

Forgiveness

Objective: Forgiveness comes in all forms. Most often it is dealing with forgiving those who have hurt us. Sometimes, especially in today's culture, we also need to be open to asking for forgiveness when we hurt others even though we may not have meant to hurt. We also need to remember that while it sounds selfish, forgiveness is for us in this is a way for us not to be held back in living life as God wants us to.

Song Suggestion: Forgiveness Matthew West

Bible and Catechism Readings:

Matthew 6: 12

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Matthew 18: 21-22

Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

Proverbs 17:9

Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

Catechism 734

Because we are dead or at least wounded through sin, the first effect of the gift of love is the forgiveness of sins. The communion of the Holy Spirit in the Church restores to the baptized the divine likeness through lost sin.

Catechism 982

There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive. "There is no one, however wicked and guilty, who may not confidently hope for forgiveness, provided his repentance is honest." Christ who died for all men desires that the Church the gates of forgiveness should always be open to anyone who turns away from sin.

Saint: St. Faustina – It was to Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), a simple, uneducated nun from Poland, that the Lord chose to spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

As an apostle of mercy, her mission was to:

- 1) remind the world of the great mercy of God as revealed in Sacred Scripture,
- 2) teach us new prayers of devotion to The Divine Mercy, and
- 3) initiate a movement of apostles of The Divine Mercy who would lead others toward Him in the spirit of a childlike trust and confidence in God, and love of neighbor as expressed in spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

St. Faustina | The Divine Mercy

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/st-faustina#:~:text=Today her name is known all over the,by doing spiritual and corporal works of mercy.>

Vignette: – Dave loved his wife, Ruby, very much and tried to do as much as he could for her even though she had some medical ailments. Unbeknownst to Dave, his wife was not on the same page as him and felt as she was abandoned and alone. While away on a business trip, Ruby decided to leave Dave and upon his return,

he came home to an empty house. Eventually, they divorced.

Ruby went on to remarry and again ended up divorced and as her health continued to regress, she eventually developed relationship issues with her children as well. Dave continued with his life and settled down again as well. One Mother's Day, knowing from his kids about the problems his children had with their mother, Dave decided to text Ruby to wish her a Happy Mother's Day (after all, they are still the parents of these children). They had a conversation and Dave ended up signing off with the statement, "You are a great mother of our children. Things will be fine".

In talking with Dave, I asked him why he didn't hold any animosity to Ruby for the past knowing that she had done him wrong. His response was that forgiveness is for us. He forgave her in his heart and staying angry about it wouldn't do anyone justice. I am proud of him for that.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

Are there people in your life that need forgiveness even though they don't believe they have done wrong?

What are obstacles in your life that are keeping you from forgiving someone?

If someone you had hurt or been hurt by left Earth today and you had not attempted closure, would you be at peace with it?

Many times, we are meaner to loved ones than we are to outsiders because we believe that loved ones will forgive us more readily than the outside world. Thoughts?

Resources:

56 Questions About Forgiveness And Their Answers – Katharina Steiner

<https://steinercoaching.com/56-forgiveness/>

Action Plan:

Think of people in your life that need forgiveness. Perhaps even a politician. Pray for a conversion of heart even that blatantly hurt other as a result of any of the 7 deadly sins.

The Seven Deadly Sins | Catholic Answers

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-seven-deadly-sins>

Conversely, is there people in your life that you have hurt and is pride holding you back from asking for forgiveness?

Author: Chris Gauche 513-720-1112 cell