

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: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 4:12-23)**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested,
he withdrew to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet
might be fulfilled:

*Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death
light has arisen.*

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,
casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them,

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers,
James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father
and followed him.

He went around all of Galilee,

teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness among the people.

- **Closing Prayer.**