

July 8, 2020

Happy Wednesday!

Church is open and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass this morning. Time is now to become a prayer warrior! See today's quote from St. John Bosco - he says it all.

In case you missed the special edition from Fr. Runnion yesterday afternoon, he is recommending prayers for our country with a planned prayer group online. Fr. Gillespie personally knows one of the priests presenting information. Check out the link: <https://usgraceforce.com/>

1. Today's Readings: <http://usccb/bible/readings/070820.cfm>

2. **The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus** - Grace ~ Part 2

3. Quote of the Day: Do you want the Lord to give you many graces? Visit Him often. Do you want Him to give you a few graces? Visit Him rarely. Do you want the devil to attack you? Visit Jesus rarely in the Blessed Sacrament. Do you want him to flee from you? Visit Jesus often. Do you want to conquer the devil? Take refuge often at the feet of Jesus. Do you want to be conquered by the devil? Forget about visiting Jesus. My dear ones, the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament is an extremely necessary way to conquer the devil. Therefore, go often to visit Jesus and the devil will not come out victorious against you. - *St. John Bosco*



Still cloudy but remember we all need a little shade now and then!

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Grace ~ Part 2

Spiritual Suicide

You can obtain supernatural life by yielding to actual graces you receive. God keeps giving you these divine pushes, and all you have to do is go along.

For instance, he moves you to repentance, and if you take the hint you can find yourself in the confessional, where the guilt for your sins is remitted (John 20:21–23). Through the sacrament of penance, through your reconciliation to God, you receive sanctifying grace. But you can lose it again by sinning mortally (1 John 5:16–17).

Keep that word in mind: mortal. It means death. Mortal sins are deadly sins because they kill off this supernatural life, this sanctifying grace. Mortal sins can't coexist with the supernatural life, because by their nature such sins are saying "No" to God, while sanctifying grace would be saying "Yes."

Venial sins don't destroy supernatural life, and they don't even lessen it. Mortal sins destroy it outright. The trouble with venial sins is that they weaken us, making us more vulnerable to mortal sins.

When you lose supernatural life, there's nothing you can do on your own to regain it. You're reduced to the merely natural life again, and no natural act can merit a supernatural reward. You can merit a supernatural reward only by being made able to act above your nature, which you can do only if you have help—grace.

To regain supernatural life, you have to receive actual graces from God. Think of these as helping graces. Such graces differ from sanctifying grace in that they aren't a quality of the soul and don't abide in it. Rather, actual graces enable the soul to perform some supernatural act, such as an act of faith or repentance. If the soul responds to actual grace and makes the appropriate supernatural act, it again receives supernatural life.

Really Cleansed

Sanctifying grace implies a real transformation of the soul. Recall that most of the Protestant Reformers denied that a real transformation takes place. They said God doesn't actually wipe away our sins. Instead, our souls remain corrupted, full of sin. God merely throws a cloak over them and treats them as if they were spotless, knowing all the while that they're not.

But that isn't the Catholic view. We believe souls really are cleansed by an infusion of the supernatural life. Of course, we're still subject to temptations to sin; we still suffer the effects of Adam's Fall in that sense (what theologians call "concupiscence"); but God has removed the sins

Parish Office Communication

we have, much like a mother might wash the dirt off of a child who has a tendency to get dirty again. Our wills are given the new powers of hope and charity, things absent at the merely natural level.

Source: *catholic.com*