

# THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

A SUMMER SERMON SERIES - AUGUST 2015

WEEK 2 — AUGUST 8-9, 2015

## THE ESSENTIAL ENCOUNTER: PRAYER, SCRIPTURE, AND THE SACRAMENTS



### I. RECAP:

*Last week, I began our sermon series on THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS by discussing the Importance of a Personal Relationship with our Lord JESUS CHRIST:*

*We saw that this Personal Relationship is NOT AN OPTIONAL REALITY FOR OUR LIVES*

- *Our Lord DIED ON THE CROSS so that we might have such a relationship with HIM*
- *OUR LORD DESIRES AN INTIMATE AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US*
- *Through this intimacy with CHRIST we are ushered into a deeper abiding relationship w/ the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT and into the Life of the TRINITY.*
- *The LIVES OF THE SAINTS all display the presence of a Personal Relationship w/ Christ*

*We saw also that the Popes have invited us to this relationship as well !!!*

- *LAST WEEKEND I closed with these words of Pope Francis - Today I will begin with these same words:*

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium*

### II. WE ALREADY HAVE ENCOUNTERED HIM:

*Christ has already been encountering us — Although we may not be aware of it. This encounter is TANGIBLE -*

*This TANGIBLE ENCOUNTER w/ the our CRUCIFIED AND RISEN LORD takes place in four ways:*

- A. Through SACRAMENTS*
- B. Through SACRED SCRIPTURE*
- C. Through SACRED TRADITION*
- D. Through PRAYER — Let's look at three of these:*

### III. SACRAMENTS:

*Through the SACRAMENTS our gracious Lord TOUCHES OUR LIVES IN CONCRETE WAYS*

— *by means of each of these Sacraments of the Church, Our Lord touches our lives in a profound way*  
— *the grace of each of these flows forth from his holy and life-giving cross:*

- A. In BAPTISM original sin and any actual sins are forgiven; and we are incorporated into the Divine Life of the TRINITY.**
- B. In CONFIRMATION we are sealed with gifts of the HOLY SPIRIT for SERVICE and for GROWTH IN HOLINESS.**
- C. In the EUCHARIST our Lord JESUS CHRIST comes to us to be with us (BODY, BLOOD, SOUL, AND DIVINITY - IN THE FULLNESS OF HIS HUMANITY AND IN THE FULLNESS OF HIS DIVINITY), and is REALLY PRESENT to us, to touch our lives with his grace.**
- D. The Lord's healing ministry continues:**
  - *through the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION through which post-baptismal sins are forgiven and we are cleansed to bring us back to the state of grace which we possessed after Baptism.*
  - *also through the SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK where the healing power of Christ is applied to the sick, and by which the Dying are prepared for eternal life.*
- E. The Sacraments of HOLY ORDERS and MARRIAGE, each in its own way, expresses the mystery of the self-sacrificial love of Christ for His Bride the Church.**

**So how do we get the most out of these Sacramental Encounters - ONE WORD: DISPOSITION**

<<< Expand on this >>>

#### **IV. SACRED SCRIPTURE**

**104 In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, “but as what it really is, the word of God.” “In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.”**

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

#### **READ SACRED SCRIPTURE DAILY**

**Jesus' word is the most nourishing food for the soul:** it nourishes our souls, it nourishes our faith! I suggest that each day you take a few minutes and read a nice passage of the Gospel and hear what happens there. **Hearing Jesus, and each day Jesus' word enters our hearts and makes us stronger in faith. I also suggest that you have a little Gospel, very little, to carry in your pocket, in your purse, and when we have a little time .... you can also read during the day.**

Pope Francis, Angelus - March 16, 2014

#### **READ SCRIPTURE VIA MOBILE DEVICES (PUSH APP)**

Today one can read the Gospel also on so many technological instruments. You can carry the whole Bible on your mobile phone, on your tablet. It is important to read the Word of God, by any means, but by reading the Word of God: Jesus speaks to us there! And welcome it with an open heart. Then the good seed will bear fruit!”

Pope Francis, Angelus - April 6, 2014

#### **V. PRAYER**

**2591 God tirelessly calls each person to this mysterious encounter with Himself.** Prayer unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation as a reciprocal call between God and man.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

**Praying actualizes and deepens our communion with God.** Our prayer can and should arise above all from our heart, from our needs, our hopes, our joys, our sufferings, from our shame over sin, and from our gratitude from the good. It can and should be a wholly personal prayer.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*

<<< EXPAND ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DAILY PRAYER >>>

**IN THESE WAYS WE ENCOUNTER HIM — LET US OPEN OURSELVES UP TO HIM**