

April 19, 2021

Good Morning All,

1. Today's Readings: [Monday of the Third Week of Easter | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Have you ever considered religion to be a virtue? What does it mean to say that?

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ Renew your faith by attending Holy Mass. Keep your mind focused on the mystery that is unfolding before your eyes. In your mind's eye transport yourself to Calvary and meditate on the Victim who offers Himself to Divine Justice, paying the price of your redemption." *St. Padre Pio*

~ "A Saint has told us that one day at Mass he saw Jesus Christ with His hand full of gifts, looking for souls to whom He might give them." *St. John Vianney*

~ "The Mass is the most beautiful thing in the Church." *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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JUSTICE IS WHAT WE OWE GOD

Justice is not about what is owed to me. That is a self-centered. Justice is about what we owe to God and what we owe to others.

The first three Commandments delineate what we owe God; the next seven, what we owe others. The first three -

1. You shall have no other gods before me
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain
3. Keep the sabbath day holy

What Do We Owe God? Everything! God created us from nothing

He holds us in existence, He provides for our smallest needs, He became man, suffered and died to save us from Hell and give us eternal life. Then, in return - we owe Him everything.

Giving God what we owe Him is an aspect of Justice called the virtue of Religion.

Some people, however, say: "I am not a religious person" I want to respond - Oh, so you created yourself; you hold yourself in existence; you can save yourself from everlasting death – wow – I'm glad I have met such a god as you." I think it, but I don't say it...

We can never attain a level of pure justice with God because we can never perfectly repay this enormous debt that we owe to God. Joseph Pieper writes: "Man can never say to God: we are even."

Nevertheless, we have an obligation to give back to God all that we are and all that we have.

Lk 17:10: When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'

KEEPING THE SABBATH DAY HOLY

The 3rd Commandment: Keep holy the Sabbath Day means that on Sundays we owe God worship in the way he chose – that is through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – and we owe it to him to set aside time to rest, to have the leisure for friendship and good conversation and oh yes, for the Rosary.

But isn't it ironic that God must command us to take time to rest. That's because the devil has no new tactics. He keeps us from friendship with God, breaks apart families and keeps us from deep friendship with others by keeping us so busy and distracted we have no time for anyone, even God – the result being isolation and loneliness -the beginning of hell on earth.

THE MASS IS AN EXCHANGE OF HEARTS

The Mass is a great exchange: God gives Himself to us by giving us Jesus in the Eucharist. And Jesus gives us to the Father in His sacrifice made present. That is why the priest invites us "Lift up your heart" to which respond, "we lift them up to the Lord." Your heart represents you united to Jesus.

In the Mass we can say "Lord, You gave us Jesus and we offer Jesus back to You." That is the essence of justice, in fact, that is the source and summit of justice because only there do we give God something comparable to what he gives us. And that's why we can say in the Mass, "It is right and just."

It's also why to fail to participate in Mass is a grave act of injustice, we refuse to give God what we owe Him and to do so freely and knowingly is a mortal sin – a relationship killer.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE SKIP MASS

Imagine I was never home, I never had a meal with my family. One day my wife says, "You know we haven't seen you for weeks. Could we all sit down together at a meal as a family, just once this week?" And I roll my eyes and I say, "Ugh, sure. Fine. Alright, if it's that important to you, fine, when?"

And my wife says, "We can build this family meal around your schedule. We could do 4 PM Saturday? We could do an early breakfast Sunday? We could do lunch at noon or even supper Sunday night?"

And I say, "Yeah, uh, don't ask me to commit to one of those. I'll show up to one of those, alright?"

And then the weekend goes by and I don't show up to this one meal with my family that they'd asked me to come to, that they've made as convenient as possible for me to show up to. I don't come and my wife sees me later and she says, "Hey, what happened? I thought we were set, why, I mean, did you get sick? Did you get in a car accident? Was there some emergency?"

And I say, "Oh, no. There was just some other stuff and I didn't really wanna come to the meal."

That would be a relationship killer. That is what we mean when we say skipping Mass without a serious reason is a mortal sin. A relationship killer.

Source: schooloffaith.com