother
- V. Thou shalt not kill
- VI. Thou shalt not commit adultery
- VII. Thou shalt not steal
- VIII. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
- IX. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods

Seven Capital sins (Review)

- The **seven capital** human weaknesses or **sins**:
 - **Pride** – inordinate seeking after one's own honor and excellence
 - **Covetousness** – immoderate desire for temporal goods
 - **Lust** – gross sin against chastity
 - **Anger** – disordered emotional state in which we seek revenge upon others
 - **Gluttony** – an intemperate love for food or drink
 - **Envy** – a sadness of mind when believing that another is better of than ourselves
 - **Sloth** – laziness or a surrender to one's dislikes for work or doing your duty

Confession

- The terms Confession, Penance and Reconciliation are interchangeable
- Confession should not be seen as an intolerable burden
- If you forget a mortal sin then confess it at the next opportunity
- God is a just judge not a tyrannical judge

Confession (Cont)

- The only way to violate the sacrament of Confession is to make a sacrilegious confession where one knowingly and deliberately omits telling a mortal sin
- The important factor in Confession is intent
- Everything that is said in the sacrament of Confession is bound by a strict bond mandating that the priest is never at liberty to reveal even on the pain of death

Confession (Cont)

- This bond is required for all priests
- For anyone who has no mortal sin to confess going to the sacrament of Confession provides additional sanctifying and sacramental graces and strengthens us against temptation as well as resistance to sin
- To receive this grace one must confess at least one or more venial sins
- Frequent confession is a wonderful practice

Confession (Cont)

- **Preparation for Confession:**

- Examine conscience
- Be sorry for sins
- Have a firm purpose to not sin again
- Confess to a priest
- Perform the penance which the priest assigns

Confession (Cont)

- **The formula for going to Confession:**
 - Spending some time examining one's conscience
 - Asking for the priest's blessing
 - Reciting a list of one's sins
 - Expressing a statement of sorrow for these and all past sins

Confession (Cont)

- Reciting the act of contrition (the priest will ask you for this)
- Attaining absolution from the priest (*persona Christi*)
- Thanking the priest for hearing your confession
- Completing the “penance” assigned by the priest

Confession (Cont)

- **Other points to consider when going to Confession**
 - Speak clearly and distinctly but in a whisper
 - Do not ever list the sins of others
 - Avoid making a general confession unless requested to do so by a confessor

Confession (Cont)

- Listen attentively to the penance assigned by the priest
- Listen to the words of absolution
- After your confession, complete your penance as soon as possible and if possible remain a few moments thanking God for the sacrament of Confession

Confession (Cont)

- Remember that:
 - God is infinitely merciful and just
 - The sinner usually punishes himself (when choosing to commit a mortal sin the sinner chooses to separate himself from God)

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 32)

- Temporal Punishment and Indulgences
 - Indulgences
 - Plenary Indulgences

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences

- Temporal punishment is the price that needs to be paid for a sin that has been forgiven
- The prescribed penance has a special efficacy in paying our debt of temporal punishment because it is a part of the sacrament of Confession but we must also perform other penitential works on our own

Temporal Punishment

- John Chrysostom said:

It is not enough to remove the arrow from the body; we also have to heal the wound caused by the arrow. It is the same with the soul: after we have received forgiveness for our sins, we have to heal the wound that remains through penance

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences (Cont)

- An indulgence is
 - Another way of paying off the temporal punishment resulting from sin
 - Not a permission to commit sin or forgiveness for past sins
 - Deals only with the debt of temporal punishment that we owe after our sins have been forgiven in the sacrament of Confession
- The Church has the right to remit temporal punishment based on the same promise of Christ concerning “binding” and “loosing”

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences (Cont)

- The Church may remove from men's souls any impediment that would restrict them from going to heaven
- An indulgence is part of the spiritual treasure that comes from the merits of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Mother, and the saints which were beyond their respective needs
- It is from this spiritual treasure that the Church draws for the granting of indulgences

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences (Cont)

- There are two kinds of indulgences:
 - **Partial indulgence** – removes a part of the temporal punishment
 - **Plenary indulgence** – removes all temporal punishment up to that time
- To gain an indulgence one must have a general intention of wanting to gain the indulgence and carry out exactly the condition for the indulgence to include the time, place, and manner prescribed as laid down by the Church

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences (Cont)

- We never know if we fully meet all the criteria for a plenary indulgence for it requires that one be completely detached from all deliberate mortal and venial sins and be resolved to avoid all deliberate sin in the present and in the future

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences (Cont)

- A plenary indulgence may be gained only once per day except when in danger of death and contains the following conditions:
 - Sacramental Confession
 - Eucharistic Communion
 - Prayers for the intention of the Pope (including 1 Our Father and 1 Hail Mary)
- An indulgence can be applied to ourselves or anyone in purgatory

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences (Cont)

- A partial indulgence can be granted to the faithful who, in the performance of their duties and bearing the trials of life, raise their minds with humble confidence of God (adding even if only mentally) some pious invocation
- It can be granted for a person in the spirit of penance voluntarily deprives themselves of what is licit and pleasing to them

Temporal Punishment and Indulgences (Cont)

- An indulgence can be attached to the recitation of the rosary when said with others in a church, public oratory, family, group, religious community or pious association
- It may also be granted when reciting the stations of the cross, prayers before a Crucifix, prayers recited each Friday during Lent and the Passion prayed before the image of Christ crucified