

RCIA – Symbolon Lesson 14: Penance & Anointing of the Sick and *We Believe* – Ch. 10 Reconciliation & Ch. 11 Anointing of the Sick

Opening Prayer: Prayer of St. Michael (Binder pg. 4 of “Common Catholic Prayers and Devotions”)

- **Song: Loving and Forgiving, MI 665**
- Here are some revelations about confession our Lord gave to St. Faustina, as recorded in her *Diary*:

“I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest ... I Myself act in your soul.” (1602)

“When you go to confession, to this fountain of mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul.” (1602)

“[I]n the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation] ... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated.” (1448)

“Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light.” (1725)

“Were a soul like a decaying corpse, so that from a human standpoint, there would be no hope of restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God's mercy!” (1448)

- Catechism references for further reflection:

- God Alone Forgives Sin: CCC 1441
- Priests Given Power of Forgiveness: CCC 1442,1444-1445
- Spiritual Effects of the Sacrament of Penance: CCC 1496
- Anointing of the Sick: CCC 1532

• **Questions for Discussion:**

- Why do you think Jesus gave the Apostles the power to forgive sins rather than just have everyone ask Him in prayer for forgiveness?
- What do we mean by the “seal of confession”?
- What are the effects of the Sacrament of Penance?

- While it is normal to be nervous before going to Confession, what are some of the reasons we shouldn't fear the Sacrament? What are some experiences sponsors or team members have had with Confessions they've made?

- Who should receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick? What are the graces associated with this Sacrament?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jn 1:35-42)**

John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,

"Behold, the Lamb of God."

The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,

"What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —,
"where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come, and you will see."

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying,
and they stayed with him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,

was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him,

"We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —.

Then he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,

"You are Simon the son of John;

you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

- **Closing Prayer.**