

# LIVING FAITH

MARCH 12, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

**You are my child, my Beloved; in you I am well pleased!**

## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Three times in the Gospels, Jesus is identified as the Son of God. The first is at his baptism by John in the Jordan river. Then he hears the voice of God saying, "This is my Son, the beloved. In Him I am well pleased." After this, Jesus begins his public ministry.

The second time Jesus is identified as the Son of God is at His Transfiguration. This is the account we read in today's Gospel. Jesus hears the words, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" After this, He sets His face toward Jerusalem, where He will be tried and crucified.

The third time that Jesus is identified as the Son of God is by the Roman centurion at the foot of the cross, "Truly, this man was the Son of God."

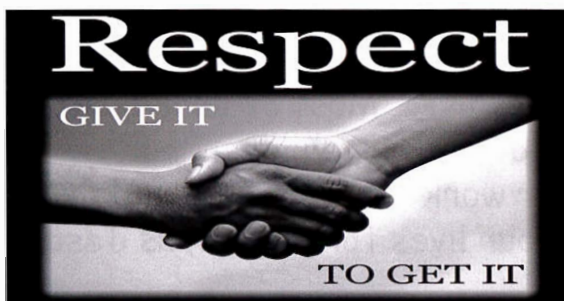
We are called to follow Jesus in offering our lives. Most of us live out this commitment in our daily lives. Through our love of our children, our support of sick or vulnerable people, through our work commitments and our volunteer and ministerial commitments, we give our lives for others, as Jesus did.

Today, hear God saying to you, "You are my Child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased."

# RECONCILIATION IN FAMILIES AND AMONG FRIENDS

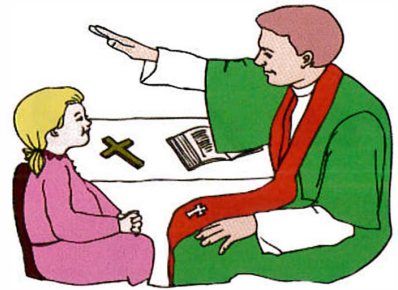
Many families seem to have difficulty living in right relationship with one another, and being reconciled when things go wrong. Respect and good communication are important aspects. Here are some conversation-starters that you might find helpful in getting your family or friends talking about important things.

- Name five reasons you're glad to be alive.
- If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?
- If you had a time machine for a day, what would you do with it?
- What's your favorite song? Why?
- What's your favorite movie? Why?
- What is your earliest memory?
- What are you most proud of?
- If you could change one thing about your appearance, what would it be?
- Is there anything about you that inspires other people?
- What is your idea of a perfect day?
- If you were invisible where would you go and what would you do?
- Do you think your friends talk to their parents?
- What do you think makes a family close?
- Is the discipline in our family fair?
- What's the best thing about our family?
- If you could change one thing about your parents, what would it be?
- What are the most important things your parents have taught you?



<http://www.ahaparenting.com/parenting-tools/communication/family-discussions>

## YOU ASKED... THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



I haven't been to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a long time.  
Why did the name change?

The sacrament of Reconciliation is also known as Penance and Confession, among other names. Today, the Church favours the use of the term "Sacrament of Reconciliation," because Reconciliation is the work that God is doing in and through the Sacrament. Although often called Reconciliation in common usage, the term "penance" best describes the essential interior disposition required for this sacrament. This word also can be used to refer to the penance which the priest will give you after you have been absolved. "Confession" is what you do in the Sacrament—you confess your sins and the priest says God's words of forgiveness.

### What are the steps of celebrating this Sacrament?

- 1. PREPARATION:** Before going to confession, the penitent thinks about God's love and how he or she may have fallen short of the way that Christians ought to live.
- 2. GOING TO CONFESSION:** After the priest welcomes you, both of you make the Sign of the Cross. Then you may wish to indicate facts about your life, the time of your last confession, and anything else that may help the priest.
- 3. THE WORD OF GOD:** You or the priest may read a passage from Scripture.
- 4. CONFESSION OF SINS AND THE ACT OF PENANCE:** Confess your sins. The priest might then offer some advice and suggests an act of penance, which may include prayer, self-denial, or works of mercy.
- 5. PRAYER OF THE PENITENT:** Pray a prayer expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving not to sin again. One suggested prayer is given here:  
My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.
- 6. ABSOLUTION:** The priest extends his hands over your head and pronounces the formula of absolution, making the sign of the cross over your head during the final words. You answer, 'Amen.'
- 7. DISMISSAL:** The priest dismisses you and sends you forth in peace. Don't forget to do your penance!

<http://www.bustedhalo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/how-to-confess.pdf>



# *You Asked . . . about Marriage!*



*Can a couple be married by the church in a garden or a place besides the church building?*

*The universal law of the church, the Code of Canon Law - which applies to Roman Catholic churches everywhere in the world - says that church weddings should take place in a church building or "another suitable place." Traditionally other suitable places have meant a chapel, oratory or some other approved place of public worship. The emphasis has been on the fact that this is a sacrament of the church and an invocation of God's blessing on the marriage. While God is everywhere and can be experienced in profound ways in nature, our tradition has been to celebrate sacraments in designated sacred spaces.*



*Can a couple be married in a civil ceremony on a beach or a boat and have it blessed by the church afterward?*

*While the preference is that a couple should first come before God and ask for God's blessing on their marriage, the reality is that in many parts of the world a civil ceremony must be first celebrated before the church may invoke God's blessing upon a couple. So, yes, it is possible for a couple to marry in a civil ceremony of their choosing and then have their marriage blessed after through a church ceremony called a convalidation.*

Thank you to Fr. Paul Lundrigan for his submission to our questions about Marriage.